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**COMMUNICATIONS  
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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**TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – February 2, 2011**

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Communications were received from the following individuals concerning the 2011 Operating Budget:

- Yuri Titov dated January 6, 2011
- Philippa Campsie dated January 6, 2011
- Christina Colalillo dated January 6, 2011
- Michelle Baptie Sanchez dated January 6, 2011
- Linda Lapointe dated January 6, 2011
- Dina Marcutti dated January 6, 2011
- Mark Irish dated January 6, 2011
- Sanja Stojakovic dated January 6, 2011
- Jessica Davis dated January 6, 2011
- Rob Russell dated January 6, 2011
- Paul Bain dated January 6, 2011
- Fiona Chapman dated January 6, 2011
- Robert Murdie dated January 8, 2011
- Michael Johnson dated January 8, 2011
- Mike McKeon dated January 11, 2011
- Nick Nelson dated January 11, 2011
- Sean Harvey dated January 11, 2011
- William Samotie dated January 11, 2011
- Peter Klambauer dated January 12, 2011

**Nancy Marshall - Branch closing????**

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**From:** "Titov, Yuri" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <brichter@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <pbull@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <pjacklin@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <lhazzan@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <dkeon@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 3:11 PM  
**Subject:** Branch closing????

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Hello

I am completely appalled with disturbing news that somebody got an idea to close Public Library Branch to save a buck!

As newcomer (it was a long time ago) I found TPL indispensable resource to learn English, culture and Canadian way of life. Currently working in corporate world, I am amazed how Canadians are ILLITERATE! Managers and other staff do not how to write, read or express their thoughts in understandable manner.

And you want to close source of knowledge? After my company relocated from King St to Wellesley I established Urban Affair as my 'home' branch to borrow and return fiction and nonfiction material. I read close to 50 books a year (each one has more than 300 pages, at least) and this is my third or fourth language I am able to fluently use. Thanks to TPL!

Staff at Urban Affair branch was ALWAYS kind and extremely resourceful. I know that UA is not a 'regular' library but with material they have on hand is just priceless.

Shame on those who decide to close that branch. Canada is becoming more and more 'third world country'. Should I relocate again...???

Regards, Yuri

 Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:** Philippa Campsie [REDACTED]  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <c...>  
**CC:** <mayor\_ford@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** 06/01/2011 3:13 pm  
**Subject:** Proposed cuts to Toronto Public Library

Dear Councillors and Board members,

The Toronto Public Library is one of the jewels in the city's crown. It provides a crucial service to all residents, offering the access to information that is essential in an information-based economy. The Urban Affairs Library serves an important purpose in offering both regular services to downtown residents and specialized services to Toronto public employees and urban affairs researchers. I have used the library for research many times and value its services highly -- especially after the closing of the provincial Municipal Affairs and Housing library some years ago. A specialized library, once dismantled, cannot be reassembled when the economy improves and budgets are less tight. I urge you not to eliminate this precious resource in the service of short-term savings.

Yours sincerely,

Philippa Campsie  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Chair, TPL Board chair - Urban Affairs Library

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**From:** Christina Colalillo [REDACTED]  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 3:32 PM  
**Subject:** Urban Affairs Library

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I am disheartened to learn that the Urban Affairs Library is in jeopardy of closing.

The library is a "community centre" and a respite from our daily hectic lives.

The downtown core needs the library for its holds and drop offs. Newcomers, whether they are immigrants or recent residents make their first stop in attaining a library card. It signifies a belonging to the community and they can access all the services the library provides-some of which I myself have used like the computers, information pamphlets, and Sunlife MAP passes.

On a personal note, I have used the library as a place to quietly read during my lunch hour as my workplace location does not have a lunch room. I need to decompress from all the distractions and stress my job provides. I use the library as a "waiting room" after work before I meet friends for a night out as it is ideally located in the entertainment district. It is refreshing to hear that the district is changing-all for the better I say what with the TIFF Lightbox, an upscale bowling alley on John Street and a Marshall's store expected to open soon. The library fits this new and improved image.

The library employees are extremely professional and courteous. I was disappointed to learn that they heard about its possible closing through the media-the same time as we, the general public. It is insulting to say the least.

I understand about balancing a budget. It would be difficult to believe that cutting expenses elsewhere can not do the trick. Everyone and all branches should tighten their belts. The Urban Affairs Library shouldn't feel the brunt of fiscal mismanagement.

Toronto prides itself with having the best library system in the world. It would be a shame if any of its branches close, unfortunately it will signify the "dumbing down" of Toronto.

Please reconsider!

Thank you.

