



COMMUNICATIONS - REVISED GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – January 6, 2011

The following items are provided for the Toronto Public Library Board's information:

- (a) Communication to Toronto Public Library Board members, from Councillor Gord Perks, Ward 14 – Parkdale-High Park, dated January 5, 2011 concerning the use of a library meeting room as constituency office space (See Agenda Item No. 10).
- (b) Communication to the Minister of Tourism and Culture; Laura Albanese, MPP, York South-Weston and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Culture; and Toronto Area Members of Provincial Parliament, dated January 7, 2011 concerning the provincial funding proposal of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1) approves sending a letter (Attachment b) to the Minister of Tourism and Culture; Laura Albanese, MPP, York South-Weston and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Tourism and Culture; and Toronto Area Members of Provincial Parliament concerning the Provincial Funding Proposal of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries.
- (c) Communications were received from the following individuals concerning Agenda Item No. 9 – 2011 Operating Budget – Update:
 - G. Turner dated January 1, 2011
 - Lisa A. Carreiro and Sandra M. Liske dated January 2, 2011
 - Myra Lefkowitz dated January 2, 2011
 - Melanie Redman and Phillip Smith dated January 3, 2011
 - Hamish Wilson dated January 3, 2011*
 - Eric Rogers dated January 4, 2011
 - Joe Clark dated January 4, 2011
 - Elizabeth Bridge dated January 4, 2011
 - Sheliza Dawood dated January 4, 2011
 - Maria Jene dated January 4, 2011

- Teresa Bennett dated January 4, 2011
- Sherry Smith dated January 5, 2011
- Geoff Kettel dated January 5, 2011
- Charlotte Young dated January 5, 2011
- Richard Longley dated January 5, 2011
- Devendra Sharma dated January 5, 2011*
- Genevieve Zletni dated January 5, 2011
- Kristian Kostecky dated January 5, 2011
- Anthony Schein dated January 5, 2011
- Patrick Cameron dated January 5, 2011
- Eunice Lee dated January 5, 2011
- Grace dated January 5, 2011
- Wayne Reeves dated January 5, 2011
- Barbara Fowler dated January 5, 2011
- Beth Camposano dated January 5, 2011
- James MacNevin dated January 5, 2011
- Lise Lareau dated January 5, 2011
- Ron Macdonald dated January 5, 2011
- Sandra Burk dated January 5, 2011
- Rajiv Kalkar dated January 5, 2011
- Kristine Hughes dated January 5, 2011
- Harry Armstrong dated January 5, 2011*
- Julie Cristinzo dated January 5, 2011
- Alice Leung dated January 5, 2011
- Linda R. Wells dated January 5, 2011
- Roscoe Handford dated January 5, 2011
- Edmund O'Connor dated January 6, 2011
- Meghan Edmonds dated January 6, 2011
- Devi Arasanayagam dated January 6, 2011
- Edika Perkovic ated January 6, 2011
- Peggy Byrne dated January 6, 2011
- Ed Walton dated January 6, 2011
- Michael Prince dated January 6, 2011
- David Gurin dated January 6, 2011
- Narcisa Sigmund dated January 6, 2011
- Joanne Wolfson dated January 6, 2011
- John Sewell dated January 6, 2011*
- Ben McHenry dated January 6, 2011
- Hong Yan dated January 6, 2011
- Kendra FitzRandolph dated January 6, 2011
- Gord Jones dated January 6, 2011
- Marna Chibuk dated January 6, 2011
- Dr. Linda Gruson dated January 6, 2011
- George Thomas Kapelos dated January 6, 2011
- Terry Mills dated January 6, 2011*

*individual will be making a presentation to the Board

Nancy Marshall - No cuts to TPL

From: "9thermidor" [REDACTED]
To: <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: January 1, 2011 8:10 AM
Subject: No cuts to TPL
CC: <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor_thompson@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>

Mayor Ford
City of Toronto
City Hall
Toronto ON

January 1, 2011

Sir:

Re: cuts to Toronto Public Library

A December 31, 2010 article in the Toronto Star titled, "Downtown library branch threatened with closure" is alarming.

A reduced budget for acquisitions and staff resulting in layoffs, reduced hours, longer wait times, etc. is unacceptable.

TPL is the best resource in Toronto and provides excellent service and is always busy, at least at my local Bloor/Gladstone branch where I met Councillor Thompson at the re-opening on July 23, 2009.

No service reductions means just that. I expect that promise to be met and kept.

G. Turner
[REDACTED]

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/914396--downtown-library-branch-threatened-with-closure?bn=1>

From: Carreiro Liske [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>,
<coun...>
Date: 02/01/2011 4:52 pm
Subject: Toronto City Public Library 2011 Budget

Dear Mr. Mayor,
Councillor Palacio,
Councillor Robinson,
Councillor Ainslie,
Councillor Davis,
Councillor Doucette, and
Toronto Public Library Board members,

We have learned to our regret that the city proposes to cut more than \$2 million from the Toronto Public Library system's 2011 budget. We ask that, instead, at your Library Board meeting this week, you actually add more money to the library's budget. The Toronto Public Library Board originally agreed to a 3.3% increase in its budget, which the city reduced to 2%. This latter figure is not sufficient to maintain adequate staff levels and ensure new purchases. Moreover, now the city is asking the Public Library to cut \$2.2 million! The result will be a possible branch closure and fewer books and periodicals purchased.

Before discussing cuts, consider this: every dollar spent on the public library is a dollar invested in literacy and education. A well-stocked and fully staffed library system ensures that the public has access to books and other material which keeps us informed and encourages us to learn. Public libraries enable students to do research using a broad variety of books and periodicals that are often not available to them elsewhere. Unemployed people can use library computers to aid in their search for employment. Families have access to books that they might not be able to afford. Children who use libraries are better readers, and readers grow up to be well-educated, productive adults. Even for the library to stock more children's literature is an investment: the children develop a lifelong love of reading, and reading is a necessary skill and a stepping stone to future learning.

We urge the city of Toronto and the Toronto Public Library Board to ensure full funding is restored to the public library. We know our tax money is well-spent on libraries, not wasted at all. Sometimes, what appears to be a cost-saving measure is no such thing. In this case, the long-term benefits -- increased literacy, better access to information, more resources for students, job seekers, new Canadians, and the public generally -- far

outweigh short-term (and short-sighted) savings.

We are taxpayers and library patrons, and we want our tax dollars to be invested in the Toronto Public Library system.

Thank you.

Lisa A. Carreiro
Sandra M. Liske

[REDACTED]

City Librarian - tpl budget

From: Myra Lefkowitz [REDACTED]
To: "mayor_ford@toronto.ca" <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>, "buc@toronto.ca" <buc@toronto.ca>
Date: January 2, 2011 6:37 PM
Subject: tpl budget
CC: "councillor_layton@toronto.ca" <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, "citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

I am writing to strongly urge you not reduce the Toronto Public Library budget. The Toronto Public Library is one of the best library systems in the world providing hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, the opportunity to learn, to read, to listen, to explore -regardless of their place and income in our city. Reducing the library budget will result in fewer purchases of current and popular books and extended waiting periods. Our family uses the library on a weekly basis and value both the quality of service and selection. Without a sufficient budget, the library will be unable to continue to offer such superior offerings. I hope that you will recognize the critical role that a public and free library system plays in a vibrant and democratic city. Please support our libraries. Yours sincerely, Myra Lefkowitz

Myra Lefkowitz
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: Melanie Redman [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: 03/01/2011 11:32 am
Subject: Proposed Library Cuts

This note concerns the proposed library cuts in the upcoming budget vote. As residents of the downtown Toronto core, we object to these cuts and kindly wish for our objections to be noted. We are interested in the expansion and cultivation of the culture and vibrancy of Toronto, and feel these cuts would contribute to the further erosion of what makes Toronto a special place to live and visit.

