



**Toronto Public Library
Workers Union**
Local 4948

Affiliated with
CUPE and the
Toronto & York Region
Labour Council

Maureen O'Reilly
President

Brendan Haley
Vice-President

Viveca Gretton
Recording Secretary

Carmela DeGiorgio
Secretary-Treasurer

Brian Raymer
Toronto Reference Library

Joanna Cristini
North York Central Library

Nahid Rahnavard
North Region

Karen Smith
South Region

Samee-Lee Grossman
East Region

Mary Bissell
West Region

James Johnson
Facilities

Steven Burdick
Support Services

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Via Regular Mail and Email

March 3, 2015

Mayor John Tory
Office of the Mayor
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, 2nd Flr
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Tory:

RE: CUT TO LIBRARY SECURITY – 2015 TPL BUDGET

I am writing to inform you that security guard services at nine (9) libraries and a service centre will be cut entirely as a result of the Toronto Public Library Board budget submission for 2015.

In addition, there will be a reduction of guard service at our two largest libraries, North York and the Toronto Reference Library, and a decrease for all of the remaining libraries across the board.¹

Sixty-eight (68) branches will now be monitored by one (1) mobile guard instead of two.

Due to a legacy motion from former Mayor Rob Ford during the 2014 budget debate, security is on the table again. (That 2014 motion to eliminate the entire security budget failed in a vote of 6-38)². Senior management had found \$150,000 in efficiencies in the security budget already for 2015. However, there is still an additional \$200,000 in cuts that have been proposed. There has been no reasonable case put forward as to why this cut should take place.

We respectfully request that the \$200,000 be reinstated. This only represents a 0.1% increase to TPL's 2015 budget ask.

Including the 2015 revised budget request of a 2.3% increase, the cumulative budget increase over the last four years is 0.5% which is 90% below inflation.

¹ Toronto Public Library Board. (2015). Toronto Public Library Board Meeting Agenda January 19, 2015. Agenda Item 12a, Staff Report, 2015 Operating Budget Update.

² Social Planning Toronto (2014). *Toronto residents vote: Toronto Public Library*. Fall 2014.



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Toronto's public library is the busiest urban library in North America by far with over 35 million items circulated and 19 million visits. The Library is a public institution well loved by Torontonians and plays a key role in bringing the city together.³

We need the security support to keep our libraries welcoming and open to all and the library workers need the support so that we can concentrate on what we do best: delivering excellent library service to the people of Toronto.⁴

Yours sincerely,

Maureen O'Reilly
President
TPLWU Local 4948

cc. TPLWU Executive Board
TPLB Chair Ron Carinci

Attach.

³ Institute on Municipal Finance & Government, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. (2014). *The many faces of leadership in a thriving city: a rethink of the Toronto narrative*. Toronto, ON: Alan Broadbent

⁴ Toronto Public Library Workers Union. (2014). *Library union strongly challenges Toronto Public Library Board chair, citing security concerns* [Press Release]. November 28, 2014.

SECURITY GUARD SERVICE

Revised list of branches affected by budget reduction

2014 Locations	Budget Reduction	Board Approved Budget Reduction Nov. 17, 2014	Revised Budget Reduction Jan. 19, 2015
	\$150,000	\$150,000 + \$513,000	\$150,000 + \$200,000
Research & Reference Libraries			
North York Central	North York Central*	North York Central*	North York Central*
Toronto Reference	Toronto Reference*	Toronto Reference*	Toronto Reference*
District Branches			
Agincourt	Agincourt	Agincourt	Agincourt
Albert Campbell	Albert Campbell	Albert Campbell	Albert Campbell
Albion	Albion	Albion	Albion
Barbara Frum	Barbara Frum	Barbara Frum	Barbara Frum
Bloor/Gladstone	Bloor/Gladstone	Bloor/Gladstone	Bloor/Gladstone
Cedarbrae	Cedarbrae	Cedarbrae	Cedarbrae
Fairview	Fairview	Fairview	Fairview
Lillian H. Smith	Lillian H. Smith	Lillian H. Smith	Lillian H. Smith
Malvern	Malvern	Malvern	Malvern
Maria A. Shchuka	Maria A. Shchuka	Maria A. Shchuka	Maria A. Shchuka
Northern District	Northern District	Northern District	Northern District
Richview	Richview	Richview	Richview
S. Walter Stewart	S. Walter Stewart	S. Walter Stewart	S. Walter Stewart
York Woods	York Woods	York Woods	York Woods
Neighbourhood Branches			
Centennial	Centennial	Centennial	Centennial
Dawes Road	Dawes Road	Dawes Road	Dawes Road
Downsview	Downsview	Downsview	Downsview
Eatonville	Eatonville	Eatonville	Eatonville
Flemingdon Park	Flemingdon Park	Flemingdon Park	Flemingdon Park
Fort York	Fort York	Fort York	Fort York
Jane/Dundas	Jane/Dundas	Jane/Dundas	Jane/Dundas
Jane/Sheppard	Jane/Sheppard	Jane/Sheppard	Jane/Sheppard
Oakwood Village	Oakwood Village	Oakwood Village	Oakwood Village
Parkdale	Parkdale	Parkdale	Parkdale
Parliament Street	Parliament Street	Parliament Street	Parliament Street
Riverdale	Riverdale	Riverdale	Riverdale
Sanderson	Sanderson	Sanderson	Sanderson
St. James Town	St. James Town	St. James Town	St. James Town
Thorncliffe	Thorncliffe	Thorncliffe	Thorncliffe
Computer Centre	Computer Centre	Computer Centre	Computer Centre
2 mobile guards	1 mobile guard	1 mobile guard	1 mobile guard