Christina Colalillo

[REDACTED]

**From:** "Michelle Baptie Sanchez" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** 06/01/2011 3:37 pm  
**Subject:** Library Closing

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am perplexed and livid to hear that the Urban Affairs library may be closed. It is a great library and it is always packed when I go there. In fact, people are lined up in the morning awaiting the opening of the library with its ample resources and resourceful staff.

Urban Affairs is a growing branch in an area that is booming with residential condo growth. The condo dwellers need access to such important library services.

Please make us proud of this city- don't close this library branch!

Michelle Baptie Sanchez  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Nancy Marshall - Closure of Urban Affairs Library

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**From:** "Linda Lapointe" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 4:23 PM  
**Subject:** Closure of Urban Affairs Library

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The Secretary  
Toronto Public Library Board  
789 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8

To whom it may concern:

As an urban planner with an interest in urban affairs, I think it would be very short-sighted of the City to close the Urban Affairs Library. This library which is dedicated to urban issues, should if anything, be upgraded and improved as a repository for urban related studies and reports, not closed. Our city faces increasing challenges in a variety of areas including: affordable housing, transportation, employment, integration of new immigrants, impoverished neighbourhoods.

Please reconsider your plans to close this library and keep these important documents in an accessible location.

Yours truly,

Linda Lapointe

[REDACTED]

## **Nancy Marshall - Very disappointed to hear that the Urban Library may be closed**

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**From:** "Dina Marcutti" [REDACTED]  
**To:** "N Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 4:25 PM  
**Subject:** Very disappointed to hear that the Urban Library may be closed

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it has been instrumental to our Legal Department at Metro Hall. Please reconsider.  
Thank you.

Dina Marcutti  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - moving urban affairs branch vote**

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**From:** mark irish [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 4:27 PM  
**Subject:** moving urban affairs branch vote

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Hello,

I was at your Urban Affairs Branch today. They told me you were going to have a vote on moving that branch to the TRL due to a request for budget cuts. Please defer the vote. The mayor's office is not coming out with any budget information until next week. You should wait and see what they say before you do anything. The Police Services Board has already deferred their vote. You can do the same. The library is too important to be rushed into any decisions. It is the place where the people of the city go to get information on any topic and specifically their city. At this very time we must have this avenue to see and communicate with people regarding our city and the huge changes that are being asked of all of us. There must be a public conversation about this in every corner of the city so we can hear all the voices that want to be heard.

If I remember the Common Sense Revolution was going to stop transfers to Public Libraries years ago. It didn't happen. Somebody must have told them that you if don't give people a place to learn and meet with others you slowly erode the chance for them to be good employees and citizens. Somehow they listened. This group must listen also and not just to those who voted for them or complain the loudest. They must listen, hear, understand & report back to the public in detail on what was said and how they view what we want.

The library is a key source of information in this the knowledge century. Please don't let these people fool with it or rush you. This unnecessary rush of things was also the method the Common Sense Revolution used to get a number of things through. They gave everybody a false sense of urgency to put people off balance. There is no sense of urgency here. Take your time. These decisions will affect our city now and long into the future. Give people a chance to use the public information a library provides. Any rash decisions might start the process that tears the city apart at the seams.

Please defer the vote.

bsp;           Thank You

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bsp;           Mark Irish

&n

**Nancy Marshall - urban affairs**

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**From:** Sanja Stojakovic [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 4:54 PM  
**Subject:** urban affairs

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Hi Nancy,

I have been informed there is a chance that the Urban Affairs library may close. I just want to express how truly disappointed I will be. I visit this library every week, it is the closest library to my work and home. I would be very upset if I had to trek further to get my books. I really hope there is a way to keep it open.

Thanks,  
Sanja

Sanja Stojakovic  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Library - 55 John Street**

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**From:** "Davis, Jessica" [REDACTED]  
**To:** "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 5:24 PM  
**Subject:** Urban Affairs Library - 55 John Street

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Hi there,

I was just updating my account information today at the Urban Affairs Library at 55 John Street and was informed that the branch may be closing down. I just wanted to let you know that I really hope that it doesn't close. It is such a convenient location for me to access from work. I work such long hours that the branches near my house can really only be visited on the weekends. I am hoping that you don't close such an important access point for the TPL for me.

Many thanks,  
Jess

[REDACTED]

**From:** "Zorg" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** 06/01/2011 7:12 pm  
**Subject:** Urban affairs branch (Metro hall) - Library

Dear Mme Marshall,

I have heard of the project to close the Urban affairs branch of the Toronto Public Library and I would like to express my strong opposition to such measure.

I live in the Metro Hall vicinity and this branch is the only branch that I can easily visit.

If it were to close I would stop borrow books, magazines and DVDs.

Libraries have a significant socio-economic impact and is an important part of our community (a fast growing one for that matter).