Good luck with your budgeting process, as surely it is a massive challenge.

Regards,
Melanie Redman
and Phillip Smith

Nancy Marshall - TPL #9 and the Urban Affairs Library

From: hamish wilson [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>
Date: January 3, 2011 3:08 PM
Subject: TPL #9 and the Urban Affairs Library
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, adam vaughan <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>

Dear Councillors

I am angry and a bit depressed at the move to shut down the Urban Affairs library at 55 John St.

It is a valuable resource to me as an activist, consultant, and downtown resident. I do not want it amalgamated in with the Main Reference Library and want it kept open and respected as a standalone and valuable resource for the City staff, city residents and local area residents too, as I don't think the burgeoning condo community has another library built and in operation yet.

While facts may matter less and less in this Fordian era, for the sake of getting good information to Councillors, or at least the prospect of it, I think it must be made easy for staff to access quality resources to inform reports and decisions.

As an urban activist, I have barely scratched the surface of what exists there, and it helps to have some information and factual perspective behind opinions at times correct?

<http://www.skirsch.com/politics/globalwarming/globalWarmingUrgency.htm>

And while the Internet has great information and perspectives, it isn't enough, and many things are not online. For instance, within the Urban Affairs library have been two gold mines for local bike activism, one of which was a stumble-on while shelf-walking, the other a delayed follow-up.

The collection ain't perfect: I do have a spare copy of Autogeddon by Heathcote Williams that I'm pretty sure isn't in your collection, because this is Caronto the Corrupt, in Ontario, and Car Wars have ended, though gee, the artillery is still at large killing and maiming.

As a near-enough resident, the Library has been a refuge in peak heat, and it seems pretty irresponsible and short-sighted to shut down a well-used library when finally thousands of new condo residents are moving in. And it would be nice to have the hours made better, not shorter.

Too bad we've just given away million\$ to the car owners and negating a bit of user pay for the mobile furnaces - and this service cutback seems directly related to me. And it stinks of corrupt politricks too...

But it's interesting to note that the big expense is the rent back to the City. So sure, let's Rob the Taxpayer as it were, and think about a change, which could well be in taking over the Yorkville branch for the Urban Affairs Library as it now is, and shrinking that Yorkville branch into the system and then trying to rent out the John St. space for the same amount of money, and perhaps setting up a new branch in a nearby condo tower.

Yorkville is close to two subway lines, and isn't too far away from at least City Hall, though it is from Metro Hall, undeniably.

I don't know if the physical space can accept all the great books that are at Urban Affairs etc., but that would be a compromise to explore, and you shouldn't go ahead with such a drastic action as a library closure, especially

this one, ahead of looking at that option.

Ms. Marshall, please copy this to other Board members. as I'm unsure if there's deputation possibilities on Thursday.

Carmudgeonly

Hamish Wilson

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Branch Closure Recommendation

From: Eric Rogers [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 4, 2011 2:41 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Branch Closure Recommendation
CC: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>

To the attention of the Toronto Public Library Board,

I am writing to relay my opposition to the staff recommendation for closure of the Metro Hall Urban Affairs Branch Library on economic grounds. (January 06, 2011 meeting, Item 9. 2011 Operating Budget - Update)

While I am not a Toronto resident I have seen the public library system in my own municipality, Mississauga, undergo these sort of consolidations and the result has become a "dumbed down" library in my city that no longer fills my needs.

I have used the Metro Hall facility several times in the past and it is an outstanding facility in the Greater Toronto Area. As you know it is also of value for the community and for the Metro Hall city staff researchers.

Circulation material costs also appears to be targeted for a reduction in spending. Again, I point out that Mississauga has followed this route and has built a bricks and mortar organization at the expense of the collection holdings in the past twenty years. The median age of books in my interest area is about 30 years. Toronto should also not be considering this direction.

I believe the Urban Affairs Branch closure measure is irreversible and there is no guarantee of performance at the alternate location. I urge the board not to accept this budget recommendation by the City Librarian.

Sincerely,

Eric Rogers [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

JOE CLARK

2011.01.04

The Secretary
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge St.
Toronto M4W 2G8

Re: Opposition to budget cuts, including Urban Affairs closure

To the Secretary and Board:

The Board has a duty to reject TPL staff's ostensible "recommendations" for budget cuts – specifically reductions in collections and the closure of the Urban Affairs branch.

It is more than a little symbolic that staff recommend the closure of a branch with a collection of interest mostly to educated people, academics, professional city staff, and other intellectuals, one located smack dab in the middle of downtown. Staff couldn't possibly be sending a clearer signal that anyone whose psychographic is at odds with the commonly-imagined constituency of the sitting mayor needs to get used to having its services revoked. Closing Urban Affairs tells Toronto the following: The more educated you are, the smarter your library needs, the more urban your chosen way of living, the more likely we are to close your branch. "Just plain folks" you ain't, and you don't deserve a library. In this view, libraries are an elite perq we cannot afford anyway in an era of pink floral suits and subways to nowhere.

I specifically donated my back issues of – yes – *Spacing* to TPL so that Urban Affairs would finally have a full set. I have used the branch from time to time and it is irreplaceable. You can't just pack up its collection and intermingle it within the already-overcrowded Reference Library. It's a non-starter. What's the next victim? The Merril and children's collections at L.H. Smith?

A more ethical course of action would be to wait for a demand from City Council, issued by majority vote, to reduce TPL's budget. This would of course contradict promises of *no* service cuts, a promise that proponents of such cuts would, with typical dishonesty, vigorously insist was never made. Orders in hand, TPL could reduce library hours in the sitting mayor's old ward, Ward 2, to make up the shortfall. Let the mayor's rabid supporters suffer. Let Council and the mayor wear the budget cuts. Do not skip blithely toward the guillotine.

You were not appointed to close libraries. Only philistines close libraries. Leave that job to the mayor.

Sincerely,



Nancy Marshall - Keep the Urban Affairs library open!

From: Elizabeth Bridge [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <lhughsam@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 4, 2011 3:27 PM
Subject: Keep the Urban Affairs library open!

To the board members and other interested parties from the Toronto Public Library:

I am writing to you today to urge you to reject a recommendation to close the Urban Affairs branch of TPL and relocate its collection.

As a downtown worker, I use the branch regularly to pick up library materials from other locations. This library provides an invaluable service to me and thousands of other Toronto residents who live and/or work downtown.

There are branches closer to my home but not one is as convenient as Urban Affairs for picking up material on hold. I still use my neighbourhood branches regularly when my child is ready for a new batch of library books to read, but these visits would not provide the same level of access I enjoy with the Urban Affairs branch. Similarly, no other current nearby branch, as cited in the 2011 Operating Budget Update from TPL, would fulfill the same purpose for me.

I understand that financial constraints are the impetus for this recommendation, but I strongly urge you to find other ways to save money.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Bridge

Nancy Marshall - potential closing down of Toronto Public Library Urban Affairs Branch

From: "Sheliza Dawood" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 4, 2011 7:54 PM
Subject: potential closing down of Toronto Public Library Urban Affairs Branch

To Board of Directors:

I am writing to you in regards to the potential closing down of your Urban Affairs Toronto Public Library Branch.

I live in the neighbourhood and me and my family rely heavily in this library. We use it for the free internet access, as a place to study, spend time with the family and as well as the accessibility to pick up books that we have placed a hold on. I know that I am not the only condo dweller in the area that relies on this library.

Please reconsider closing down this branch as I know it will be a great loss to the community.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter,

Sheliza Dawood

[REDACTED]

From: "Maria Jene" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 05/01/2011 6:33 am
Subject: library at metro hall

It has come to my knowledge that the Board is planning to close the branch at Metro Hall and move it to Bloor and Yonge. I would like to express my displeasure at this decision. This branch is conveniently located for myself and many others, it is down the street from where we work. If moved/closed we will no longer be able to use the Toronto Library. It is very convenient for myself and for others who work in the area considering there is no close branch in that area. Also all the employees in this branch are extremely helpful, friendly and a pleasure to deal with. Please reconsider your decision to close this branch.