* NYC – eliminate overnight guard; TRL – reduce to 3 guards when open to public

TORONTO CITY COUNCIL KEY VOTE

Public Libraries

Ward	Councillor	2012 Budget: Reverse \$3.89 million cut in order to preserve services (passed)	2014 Budget: Ask library board to eliminate security guards cut budget by \$1.58 million (failed)	2014 Budget: Reverse decision to expand service hours (failed; hours were expanded)
Motion: Moved by and Vote Count:		EX14.1 Motion 9 Cho (22-21)	EX37.1 Motion 2f R. Ford (6-38)	EX37.1 Motion 2q (b) R. Ford (6-38)
1	Vincent Crisanti	NO	NO	NO
2	Doug Ford	NO	YES	YES
3	Doug Holyday/Peter Leon	NO (Holyday)	NO	NO (Leon)
4	Gloria Lindsay Luby	YES	NO	NO
5	Peter Milczyn	NO	YES	YES
6	Mark Grimes	NO	NO	NO
7	Giorgio Mammoliti	NO	YES	YES
8	Anthony Perruzza	YES	NO	NO
9	Maria Augimeri	YES	NO	NO
10	James Pasternak	ABSENT (conflict of interest, can't vote on library issues)	ABSENT (conflict of interest, can't vote on library issues)	ABSENT (conflict of interest, can't vote on library issues)
11	Frances Nunziata	NO	NO	NO
12	Frank Di Giorgio	NO	NO	YES
13	Sarah Doucette	YES	NO	NO
14	Gord Perks	YES	NO	NO
15	Josh Colle	YES	NO	NO
16	Karen Stintz	NO	NO	NO
17	Cesar Palacio	NO	NO	NO
18	Ana Bailão	YES	NO	NO
19	Mike Layton	YES	NO	NO
20	Adam Vaughan	YES	NO	NO
21	Joe Mihevc	YES	NO	NO
22	Josh Matlow	YES	NO	NO
23	John Filion	YES	NO	NO
24	David Shiner	NO	NO	NO
25	Jaye Robinson	NO	NO	NO
26	John Parker	NO	NO	NO
27	Kristyn Wong-Tam	YES	NO	NO
28	Pam McConnell	YES	NO	NO
29	Mary Fragedakis	YES	NO	NO
30	Paula Fletcher	YES	NO	YES (Cllr reported she voted in error)
31	Janet Davis	YES	NO	NO
32	Mary-Margaret McMahon	YES	NO	NO
33	Shelley Carroll	YES	NO	NO
34	Denzil Minnan-Wong	NO	NO	NO
35	Michelle Berardinetti	NO	NO	NO
36	Gary Crawford	NO	NO	NO
37	Michael Thompson	NO	NO	NO
38	Glenn De Baeremaeker	YES	NO	NO
39	Mike Del Grande	NO	YES	NO
40	Norm Kelly	NO	NO	NO
41	Chin Lee	YES	NO	NO
42	Raymond Cho	YES	NO	NO
43	Paul Ainslie	NO	NO	NO
44	Ron Moeser	ABSENT	YES	NO
Mayor	Rob Ford	NO	YES	YES

