



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Selection of Committee Members, Board Representatives and Association Members – 2025

Date: January 27, 2025

To: Toronto Public Library Board

From: City Librarian

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Toronto Public Library Board appoint members to committees and external groups.

A 2025 committee membership is included as Attachment 1, which outlines the required membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. appoints a Board member to the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee;
2. appoints a Board member to the role of Board Liaison to Youth;

3. appoints two Board members to the Naming Committee;
4. appoints a Board member to the Toronto Public Library Foundation Board; and
5. appoints a Board member representative to the Board of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact arising from the information in this report.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Board's Procedural By-law makes provision for the review of Board committees at the first meeting of the new Board and subsequently at the beginning of each calendar year. The Board may establish committees as required.

The City Librarian Selection Committee will also meet in 2025 but membership of that Committee was determined at the October 28, 2024 Board meeting. The early appointment of members was necessary to enable the Committee to meet on November 27, 2024 and begin the process for recruiting a new City Librarian after Vickery Bowles announced her plans to retire in 2025.

COMMENTS

Appointment Process for Committees

City Librarian's Performance Review Committee

The mandate of the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee is to review the City Librarian's performance for the year under review and the objectives set by the City Librarian for the following year. The committee then submits a recommendation to the Board for approval.

The Board Chair and Vice Chair are automatically appointed to the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee. The committee includes one additional member; in 2024, this was Amina Mohamed. Other Board members wishing to provide input may do so in writing ahead of the committee meeting.

Being part of the City Librarian's Performance Review Committee usually involves participation in one meeting to take place during the day in late March / early April 2025.

The annual performance review of the City Librarian takes place at the April Board meeting.

Board Liaison to Youth

A Board member is appointed to the role of the Board Liaison to Youth. The Board Liaison ensures that a youth perspective at the Board level is provided. It provides an additional opportunity for youth to influence the strategic directions and policies of the Library by creating a more direct relationship between the Library Board and Toronto's youth population.

One Board member is appointed to this role. Amina Mohamed was the Board Liaison to Youth in 2024.

Naming Committee

The Naming Policy indicates the Board has the responsibility for approving the naming of all Library branches, rooms, programs and collections.

The Naming Committee is identified in the Naming Policy. The policy indicates the City Librarian has the discretion to request that the Board establish a Naming Committee to review naming opportunities and make recommendations to the Board.

The Board Chair and the Board representative on the Foundation Board are automatically appointed to the Naming Committee. Two additional Board members sit on the Naming Committee (in addition to the two ex officio non-voting members). In 2024, Deputy Mayor Amber Morley and Justice Faith Betty were the Board Member representatives.

External Groups

Toronto Public Library Foundation Board:

The Board also appoints one member of the Board to the Toronto Public Library Foundation Board. The Library is represented by one Board member who is an ex-officio voting director of the Foundation, and the City Librarian.

In 2024, the position was filled by Serda Evren.

The Foundation Board meets quarterly. The next meeting of the Foundation Board is scheduled for Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Federation of Ontario Public Libraries

The Federation of Ontario Public Libraries is a non-profit organization with a mandate to benefit Ontario public libraries through advocacy, research, and marketing.

The Federation's governing board is comprised of seven caucuses broadly representative of libraries by size, geography or service focus. The seven caucuses are comprised of 22 directors. The Toronto Public Library Board appoints four directors to the Toronto caucus of the Federation; two Library staff representatives; and two Library Board representatives, who serve a term of three years. Meetings are held quarterly.

In 2024, Councillor Paul Ainslie and Jonathan Hoss were the two Library Board representatives with Councillor Paul Ainslie sitting as Chair of the Federation. Councillor Paul Ainslie's three-year term comes to an end in 2025, so there is an opening for a TPL Board member to serve as a representative.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Toronto Public Library Board 2025 Committee Membership

Toronto Public Library Board 2025 Committee Membership

Committee	2024 Membership	Required Membership for 2025
INTERNAL		
City Librarian's Performance Review Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alim Remtulla ◆ Jonathan Hoss ◆ Amina Mohamed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Board Chair ◆ Board Vice Chair ◆ One Board member
Board Liaison to Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Amina Mohamed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One Board member
Naming Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Alim Remtulla ◆ Serda Evren ◆ Deputy Mayor Amber Morley ◆ Justice Faith Betty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Board Chair ◆ Board representative from the TPL Foundation Board ◆ Two Board members
City Librarian Selection Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sakariya Ahmed ◆ Councillor Paul Ainslie ◆ Jonathan Hoss (Chair) ◆ Amina Mohamed ◆ Alim Remtulla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sakariya Ahmed ◆ Councillor Paul Ainslie ◆ Jonathan Hoss (Chair) ◆ Amina Mohamed ◆ Alim Remtulla
Strategic Planning Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Councillor Paul Ainslie ◆ Tamara Balan ◆ Jonathan Hoss ◆ Amina Mohamed (Chair) ◆ Alim Remtulla 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ N/A

EXTERNAL		
Federation of Ontario Public Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Vickery Bowles ◆ Lisa Radha Vohra ◆ Councillor Paul Ainslie ◆ Jonathan Hoss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ City Librarian ◆ Lisa Radha Vohra ◆ Jonathan Hoss ◆ One Board member
Toronto Public Library Foundation Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Serda Evren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One Board member