Sincerely,

Maria Jene
[REDACTED]

January 4, 2010

Toronto Public Library Board□

789 Yonge Street□

Toronto, Ontario

Dear Members of the Board

I would like to voice my strong concerns about the potential closing of the Urban Affairs Library.

As a resident of a downtown condominium for the last 5 years, this library branch has become *my community library*, as it has to thousands of other users.

I am a physician, full-time graduate student and mother. Thanks to the central location of Urban Affairs, I have been able to drop my toddler off at his nearby daycare and walk to the library to work on my PhD research several days a week for the past 2 years. Having worked in many libraries in Toronto, I can attest its excellent learning environment, which sets it apart from the other branches.

Furthermore, particularly in the past year, I have found that the library is *very* busy with fellow Torontonians. I have to arrive early to find a good seat! The availability of free wi-fi has made this branch an important hub for downtown citizens who wish to network, read the newspaper or search information.

Finally, the Urban Affairs library has become my family's library. We have benefited tremendously from its easy accessibility. We place holds online, and pick up everything from children's books to cookbooks and textbooks at this branch. We use it on a bi-weekly basis for family reading materials.

When I first moved to downtown Toronto from Hamilton, one of my main concerns about the neighborhood was the lack of local libraries. I have come to discover that there is indeed a branch that serves our community – Urban Affairs.

Please do not close it down.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Teresa Bennett, MD, FRCPC, PhD candidate

[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Concerns for the Urban Affairs Library

From: "Sherry (Information Technology) Smith" [REDACTED]
To: "N Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 8:32 AM
Subject: Concerns for the Urban Affairs Library

Hello,

I read in an article yesterday that the Urban Affairs Library located in Metro Hall is slated to close. I have grave concerns and would like to voice them.

I work in Metro Hall. I use the UAL on a regular basis for my job. They have up-to-date materials that I am referencing all the time. The fact that I can use them at this location or take many of them out has been very beneficial to me over the years. If this location is closed I will no longer have access to these resources. In the article it said that the materials would be moved to the Toronto Reference Library. This location is not within walking distance of the office and I will not be given the time to go during office hours therefore the materials will no longer be accessible. Such a waste!

As a resident of the City of Toronto I will be losing out on a great service...pickup/drop off of public library books. My family and I order books on-line all the time and have them sent to the UAL. There are other locations in my neighbourhood but parking is an issue. I have two children, one in high-school and one in elementary school. I feel it is important that they have access to actual books rather than relying on resources on the internet. Reading is important on so many levels and it's just not the same when it isn't in a book!

I hope that the City will reconsider and leave this location open.

Please let me know if there are any other groups that I can voice my concerns to regarding this matter.

Thank you,

Sherry Smith
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Library budget cuts

From: Geoff Kettel [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 9:10 AM
Subject: Toronto Library budget cuts
CC: "Parker, Councillor John" <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, "Davis, Janet"
<Councillor_Davis@toronto.ca>, Paul Ainslie <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, Adam
Chaleff-Freudenthaler <adamcf@gmail.com>, "Robinson, Jaye"
<councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, cesar palacio <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, Mayor
rob ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

Dear Mr. Church

I am writing in opposition to the proposed budget cuts at Toronto Public Library. The proposed cuts which I understand amount to \$2.2 Million and include closing the Urban Affairs library and reduced funds for new collections. I am particularly concerned about the cuts to the collections budget. The Toronto public library system has a remarkable ability to access and deliver new book and periodicals from across the system is incredible. A reduction to the accessions budget will severely impact on this ability in the future. This service means that residents of all income levels and all areas of the city have equal access to high quality information information.

I urge you to reconsider these budget cuts - the residents of Toronto enjoy a high quality of library service and we do not want this to be reduced.

Thank you

Geoff Kettel

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] Opposing Cuts to Library System

From: Charlotte Young [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 9:45 AM
Subject: [Possible Spam] Opposing Cuts to Library System
CC: <councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

Dear Mr. Church,
I have recently learned of proposed budget cuts to the Toronto Public Library, including the proposed closing of the Urban Affairs Library. I am writing to oppose those cuts.

Toronto has a fantastic library system, and I want to see it stay that way. I regularly use my local branch at Pape-Danforth -- it is a terrific source of information for me, both personally and professionally. Furthermore, as an environmental consultant, I find the resources at the Urban Affairs superb. Indeed, those collections are not available elsewhere, including many university library systems (which, of course, many Torontians are unable to access).

I am also concerned about cuts to the budget for collections. The Toronto public library system has a remarkable ability to access and deliver new books and periodicals from across the system. Reducing this budget will severely impact collections in the future. Maintaining a vibrant collection means that residents of all income levels and in all areas of the city will have equal access to high quality information.

I request that you to reconsider these budget cuts - the residents of Toronto enjoy a high quality of library service and we do not want this service reduced.

Thank you,

Charlotte Young, Ph.D.
Ward 29 Resident

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[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Library budget cuts

From: Richard Longley [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 10:07 AM
Subject: Toronto Library budget cuts
CC: "Parker, Councillor John" <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, "Davis, Janet" <Councillor_Davis@toronto.ca>, Paul Ainslie <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler <adamcf@gmail.com>, "Robinson, Jaye" <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, cesar palacio <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, Mayor rob ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>, Councillor Vaughan <Councillor_Vaughan@toronto.ca>

Librarians, Councillors,

Libraries are places where the minds upon which civilization depends are nourished, encouraged to grow, to flower and eventually bear fruit in form of the ideas *and* the economic resources without which civilization cannot live.

If Toronto's economic resources are strained - a dubious and grossly exaggerated claim that ran riot during the recent municipal election - then it would be madness to make cuts at any of the sources of the intellectual and economic prosperity upon which the present and future greatness and competitiveness of this city depends.

If only in the name of the meaningless and misleading notion of "common sense" that is rearing its head again, please abandon any thoughts you might have of cutting the library budget; turn your attention instead to the budgets of other services where cuts or freezes might be less painful and even positively effective - that of the police, for example.

With regards, and best wishes, in these interesting times,

Richard Longley
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] I want to say about my hardship resulting from the closure of Urban Affairs Branch.

From: Devendra Sharma [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 11:38 AM
Subject: [Possible Spam] I want to say about my hardship resulting from the closure of Urban Affairs Branch.

January 5th / 2011

Dear Ms. Marshall,

I am over 70 years old. I still take classes to keep mentally sound. Last year I took many courses at George Brown College . This year I am planning to go to Seneca College. When I was taking these courses, this branch location and the staff at this branch

were very helpful in my study. The staff were also helpful in my RESEACH work.

I use library for my mental exercise. I do not want to lose my mental fortitude and books are the medicine and tools to keep my sanity , clear perception.

When you close this branch, I will have to go to the Reference Library at Bloor & Yonge- that will cost me \$ 3.50 / trip to the library and two hours of my time. This Commute time will be sheer waste of my time.

1. There are at least EIGHT new HighRise are being built between AirCANADA center and C N Tower. About 10,000 to 12.000 people will be moving in there to live.

2. Many other HighRise Towers are also coming up in this area.

3. Your curtail the service when the numbers of users are increasing.

4. The decision-makers of this closure are SHORT -Sighted , Stupid and dishonest and disloyal to their oath and to the public who elected them.

5. If you want to save money, DO ONE THING - CUT DOWN / eliminate the use of SALT in winter. This will be good for the FRESH_WATER AQUATIC life of the lake. All the salt goes in the lake and SALINITY is increasing.