TORONTO RESIDENTS VOTE



Investment in Toronto Public Library Makes Sense

With over 18 million visits per year, the Toronto Public Library is the busiest public library system in North America. Our libraries are spaces that support the joy of reading, provide an array of educational resources, and offer engaging programs for children, youth and adults. For only 17 cents a day, the public library provides a vast supply of books, videos, music, magazines and newspapers, apart from other online resources. The public library strongly contributes to early childhood education and literacy development in youth and it has significant long-term impacts on social inclusion by providing safe and public space for marginalized people to access literacy, settlement and job market information programs. Libraries also provide access to health information which, studies show, contributes to the health and well-being of individuals. Toronto Public Library has a great economic impact on the city as well, as shown in the chart below:



Toronto Public Library's Economic Impact

Total annual impact on Toronto's economy is \$1.2 billion; a return on investment of up to 681%

For every dollar invested in the library, Torontonians receive \$5.63 in benefits

For every open hour, services worth \$2,515 are offered while the cost of an open hour is only \$653

Fast Facts about Toronto Public Library

Busiest in N. America and more popular than the total of top 10 attractions in the city

Over 18 million visits in 2012 in 99 branches. 1.3 million cardholders

In 2012, 72% of adults used the library, and over 67% of recent immigrants are frequent users

Over 220,000 preschoolers and more than 216,000 children attended literacy programs at libraries

Our Library is a Precious Public Asset that Needs to be Preserved

A study by Rotman School of Business at the University of Toronto in 2012 shows that investment in Toronto Public Library has a positive economic impact on the city. Yet, over the past 20 years, the public library system has suffered chronic underfunding despite an increase in the number of users. Last year, City Council voted to increase the budget for public libraries in 2014, though not nearly enough to make up for previous cuts and the effects of inflation. Council did, however, vote to launch a study to explore opportunities to re-invest in our library, but the idea was vetoed by the Library Board. It is vital that City Council continues to press for reinvestment in this important public asset, especially after years of budget cuts and the grinding effects of inflation.

Ask your candidate:

- How will you ensure the Toronto Public Library system is adequately funded?
- Will you support re-investment in the public library system to compensate for years of chronic underfunding?

Resources:

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – "The Great Equalizer:

www.policyalternatives.ca

Commitment to Community: www.commitment2community.org

Martin Prosperity Institute – "So Much More": www.martinprosperity.org

Our Public Library: www.ourpubliclibrary.to

Toronto Public Library: www.torontopubliclibrary.ca



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 10:15 a.m., Friday, November 28, 2014

Library Union Strongly Challenges Toronto Library Board Chair, citing security concerns

The union that represents 2,200 librarians and other workers at the Toronto Public Library is strongly challenging the Toronto Public Library Board Chair because of his “remarkably uninformed” denial of the need for more security at library branches and his rejection of City Council’s prior decision to not cut the security budget.

Michael Foderick, a former executive assistant to Councillor Cesar Palacio, who also sits on the library board, has been Chair of the city agency for just under a year. At the recent November 17 meeting of the Board, Foderick argued for a 40 per cent reduction in the security budget as part of the library funding request to the new City Council. A slim majority of the Board accepted his claim that security staff at many branches were not needed City Council will consider the budget request early next year

“For someone who is head of the busiest library system in North America, this Chair is remarkably uninformed of the realities of library security needs,” says Maureen O’Reilly, President of the Toronto Public Library Workers’ Union (TPLWU).

“Violent behaviour in the library system jumped 49 per cent from 2012 to 2013. In the last few weeks we have had a stabbing in a West end library, a bomb threat that closed a central downtown branch and a staff member assaulted at another branch. One east end district branch has filed 47 incident reports since the beginning of 2014, with more incidents than ever falling into the disturbing categories of violence, harassing behaviour threats, disruption, vandalism and trespass.

“Libraries are staffed mainly by women and many of our workers are young adults. Torontonians love their libraries and visit often. Many of those visitors are children enjoying our wide range of programmes,” O’Reilly says.

“O’Reilly says she was shocked when Foderick put forth his motion at the board meeting and publicly boasted about it later in a newspaper interview.

“We need the security support to keep our libraries welcoming and open to all and the library workers need the support so that we can concentrate on what we do best, which is delivering the library service.”

“Mr. Foderick seems quite proud of the \$663,000 he will save by cutting library security,” O’Reilly added. “But with 18.5-19 million visits a year, those savings amount to three-and-a-half cents per visit. If ever there was a false economy, this is it.”