

Toronto Public Library Board

Scott Dobson  
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Monday November 18 2013

Dear Board Members

I have lived in Junction Triangle for 11 years and worked in the area since the 1980's. Over that time I have seen the community change from one under siege from pollution and pitted with brownfields and empty stores to today where a new vibrancy and energy is emerging.

I have loved the Perth Dupont Library since I first saw it and my wife and I and almost everybody we know in the community uses its in one fashion or another. It's a warm and inviting space with a respected staff who have become important resources for locals.

But the reality is that this branch is old and busting at the seams. It has no accessibility and washrooms that are in the basement. It has only one table for study and only 3 computers (always in use) for a community of thousands, a community that is seeing most of its brownfields turned into residential higher density developments and existing housing stock that is attracting a new generation of young families. Junction Triangle not only loves its library but it sees the need more a new, bigger, more vibrant space. The community feels that a library is an integral part of its future.

I have been involved in some of the efforts to explore a new branch or a renovation to meet these needs and I have seen first hand that it is hard to raise funds even when a community is so solidly behind a project. I can understand that the Library system is under strain too and other communities have needs too.

The proposal by Councillor Bailao is a refreshing and bold solution to all the issues that stand in the way of a new branch and will finally provide a branch that meets our needs and is accessible for those with mobility issues. As well this branch would be built by Taz Design build with Architect Steven Teeple meaning a high quality build that we can know will have no problems and in fact will exceed the quality one generally sees in public buildings.

I support this solution because it will not cost the City any money, will fulfill the needs of the community, and will keep the library as a central important hub of the Junction Triangle for generations to come. I hope that you are as excited about this proposal as Junction Triangle is.

Thank You,

Scott Dobson  
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