6. Pass and enforce the NO LITTER law. That will save money.

7. Why this closure was NOT RAISED and BROUFGT to public knowledge before the RECENT CIVIC ELECTION ?. It clearly SHOWS the dishonest intent of the board.

8. Having meeting so soon and so early in January (on 6th) confirms the malicious intention of the Board.

9. Is this Board towing the line of the new Mayor to BALANCE the Budget?

Any stupid and honest person can DRASTICALLY cut the services and Balance the Budget.

10. Is this meeting just for the SHOW - The decision is already finalised and I am wasteing my effort ?

I may be reached at [REDACTED]

My Address:- [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Devendra Sharma

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

From: "Genevieve Zletni" [REDACTED]
To: "Adam Vaughan" <avaughan@toronto.ca>, "Jane Pyper" <jpyper@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, "Nancy Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 12:05 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

Hi,

As an employee of the Toronto Public Service working in Metro Hall I am shocked to hear that the City is considering possibly closing the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall. Each and every time I visit the Library the computer stations are filled to capacity, there are numerous people at the desks scattered throughout the library and there are many, many books on hold waiting to be picked up. I know because a few times I was searching for a book on hold for me.

Promoting literacy and learning through books/audio/visual material should be a primary focus of the City. Cuts to services that support Literacy can't be something that the City is considering! If closing the Urban Affairs Library is actually being considered, PLEASE reconsider and support the numerous people the use and highly value the services of the Urban Affairs Library.

Thank you,
Genevieve Zletni

Genevieve Zletni

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kristian Kostecky [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 05/01/2011 12:09 pm
Subject: TPL budget cuts!?

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----

Hash: SHA1

Hearing that the TPL might sustain some budget cuts is very sad. What happened to our mayor's campaign promises of no service cuts?
Especially at a time when the people who are making these suggestions might benefit the most out of picking up a book.

Kris.

Chair, TPL Board chair - No cuts to services, no branch closures

From: Anthony Schein [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 12:23 PM
Subject: No cuts to services, no branch closures

Dear Mayor Ford and Chair Church,

I, like hundreds of thousands of Torontonians, rely on the Toronto Public Library. We rely on the library not just for the newest books, but for meeting spaces, DVDs, a quick place to stop in, warm up, kill time, or use a computer. We count on the library as a space our children, youth, and seniors to find company, find positive role models, and find resources.

Times are tough, but a cut to the library - and make no mistake, a branch closure is a cut - unacceptable to me, and unacceptable to all Torontonians.

Sincerely,
Anthony Schein

--
Anthony Schein
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chair, TPL Board chair - Please don't close the Urban Affairs branch

From: Patrick Cameron [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 12:45 PM
Subject: Please don't close the Urban Affairs branch

To whom it may concern-

I would like to add my voice to those asking you to reconsider your decision to close the Urban Affairs branch at City Hall. It would not only deprive thousands of downtown residents of local library service, but take away space dedicated to a topic of study that is critical for our city's future good governance and prosperity. If City Council and the mayor want to close libraries, let them vote on budget cuts on record so we can hold them accountable for their decisions.

Sincerely,
-Patrick Cameron
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Potential Closure of the Urban Affairs Library

From: Eunice Lee [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 12:50 PM
Subject: Potential Closure of the Urban Affairs Library

Dear Members of the Toronto Public Library Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall as put forth in the 2011 Operating Budget - Update submitted by the City Librarian and dated January 6, 2011. I understand that the TPL is under significant budgetary/fiscal pressures. However, I hope that the TPL's budgetary obligations can be met without having to close this branch.

As a City resident, I have been a patron of the Urban Affairs Library on a regular basis for almost a decade, and cannot express how appreciative I am of the service it provides. While the City Librarian suggests that the services of the Urban Affairs Library can somehow be adequately compensated for by the Toronto Reference Library (TRL), proximity and accessibility become issues. Speaking for myself, I am very unlikely to make the trek to the TRL and I imagine many local residents would be like-minded. (The report acknowledges that patrons of both the Urban Affairs Library and Business and Urban Affairs Department at the North York Central Library would "have to travel greater distances to access materials at TRL.") Given that library users often come from vulnerable populations (e.g., the elderly, children, low-income individuals without access to online resources), such "greater distances" can potentially become significant barriers to library usage. Having recently moved into the area, I am hard pressed to think of another branch that would be as easy to get to as the Urban Affairs Library. (I appreciate that alternative branches are mentioned in the budget submission, but for me, these locations are not nearly as convenient.)

The budget document discusses how "general activity levels have increased in recent years" at the Urban Affairs Library. Given the increasing demand, it would be a shame to close down a library that is clearly thriving and addressing various needs of its immediate community, as well as those of other Toronto residents and non-Torontonians seeking information.

Sincerely,

Eunice Lee

Nancy Marshall - Proposed closure of Reference Library at Metro Hall

From: [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 1:06 PM
Subject: Proposed closure of Reference Library at Metro Hall

Good Afternoon Ms. Marshall:

In an effort to try convincing the Board to cancel the proposal to close the Library at Metro Hall, I'd suggest the following:

that the existing library be converted to a full service library like the other library serving the neighbourhood as there's no library service nearby other than the one at City Hall

that the existing location functions very well to serve the public as evidenced by the number of people attending at the location for library services, such as computer, reading, studying, reserving and returning library materials

thank you very much for your attention this matter
grace

Nancy Marshall - Potential Closure of Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

From: "Wayne Reeves" [REDACTED]
To: "N Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 1:22 PM
Subject: Potential Closure of Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall
CC: "Cesar Palacio" <cpalacio@toronto.ca>, "Janet Davis" <jdavis1@toronto.ca>, "Jaye Robinson" <jrobbins@toronto.ca>, "Paul Ainslie" <paul_ainslie@toronto.ca>

Nancy Marshall
The Secretary
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8
Ms. Marshall:

It is with great dismay that I have learned that the City Librarian has recommended the closure of the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall as part of the TPL's 2011 operating budget. The dispersal of the collection and staff impacts both inner-core residents and City staff and represents a major service cut to both user groups.

Since the early 1990s, my work has benefitted from the topical expertise of the UAL librarians, the focused collection, and its highly accessible location. Closing UAL would undermine the efficiency of municipal staff who (like myself) use it on a nearly daily basis.

While I understand the budget constraints faced by the Toronto Public Library, there is no indication in the City Librarian's report that any effort has been made to renegotiate the terms of the Urban Affairs Library lease with the City. This option should be explored further prior to taking such drastic measures as closing UAL.

I would appreciate it if you could attach this correspondence to the Board's agenda for its meeting on January 6, 2011.

Wayne Reeves
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Library

From: "Barbara Fowler" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 2:23 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Library

I have just become aware that there is a chance that the above noted library location may close.

I use this branch on a weekly basis to pick-up books because of its easy access from the financial district, and also to find a quiet place to sit. The staff at this location are always very helpful and friendly. I would imagine that many other people would be upset to lose this particular location.

I hope before making such a decision that you will listen to the people who frequent it. I personally have come to rely on it.

Barbara Fowler
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

From: "Beth Camposano" [REDACTED]
To: "Adam Vaughan" <avaughan@toronto.ca>, "Jane Pyper" <jpyper@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, "Nancy Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 2:33 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

Hello,

I am disappointed and shocked to hear about the plans to close the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall. I am a City of Toronto taxpayer, and employee who works at Metro Hall. I actively use this Library for both work research and for easy access to books that me and my family order online. This location is valuable to several residents and employees around.

I appreciate your support to keep this location open.

Thank you so much!

Beth Camposano

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: James MacNevin [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 05/01/2011 2:47 pm
Subject: Library budget cuts

Dear Mr Church:

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed cuts to the library budget, which I understand the library board will be considering at its meeting tomorrow. In particular, I am troubled by the proposed freezing of the acquisitions budget and the proposed closing of the Urban Affairs branch.

