



**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

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Brian Raymer
Toronto Reference Library

Joanna Cristini
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Karen Smith
South Region

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March 18, 2015

Toronto Public Library Board Chair Ron Carinci and
Members of the TPL Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2G8

Dear Mr. Carinci:

RE: ACQUIRING COLLECTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

At the February 17, 2015 TPLB meeting there was a brief discussion on the pilot project for acquiring collections from the public at TRL To date the program has had a limited impact.

This project was initiated in our view as a response to a suggestion to mirror a text book buy back service at an academic bookstore. This project was not a right fit in the public library setting and should not have been implemented in the first place.

TPLWU Local 4948 would like to see the pilot project end. Our reason is threefold:

First, collection development is a professional task. At the point that these items are being added to the collection they are not adding any value. The cost of staff time at this point in the workflow far out ways the savings on the item purchased.

Second, we the project raises expectations of the public for the buy back of books which the frontline staff bear the brunt of managing. We believe this harms customer service instead of improving it

Third, the project has raised concern from Canadian authors and the publishing industry. The economic return on the pilot project is limited and puts at risk the excellent relationship that the library enjoys with this community

We would respectfully request that the book buying pilot project come to an end with no further implementation



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Yours sincerely,

Maureen O'Reilly
TPLWU Local 4948 President

**Cc TPLWU Local 4948 Recording Secretary
TPLWU Local 4948 Executive Board**