

March 16, 2006

Mr. E.T. Gilbert

(b).

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

I am writing in response to your recent letter about the availability of Xtra at the Spadina Road branch library.

The Toronto Public Library provides bulk publications from its branch locations to address the public's wide-ranging interest in, and demand for, information about the Toronto community. *Xtra* covers the social, cultural and political life in our City from a gay and lesbian perspective. It is a popular publication with Spadina Road library users and copies quickly disappear.

In response to the concerns expressed in your letter, staff at the Spadina Road branch reconsidered the location of this news magazine; it is currently available in the lobby of the branch. Future issues will be found in a space adjacent to the adult magazine area of the branch.

The population of the City includes a diverse group of people and the Library handles all requests to distribute a wide variety of materials in a fair and consistent manner. Toronto Public Library's Materials Selection Policy informs our approach to the provision of materials. We select '*materials representing varying points of view and which are of current interest...including materials which reflect current conditions, trends and controversies*'. *Xtra* is of current interest to a large group of library users. Many of our branches, including those that you mention in your letter - Deer Park, Lillian H. Smith, Palmerston, Yorkville and Toronto Reference - also distribute the magazine and find it is popular with the public.

I would like to assure you that Toronto Public Library does not distribute any material that contravenes federal or provincial laws and regulations and/or municipal by-laws.

Thank you for your interest in the Library's services and collections. We appreciate the time you took to bring your concerns to our attention.

Yours truly,

Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

Copies to: Mayor David Miller
Councillor Rob Ford