As the library's own report indicates, freezing the acquisitions budget will result in the purchase of 18,400 fewer items and increased wait times for patrons. It seems to me that this undermines the library's core strength: the successful collections strategy that has made the TPL the world's busiest public library system. Undermining this core strength risks sending the library into a downward spiral, with inferior service leading to declining patronage, declining patronage being used to justify further cutbacks, and so on, until the system is a shadow of its former self.

The proposed closing of the Urban Affairs branch would directly affect a smaller portion of the population but would be no less disastrous. The Urban Affairs branch is an amazing repository of information about Toronto and about urban issues more generally. As such, it should be an invaluable resource for the city staffers and city councillors who will be tackling difficult issues over the next four years. It is also an invaluable resource for outside researchers of many stripes: as a writer and historian, I have done some of my most important research in that library. Integrating its collection into the Reference Library, as proposed in the staff report, would be a significant service cut, as we would lose both the specialised staff and the tightly curated collection that allows for serendipitous discoveries and facilitates efficient research. It would also leave thousands of downtown condo residents with no library in their neighbourhood.

The Toronto Public Library is no ordinary local lending library; it is a world-class research institution and one of the most valuable cultural assets in the city. The library board should be trying to protect this asset, not shut it down. If Mayor Ford and his allies believe they have a mandate to close libraries, perhaps they should try to get this mandate approved openly and publicly by city council, which is elected by and answerable to the people of Toronto. In the meantime, I urge the library board to do everything in its power to

fight any proposed cuts and especially any proposed branch closures.
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

James MacNevin

[REDACTED]

Chair, TPL Board chair - Don't cut the Toronto Public Library

From: "Lise Lareau" [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 2:58 PM
Subject: Don't cut the Toronto Public Library
CC: <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

Please reconsider the proposed budget cuts to the Toronto Public Library. The library doesn't serve the "elites" or the downtown core or some other specific segment of society. It is the one true egalitarian service. Free to all, available for people of all incomes, neighbourhoods and backgrounds. It is a true gem -- a cost-efficient marvel that I think would fit perfectly with Mayor Ford's vision. A cut to the library would be a cut to access to knowledge and information.

That would NOT be leadership.

All the best,

Lise Lareau

[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs Branch

From: ron mac [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 4:03 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Branch

Dear Nancy,

Much to my dismay, I have learned that consideration is being given to closing the Urban Affairs Branch of the Toronto Public Library. Please allow me to express my categorical disagreement with this proposal.

I say this because I am an ardent user of this branch, it is within easy walking distance of where I live and work, it houses a wide variety of valuable information sources and I find it to be an intellectual oasis in heart of the downtown core.

I would ask that the board members and the city give some reconsideration to this proposed closure. If the goal is to cut services and save money, I would submit that the loss of this valued resource centre is too steep a price to pay for the chimera of a possibility of expenditure paring.

Thank you for giving the time to read this message.

Yours,
Ron Macdonald

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Closure of Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

From: "Sandra Burk" [REDACTED]
To: "N Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 4:26 PM
Subject: Proposed Closure of Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall

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

I recently became aware that as part of Operating Budget deliberations this week, the Toronto Public Library Board will be considering a proposal to close the Urban Affairs Library (UAL) at Metro Hall. I am writing to request that the Board not approve this proposal.

As an employee of the City of Toronto's Transportation Services Division, I often make use of the UAL's collections and Corporate Library services. I am regularly requested by Councillors, internal staff and members of the public to provide historical information on traffic and parking matters, including reports, regulations and by-laws. After amalgamation, it became increasingly difficult to locate historical information from the six former area municipalities that now comprise the City of Toronto, but the UAL has been very helpful in this regard. Sometimes I go to the library to do research, and sometimes UAL staff do research on my behalf, but without the availability of the UAL I will not be able to provide this useful information in a timely manner, if at all.

The UAL is unique and is an important and valuable resource for City staff, including Councillors, and members of the public, including students. I urge you not to approve the proposal to close the Urban Affairs Library at Metro Hall.

Sincerely,

Sandra Burk
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - In support of Urban Affairs Branch of TPL

From: Rajiv Kalkar [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 5:34 PM
Subject: In support of Urban Affairs Branch of TPL

Hi Ms. Marshall -

I am writing in support of the TPL Branch - Urban Affairs located at Metro Hall.

I understand that there is a move to close down this branch. I would like the Board Members to please keep in mind the large volume I see at this branch, not to mention the convenience that it offers the TPL users who work downtown in the financial district to pick up their holds and return books to TPL.

I would strongly urge the board to continue the Urban Affairs branch for the great friendly service it provides to the TPL patrons working downtown -- there is really no convenient branch in downtown Toronto for TPL!

Best Regards,
rajiv

Rajiv Kalkar [REDACTED]

Click here to visit Rajiv's homepage!

It's not the years in your life, but the life in your years that matters !!
-- Abraham Lincoln

Nancy Marshall - Urban Affairs branch

From: Kristine Hughes [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 6:33 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs branch

Hi Nancy,

It was brought to my attention that the Urban Affairs branch might be closing due to budget constraints and I'm extremely disappointed to hear this. I am a regular user of this branch as it is close to my home and a very convenient location. The staff at this location are always very pleasant and helpful. It would be a shame to close this branch. I'm sure many members also feel this way as there really are no locations that close to this one.

I really hope this decision will be reconsidered as many members enjoy this location and the convenience it provides.

Kind regards,

Kristine Hughes

Deputation and Written Submission

Toronto Public Library Board - Meeting No. 1:
Thursday, January 6, 2010, 6:00 p.m.
Toronto Reference Library, Board Room,
789 Yonge Street, Toronto

FROM:

Mr. Harry Armstrong,

Toronto Public Library Patron

TO:

<u>Toronto Public Library Board</u>	<u>Members</u>
Mr. Matthew Church – Chair	
Mr. Eman Ahmed – Vice Chair	Ms. Tina Eden
Councillor Paul Ainslie – Ward 43 (Scarborough East)	Ms. Kathy Gallagher-Ross
Mr. Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler	Mr. Okeima Lawrence
Councillor Janet Davis – Ward 31 (Beaches-East York)	Councillor Cesar Palacio – Ward 17 (Davenport)
Ms. Ann Decter	Councillor Jaye Robinson – Ward 25 (Don Valley East)
Councillor Sarah Doucette – Ward 13 (Parkdale-High Park)	Ms. Tina Wilson

Copy: Councillor Adam Vaughan – Ward 20 (Trinity-Spadina)

Objections to Toronto Library Staff Report 2011

Re: Proposed 2011 Operating Budget

A. Impact on the Neighbourhood Community

(1) Reduction in Toronto Public Library's ["TPL"] Service Level.

Peremptory closing of the Urban Affairs Branch (55 John St.) ["UA"] would result in an adverse effect on library services to the local community in the business-theatre district for the following reasons:

UA provides essential public library services to –

- a) downtown residents in entertainment and financial districts and the Waterfront**
- b) local businesses, the downtown financial sector and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation ["CBC"];**
- c) City of Toronto staff, researchers and policy-analysts;**
- d) university and college students;**
- e) significant populations of local homeless persons and newcomers to Canada.**

UA provides essential supplementary library facilities in support of the job-finding efforts of other neighbourhood agencies (Toronto Metro Hall Employment Centre and Café & YMCA Hospitality Training Centre and Toronto Metro Hall Social Services – both located in the same building). UA constitutes an important neighborhood amenity

Attendance and usage statistics attest to the fact that usage of UA has increased substantially in 2010. UA exhibits characteristically high usage at lunch-time and offers important evening service (Wed.-Fri.).