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Regards,  
Rob Russell

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[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Library**

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**From:** Paul Bain [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 6, 2011 7:17 PM  
**Subject:** Urban Affairs Library

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The Urban Affairs Library is an invaluable resource for students and all Torontonians with an interest in our City and how cities function. Its closure would be a very sad loss to the cultural life of our City.

sincerely  
S. P. Bain

**From:** Fiona Chapman [REDACTED]  
**To:** "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** 06/01/2011 8:59 pm  
**Subject:** Urban affairs library

I am writing to your Board with regards to the possible closure of the Urban Affairs Library. I have used the library's resources consistently to assist with focused research requests for my work at the city. The staff have assisted with finding hard-to-find books and articles and are an invaluable resource in ensuring that we have the most up to date information in order to respond to the needs of residents and/or Council.

I also value the library and its staff as a participant in the UWO/City of Toronto Diploma in Public Administration. Their enthusiasm, dedication, advice and perseverance have been invaluable in being able to meet all of the program requirements. Their specialized knowledge of urban issues serves an important function for both staff, students and residents alike.

In closing, I urge your Board to not close this most valuable of resources.

Kindest regards,

Fiona Chapman  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Nancy Marshall - Possible Closing of the Urban Affairs Library

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**From:** Robert Murdie [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 8, 2011 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** Possible Closing of the Urban Affairs Library  
**CC:** <councillor\_stintz@toronto.ca>

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Dear Ms. Marshall,

As a user of the Urban Affairs Library I have followed the recent discussion with interest.

I am not necessarily opposed to transferring the Urban Affairs Library to the Metro Reference Library but am deeply concerned about how the collection will be managed and staffed. (I am puzzled about where the money comes from in savings but I won't go there in this note. From my perspective the City and the TPL are all part of city government/the public sector and the large amount of money that the TPL would save in renting space at Metro Hall is creative accounting unless that space is used for some commercial venture)

Here is my main question. Specifically, will the urban affairs collection be maintained as a separate entity in the reference library, as it is now at Metro Hall, or will it be broken up and incorporated with the rest of the collection at the reference library? This is not clear in the report to the Board or in the media accounts.

In another section of the report it was proposed that the periodical collection be broken up and housed within separate subject matter sections of the collection. Fortunately, this idea was voted down by the Board.

As an urban social geographer, this makes me very nervous. The Urban Affairs library is a unique collection, much of which is not readily available elsewhere. It is crucial that a great city such as Toronto have such a resource as a means of understanding where it has come from and where it is going. It should also be a free-standing identifiable resource housed in its own space.

I look forward to your response. Since this is ultimately a politically decision, I am copying this note to Karen Stintz, my local councillor.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Murdie  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Branch**

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**From:** Joseph Wearing [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 8, 2011 4:05 PM  
**Subject:** Urban Affairs Branch

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Please pass this on to the Board if the issue receives further discussion.

I am a frequent user of the Urban Affairs collection but I find it frustrating that its materials are in a separate location. When I am pursuing a research "thread" at either the main Reference Library or at Urban Affairs I inevitable find myself wanting something that is in the other location.

Closing the Urban Affairs Branch does not mean losing its collection but integrating it with the rest of the library's holdings, where it ought to be.

Michael Johnson  
[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - Taxpayer**

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**From:** Mike McKeon [REDACTED]  
**To:** <councillor\_doucette@toronto.ca>  
**Date:** January 11, 2011 7:29 AM  
**Subject:** Taxpayer  
**CC:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mayor\_ford@toronto.ca>

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Councillor Doucette,

There are probably 10 libraries within 5Km of my house and another 30 school libraries (no effort has ever been made to consolidate?). Most Toronto libraries have had expensive additions in the last eight years - rather than clean-up, renovate and demand that staff offer better customer service. I suspect it is consultants, architects, contractors and undisciplined and unskilled management that consume the libraries budget. With the new unnecessary additions we also lost many beautiful, historic Carnegie libraries to hack architects.

The Library Board should accept at least a 5% cut and shape-up. And the expected tactics of cutting the most visible, public services associated with the libraries, rather than the waste and the fat-cat spending is bush-league and should be shouted-down.

Sincerely,

Mike McKeon

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs library closure**

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**From:** Nick Nelson [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 11, 2011 8:27 AM  
**Subject:** Urban Affairs library closure

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Hello,

I'm writing to say that I do not support the closure of the urban affairs library and that the library system should not be the target of such cuts. The urban affairs branch houses a very large collection of important materials of great relevance to our city. It must be preserved.