(2)

B. Impact on the Intellectual and Government Community

Peremptory closing of UA would result in the dispersal of TPL's specialized ***collection*** of civic history (local, national and international)

As presented by The Report, the closure of UA represents a loss of a ***specialized collection*** of scholarly texts and official reports which embodies a sense of historic continuity of urban government (locally, nationally and internationally). UA currently provides an essential facility for scholars, writers and policy analysts specializing in study of local government and municipal affairs. UA's ***specialized collection*** embraces all facets of the study and examination of urban affairs. It enables scholars and policy analysts to conduct a wide range of research on all dimensions of urban affairs:

- > Architecture
- > Environmental issues
- > Finance
- > Geography
- > History
- > Immigration
- > Local governance
- > Planning
- > Population settlement
- > Public administration
- > Social trends
- > Transportation

UA offers a collection of in-depth history of growth of urban neighborhoods, communities. In particular, the branch has assembled a collection of late 19th and 20th century civic history of the City of Toronto, drawn from many perspectives. Historians, researchers and policy analysts all value and utilize ***specialized collections*** differently than they consult library branches with topic sections. ***Special collections*** are administered by librarians who are specialists and knowledgeable about the specific collections they administer. [E.g. North York Central (5120 Yonge St) provides an "urban affairs" section, as a part of its general library service.]

[TPL currently maintains other **specialized collections**, namely:

- I. *Canadiana Collection* (North York Central)
- II. *Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy*
Lillian H. Smith (239 College St.)]

The “corporate” section within UA is for the principal benefit of City Hall staff and other government policy analysts. Holdings circulate primarily to municipal government staff in relation to work-related needs. Closure of UA would result in the loss of this amenity and have an unforeseen impact on efficient city management.

C. Shortcomings in the Staff Report

(1) The Report suggests proceeding with an entire branch closure without public hearings on this proposal.

(2) The Report contains no information concerning any proposal for relocation of UA branch within the local neighbourhood or nearby. Alternative sites include:

- City Hall (Nathan Phillips Square, 100 Queen St . West);
- St. Lawrence (171 Front St. East);
- (prospective) Fort York/Bathurst Street; ^{1 & 2}
- North York Central (5120 Yonge St) – duplicate copies in general collection)
- City of Toronto Archives;
- Canadian Urban Institute;
- CBC Head Quarters.

(3) No proposal has been presented for renegotiation of the cost of rent of the present UA site with the City of Toronto (landlord). (The Report contains no particulars concerning the basis of the site valuation of UA.)

(4)

(4) Queries remain concerning the financial impact of the **TPL** relocation to the Toronto Reference Library ("TRL") from Metro Hall.

- (i) \$436k represents illusory annual savings to the municipal taxpayer because the **TPL**'s landlord is the City of Toronto itself;
- (ii) Savings to the municipality is only realized if the City of Toronto finds a replacement tenant for **TPL** space from the private sector;
- (iii) Metro Hall ground floor space, formerly occupied by the *Vineyards Restaurant*, is currently occupied by a social services agency [Toronto Metro Hall Employment Centre and Café & YMCA Hospitality Training Centre];
- (iv) With the substantial increase in **UA** circulation statistics from 2009 to 2010, how can the level of service be even maintained, let alone improved) at the **TRL** with FTE reduction of 3.6 specialized desk service (para 1, page 5)?

(5) The Report fails to consider the value of private sector partnerships and financial support [see **Appendix C**]:

- Architects
- Commercial real estate developers
- Heritage preservation specialists
- Planners
- Restoration specialists
- Urban consultants

(6) The Report furnishes no particulars concerning the manner in which **UA**'s **special collection** will be incorporated within **TRL**'s regime of general library management and administration. No details are furnished concerning the manner of preservation of the **collection**. Will a move to **TRL** result in an integration of the collection into **TRL**'s general holdings?

(7) The Report contains no updated statistics for branch attendance and usage at **UA**'s operation in 2010.

Appendix B

REFERENCES

¹ "The once-lonely Fort York area starts to buzz," The Globe and Mail, June 18, 2010, G2.

² "Architecture by the book: Library District Condos designed to stand apart from the competition," Toronto Star, Aug. 14, 2010, G12.

³ "Library could become victim of cost-cutting," The Globe and Mail, Jan. 1, 2011, A7.

⁴ "Library budget cuts threaten branch," Toronto Star, Jan. 1, 2011, G12.

Appendix C



Canadian
URBAN
Institute

ROUNDTABLE BREAKFAST SERIES

The Canadian Urban Institute and the Cities Centre present a roundtable breakfast seminar:

Neighbourhood Renewal - Can We Repair the Great Divide?

Thursday Jan. 6, 2011

7:45 - 9:30 a.m.
Metro Hall
Room 308/309
55 John St.
Toronto, ON

New reports from the Cities Centre suggest that neighbourhoods in Toronto and throughout the GTA are increasingly divided according to income – which has ramifications for a growing number of citizens in terms of poorer access to city services, transportation, decent jobs and affordable housing. With the number of middle income neighbourhoods shrinking steadily over a period of decades, and the size and extent of low income neighbourhoods on the increase, what are the implications for a city that prides itself on its diversity? Professor David Hulchanski identifies four areas where public policy must be taken if the trends are to be slowed or reversed, beginning with affordable housing and neighbourhood renewal. While there are successful precedents such as St Lawrence and major renewable projects such as Regent Park and Alexandra Park in progress, more effort is clearly needed. Join us to for an update on current renewal projects, an in-depth examination of the issues and suggestions about who should take the initiative.

Speakers:

- **David Hulchanski**, PhD., Associate Director of the Cities Centre at the University of Toronto
- **Martin Blake**, Vice President, The Daniels Group
- **Andrea Gabor**, FCIP, RPP, Partner, Urban Strategies



Cities Centre
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Chair, TPL Board chair - I support the library

From: Julie Cristinzo [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 8:41 PM
Subject: I support the library

Hello,

I very much support the library and am against any budget cuts that would drastically affect the services and collections of TPL. I work in a small community branch and see first hand the importance of everything TPL does, for all walks of life. I couldn't imagine what effect it would have on the patrons if we could no longer provide certain things that it does. It's not just about books, its about community, and service, and provisions, and support. I think TPL is a world-class system, I am continuously impressed with all the new strategies, developments, services, etc. that I see; they are a well of information. I myself have saved hundreds a year on movie rentals and book purchases!

Sincerely,
Julie Cristinzo.

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Urban Affairs Library

From: Alice L. [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 9:49 PM
Subject: Toronto Urban Affairs Library
CC: <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>

Hello Ms. Nancy Marshall,

I am a regular visitor of the Urban Affairs Library. I love going there because it's one of the rare locations available downtown, where I work. When I walked in today I heard that the library might be closing.

I would not need any explanations from you, but I would just like to express my disappointment in the decision, if that would be approved. Although I don't live in the neighbourhood, I spend a bulk of my time each day downtown, and it would be very inconvenient to find another library in or near the downtown core.

I understand that many decisions are being made at the board, and each one would involve a lot of preparation. But I would just hope someone could step back and see how the closing of this branch would affect thousands of users who really need the library services. I believe that there will be at least one voice who would say 'serving people is our priority, not number crunching and paper pushing'. Please kindly reconsider the impacts.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Alice Leung
User of Urban Affairs Library

Nancy Marshall - FW: FYI: Toronto Library budget cuts

From: Linda Wells [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 10:33 PM
Subject: FW: FYI: Toronto Library budget cuts

Date: Wed, 5 Jan 2011 09:15:43 -0500

Subject: FYI: Toronto Library budget cuts

This Thursday at 6pm the Library Board will be voting on \$2,2M in budget cuts. Below is my letter of opposition. Please consider writing as well

The Toronto Star article on the budget is at

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/914396--downtown-library-branch-threatened-with-closure>

----- Date: 5 January 2011 09:09

Subject: Toronto Library budget cuts

To: chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca, nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Cc: "Parker, Councillor John" <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, "Davis, Janet" <Councillor_Davis@toronto.ca>, Paul Ainslie <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler <adamcf@gmail.com>, "Robinson, Jaye" <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, cesar palacio <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, Mayor rob ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

To esteemed members of the library board - I am both a donor and a user fo the TPL - I see the use our libraries are put to - in my neighbour - upscale - ish neighbourhood - - Wychwood Branch and so many depend on the high standards our libraries maintain - new information and high technology for all - sepite income - used by all - from toddlers to the senior population - very democratic and invaluable for our communities .

I wonder at our priorities as a city when I know that 20 new dog parks - off leash are planned for the city - at a cost of 250.000 dollars each.

That is about twice the budget cut you are proposing for libraries - libraries that are used by thousands of human beings daily - please reconsider your priorites and manitani sufficient funding for the library system - oone of the jewls of our city -

Regards,
Linda R. Wells

Chair, TPL Board chair - cutting library budgets

From: roscoe [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: January 5, 2011 11:22 PM
Subject: cutting library budgets

I'm writing to say that I am deeply opposed to any cuts to our libraries. How is it possible to have money to build subways and hire police, but not to put books within reach of everyone? Please don't reverse the work of so many years and so many dollars.

--
Ms Roscoe Handford
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Do not close Urban Affairs

From: "Edmund O'Connor" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 12:12 PM
Subject: Do not close Urban Affairs

Dear Nancy Marshall,

I strongly urge the Board not to close the Urban Affairs library.

I use the branch every weekday to pick up books, to use the internet, and to read the newspapers. On my lunch hour, it's an invaluable break from my workday and a reminder that Toronto is a city worth living in. I don't think I am alone. Writing from a computer in the library itself, I can see dozens of people using the place for research and study. All these people would be inconvenienced, and the city itself would suffer a loss, from Urban Affairs being closed.

The next nearest branch to me is at City Hall, which would be very difficult to reach in my lunch hour. I would be unable to use that branch in anything like the same manner as I use Urban Affairs, plus it would suffer from the congestion of others in a similar situation to my own.

I urge all members of the board to reject the recommendation that the Urban Affairs library be closed.

Yours sincerely,

Edmund O'Connor
[REDACTED]

From: Meghan Edmonds [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 12:44 pm
Subject: Urban Affairs Library Closing

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am shocked and dismayed to hear that the Urban Affairs library may be closed- I use the library all the time- I am an employment counsellor and I and constantly use the materials on writing resumes, cover letters, etc.

It is a great library and it is always packed when I go there. People using the tables to read, people using the computers. I see people waiting in the morning for the library to open. This is not a library that is under-used. If anything it should be expanded.

Toront is a city that is proud of its library system- we have one of the best in the world. Urban Affairs is a growing branch in an area that is booming with residential condo growth. Please make us proud of this city- don't close this library branch!

Sincerely,
Meghan Edmonds
(co-chair of the Roncesvalles Village Historical Society)

Chair, TPL Board chair - Urban Affairs Library

From: Devi Arasanayagam [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 12:55 PM
Subject: Urban Affairs Library

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am shocked and dismayed to hear that the Urban Affairs library may be closed. It is a great library and it is always packed when I go there. I see people waiting in the morning for the library to open. This is not a library that is under-used. If anything it should be expanded.

Toronto is a city that is proud of its library system- we have one of the best in the world. Urban Affairs is a growing branch in an area that is booming with residential condo growth. Please make us proud of this city- don't close this library branch!

regards

D. Arasanayagam
[REDACTED]

From: "Edika Perkovic" [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 12:58 pm
Subject: urban affairs library-metro hall

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am shocked and dismayed to hear that the Urban Affairs library may be closed. It is a great library and it is always packed when I go there. People using the tables to read, people using the computers. I see people waiting in the morning for the library to open. This is not a library that is under-used. If anything it should be expanded.

Toronto is a city that is proud of its library system- we have one of the best in the world. Urban Affairs is a growing branch in an area that is booming with residential condo growth. Please make us proud of this city- don't close this library branch!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter

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From: "Margaret (Peggy) Byrne" [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>,
<counc...>
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 1:00 pm
Subject: Don't Close the Urban Affairs Library

Dear Councillors and Board Members

As a Torontonian, taxpayer and member of the Toronto Public Service, I use the Urban Affairs Library weekly, or more frequently, for both work-related research and personal use.

The services provided by the highly skilled staff keeps this library location a hub of activity for the surrounding community and the professionals at Metro Hall and adjacent offices.

Closing this location for budget reasons is short-sighted because you will be cutting, what I think of, essential services. Please keep the Urban Affairs Library open.

I trust the Board will make the right decision.

Thank you,

Peggy Byrne
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Fw: TPL Jan. 6/11 Meeting: Agenda Item #9 re. Urban Affairs Library

From: EDWARD WALTON <[REDACTED]>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 1:21 PM
Subject: Fw: TPL Jan. 6/11 Meeting: Agenda Item #9 re. Urban Affairs Library

--- On Thu, 1/6/11, EDWARD WALTON <[REDACTED]> wrote:

From: EDWARD WALTON <[REDACTED]>
Subject: TPL Jan. 6/11 Meeting: Agenda Item #9 re. Urban Affairs Library
To: councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca, councillor_davis@toronto.ca,
councillor_doucette@toronto.ca, councillor_palacio@toronto.ca,
councillor_robinson@toronto.ca, councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca, mayor_ford@toronto.ca
Date: Thursday, January 6, 2011, 1:18 PM

To all you representatives of the Citizens of Toronto,

I do not support closure of this or any TPL Branch.

Branch Closure = Service Cut = Mayoral Broken Promise #1

If any of you on the TPL Board think a library branch is "fat" that should be trimmed, resign your seat so that other Councillors can fight and protect this great institution.

Ed

From: "Michael Prince" [REDACTED]
To: <chair@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 1:35 pm
Subject: Urban Affairs Library

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am disappointed to hear that the Urban Affairs library may be closed. The library appears to me to have a lot of use..... certainly as much as other libraries that I have gone to. Further, the staff do a superb job of serving this growing area in our City.

Please do not close this library

thank you

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From: David Gurin [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 1:48 pm
Subject: Urban Affairs Library

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I was Planning Commissioner for Metropolitan Toronto before amalgamation. I am disheartened to learn of the proposed closure of the Urban Affairs Library. It was enormously useful to me and to many members of the municipal staff. Materials we got in this library informed the reports we wrote and consequently it informed council in the decisions they made for the city and its citizens. Without the Urban Affairs Library Toronto would be less well-governed place. I urge that it always be open to the staff and to the public,

Sincerely,

David Gurin

David Gurin

[REDACTED]

From: "Sigmund, Narcisa" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 1:52 pm
Subject: Urbain Affairs branch

Good afternoon Ms Marshall,

I was very surprised this morning when I heard on the CBC radio about your decision to close the Urbain Affairs branch.

Ever since I emigrated in Canada, 7 years ago, this branch has been part of my life. I live in Vaughan and working downtown Toronto, and this TPL branch is the closest one I have access too.

Closing this branch will leave an empty informational and educational way for my family.

I will sincerely ask you to re-consider the idea of closing the branch.

Yours honestly,
Narcisa Sigmund

Narcisa Sigmund, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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FE01

Nancy Marshall - re: urban affairs library

From: Joanne Wolfson [REDACTED]
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:06 PM
Subject: re: urban affairs library

Hello Nancy,

I am shocked to hear that the board of the Toronto Public Library board is contemplating the closure of the Urban Affairs Library. I received my undergraduate degree (double major in Environmental Studies and Urban Studies) and a Master Degree in Political Science from York University. Throughout my university career my focus was municipal policy. As a result, I found both the Urban Affairs Library invaluable, both in terms of the collection and staff knowledge. I would sometimes try to avoid the trip downtown and try to access information at the university library or at the main North York library, but inevitably those trips would end in frustration and I would end up at the Urban Affairs library. As my career progressed I obtained a job with a consultant who also specialized in urban policy and so my trips to the Urban Affairs Library continued. This library offers a unique service, one that should in my opinion should be valued and maintained.