Thanks,  
Nick

## Nancy Marshall - Proposed closure of Metro Hall Library

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**From:** Sean [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 11, 2011 9:48 AM  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Metro Hall Library

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To whom it may concern,

I just wanted to add my name to those who oppose the closure of the Metro Hall Library as a cost cutting exercise. This amounts to a direct impact on service quality to the community both of residents and businesses in the area. To be specific, this is a negative impact on customer service and therefore not in line with Council direction. As a student I did most of my research at this branch and as I continue to use it I see more and more users every day. With the increase in residential population in the area this is becoming much more of a library than was originally intended. I can easily see this branch continuing to exist even with the proposed future branch at Bathurst near Fort York. Frankly, I do not see how the Fort York Branch, given its location, has any ability to serve the residents and businesses near Metro Hall. Closing the Metro Hall Branch is a bad idea from any angle. While I appreciate the direction to cut costs, such a proposal runs contrary to improved customer service.

Sean Harvey  
Toronto resident

## Nancy Marshall - Library funding

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**From:** "William Samotie" [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 11, 2011 2:44 PM  
**Subject:** Library funding

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**FOR: Mr. Matthew Church**  
Chairman of the Board  
Toronto Public Library

**From:** William Samotie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 09, 2011 2:00 PM  
**To:** 'chair@torontopubliclibraryboard.ca'  
**Cc:** 'mayor\_ford@toronto.ca'; 'councillor\_davis@toronto.ca'  
**Subject:** Library funding

Dear Mr. Church

I have read with great dismay in last Friday's Toronto Star that the Toronto Public Library is lacking funds to continue the marvellous service that Torontonians has come to take for granted. The Toronto Public Library provides everyone with the wonderful opportunity to learn and explore many worlds through the written word. It serves hundreds of thousand of Torontonians every year and hence should be priority for funding by the City. Youngsters who read and have discovered the wonders of the Library are not those hanging around in malls and carrying hidden pistols to fire indiscriminately in crowded places as some sort of macho demonstration of their power over their peers. The Toronto Public Library can be an effective force in building today's youth into the community leaders of tomorrow. And the Toronto Public Library is a delightful place of refuge for senior citizens to select and read the thoughts and stories that can brighten their days. And those in between have the opportunity to discover new worlds and new ideas and new ways of doing things that do not rely on the technological savvy necessary to surf the net. It's just not the same. Yes, The Toronto Public Library is, and can yet be an even greater force in building fine communities. But to hold back a minuscule funding amount is outrageous. One might ask: Why does the City of Toronto offer \$1million to the Canadian Film Centre, a **private, special interest group** that serves less that 100 people, as a film school of sorts but one that has no accreditation from any known or respected educational authority municipally, provincially or federally. \$1million for them and nothing for the Toronto Public Library system? Have we indeed lost our senses? Mayor Ford promised to stop the "gravy train" yet it appears to roll on unabated with funding to groups like the Canadian Film Centre simply because this private, special interest group has friends in high places. It is wrong! It is unfair! And it will, in the end, damage the fine sense of community this City has work so hard to build. Here is \$1million that could do a lot for a lot of people if it were transferred to the Toronto Public Library system.

William Samotie

## Nancy Marshall - Proposed closure of Urban Affairs branch at Metro Hall

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**From:** Peter Klambauer [REDACTED]  
**To:** <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>  
**Date:** January 12, 2011 9:23 PM  
**Subject:** Proposed closure of Urban Affairs branch at Metro Hall  
**CC:** <councillor\_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor\_doucette@toronto.ca>

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Susan

I am a staff person who works at Metro Hall, and I was dismayed to learn of the proposal to close the Metro Hall branch location. I have been a fairly regular user of the branch since I have been located at Metro Hall, for some years now. I understand the Urban Affairs collection has been located at this branch since 1992, when it was relocated there from City Hall, where it had resided since its construction. The location of this important resource at or near the core location of a high proportion of City staff makes good sense, as it helps us in our work. This is acknowledged in the 2011 Operating Budget Update that recommended its closure. What is absent from this report is how this resource helps develop the consciousness and conscience of an effective public servant. I understand the pressure of spending control and the difficult assignment that is addressed with this proposal however I am concerned about the lobotomization of our service through the relocation of this important and accessible resource.

I hope that there is an opportunity to reconsider this proposal. I understand the Library Board voted against this measure, however it is nonetheless being considered in Council as a part of the current budgeting process. I believe that the presence of this resource near the bulk of staff and administration is part of the vision of what our City should be. I also believe that its absence would be harmful, the removal of an important tool from those of us who use it to better serve our public. I hope there are alternatives to its closure, and the relocation of this vital collection.

Please add my comments to any petition or accumulation of oppositions to this measure, and circulate to your Board.

Thank you,  
Peter Klambauer