Regards,

Joanne Wolfson
[REDACTED]

January 6, 2011.

Board members
Toronto Public Library

I wish to address the Board at its meeting this evening regarding the staff recommendation to close the Urban Affairs Library, as proposed in the January 6 report of the City Librarian.

I am a frequent user of the Urban Affairs Library, and the beginning step for any new book I hope to write is to the Library. As I noted in the preface to my 2009 book 'The Shape of the Suburbs' published by University of Toronto Press, I find this facility "always helpful and surprising."

In December I embarked on a new writing venture and my first stop was the library. It has a wealth of very useful information about Toronto and other local municipalities. Of most interest for me is that this information is not in books, but in local documents and reports which the library has carefully preserved and catalogued, and which staff know how to access. For a writer like me, this library is a jewel.

In fact, I prize the library so highly that several times a year I donate to the library reports and other documents which I think will enhance the library's holdings.

Some will argue that none of these characteristics will disappear if the Urban Affairs library's holdings are consolidated with other holdings at the Reference Library, but I am not convinced. I believe that a stand-alone facility best serves the needs of municipal researchers like me, particularly when so many of the documents are not in a traditionally published form.

I note from the report of the City Librarian that the 'significant' saving from the consolidation is the elimination of lease costs. This money is paid to the city, so from the city's position, there is no saving: what is cut from the Board's budget will be cut from the city's revenue stream. The city will recognize no net gain – but it will bear the relocation costs, probably close to \$200,000 for this facility. I believe that this change is not prudent financially.

I am aware of the desire of city council to find savings, indeed I have been making the case that there are very significant savings to be found in the budget of the Toronto Police Service. But the change suggested for the Urban Affairs Library does not make economic sense. The Board should not agree to the staff recommendation.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sewell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'J' at the beginning.

John Sewell.

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] re: Urban Affairs branch

From: "Ben McHenry" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:32 PM
Subject: [Possible Spam] re: Urban Affairs branch

Hello Ms. Marshall,

I heard about the pending closure of the Urban Affairs branch library and wished to voice my concern. I work on the Roy Thompson square and use this location as my home branch for pickups and drop-offs. I also enjoy the use of their computers and various services including the odd hour spent reading magazines, papers, and books. It's a great library with a wonderful staff and I would be sorry to see it go. Please do your best to keep this library open for the benefit of the local bibliophiles.

Thanks,

Benjamin McHenry
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - RE: Library - Urban Affairs

From: "Yan, Hong" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:32 PM
Subject: RE: Library - Urban Affairs

Hi Nancy,

I was told that Toronto Public Library Board is going to close Urban Affairs when I picked up a book at the lunch time. I am very surprised that Urban Affairs was selected to be closed. If you open the library map you can see that this is the only one library in this area for people living and work here (population density is quite high in this area). I understand that there will be a new one opened soon, that's because there are so many new resident buildings constructed in recent years. We need more libraries for residents and also for people working near Urban Affairs. Please reconsider your decision of closing Urban Affairs. Thanks for your time.

Regards,
Hong Yan

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Nancy Marshall - Closure of the Urban Affairs Library

From: "Kendra Fitzrandolph" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:52 PM
Subject: Closure of the Urban Affairs Library

I have recently been informed of the potential closure of the library. I felt I needed to voice my concern. This site is a great addition to the public services that the City offers. As a student and planner, I have used this library numerous times.

Please let me know who I may contact to discuss the closure in greater detail.

Thank you,
Kendra FitzRandolph

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Library Cuts

From: Gord Jones [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:53 PM
Subject: Library Cuts

Ms Marshall

My wife and I are avid users of the Toronto Library system and totally against the cuts being proposed.

Mr Ford says the Urban Affairs Branch location is too expensive in rent to keep open, but is a downtown branch. Downtown rents are expensive. he wants to close this library even though it is a very well used facility. Perhaps he should drop by there some time. Guess that means the downtown area cannot look forward to library services in the future.

We are the most used Library system in the world, something to be proud of. Torontonians want to read and learn, but Mr Ford would like to quash that with cutbacks on books.

A pox on anyone who votes for the cutbacks proposed.

Sincerely

Gord Jones
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Check out my BLOG at [http://\[REDACTED\]](http://[REDACTED])

A walk of a thousand miles begins with but a single step

From: [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 06/01/2011 2:55 pm
Subject: Objection to closure of metro library branch

Hello,

I am a condo owner at 270 Wellington St West (the King St W & John St area) and I am disappointed to hear the Metro library branch is being considered for closure because of budget issues.

I use this branch on almost a weekly basis for picking up hold items, returning items, and studying in the quiet space. I consider it to be my community branch, and greatly appreciate having a library in my neighborhood.

I would like the board to reconsider closing this branch as I think it contributes greatly to my neighborhood and community.

Kind regards,
Marna Chibuk
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - re closure of Urban Affairs library

From: "Dr. Linda Gruson" [REDACTED]
To: <nmmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 2:57 PM
Subject: re closure of Urban Affairs library

I have just heard about the proposal to close the Urban Affairs Library and am dismayed to hear this. I hope that the Council will reconsider and keep open this very important community resource.

Dr. Linda Gruson

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Closing of Urban Affairs Library

From: G kapelos [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 3:07 PM
Subject: Proposed Closing of Urban Affairs Library

6 January 2011

The Secretary, Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8
Phone: 416-393-7215 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday to Friday)
Fax: 416-393-7083
Email: Nancy Marshall at nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca

To the Members, Toronto Public Library Board

Re: Proposed Closing of Urban Affairs Library

I am gravely concerned about the proposed closure of the Urban Affairs Library, situated in Metro Hall, Toronto. This library constitutes an essential resource for planners, architects and developers in the City and must not be closed.

As an architect, planner and educator, I have made considerable use of this facility. In the past 10 years over 1000 of my students have utilized the resources of this library for ongoing research in architecture, planning, landscape and development. This material cannot be found in any other library. The library staff are knowledgeable, professional and helpful. This library constitutes a significant resource to the community and is an essential service to the ongoing planning, development and building of this City.

No public consultations have occurred on this matter. No adequate indication is made of how the Library Board and Library will continue to deliver the high level of service that this Library provides. No indication is made of the level of staff support that the urban affairs collection will receive. The plans to close the library and collapse the collection into that of the Metro Reference Library is short-sighted and detrimental to the furtherance of good city government, fostered through design, planning and civics research, all housed in this collection.

I request that you turn down the staff report and reject this proposal. Please reconsider ways in which you can address budgetary issues without eliminating this important service. Thank you.

Sincerely,

GTK

George Thomas Kapelos FRAIC

Nancy Marshall - Request to speak before Library Board Meeting Tonight

From: "Terry Mills" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: January 6, 2011 3:11 PM
Subject: Request to speak before Library Board Meeting Tonight
Attachments: library deputation.pdf

Hi Nancy

Following up on our phone conversation...

I would appreciate being given less than five minutes to speak to the Board on a matter of managing the Library's assets especially significant today in light of the fiscal constraints being placed upon the Library today.

Toronto's libraries are a fundamental institution serving the city's constituents.

It is of some concern that the Library has not been attentive to its property management. There are opportunities that need to be addressed here in order to ensure that the Library does not falter in its delivery of its mainstreet purpose. In so doing it can attain the monetary balance it requires through these other avenues within its purview. - beyond books and staffing.

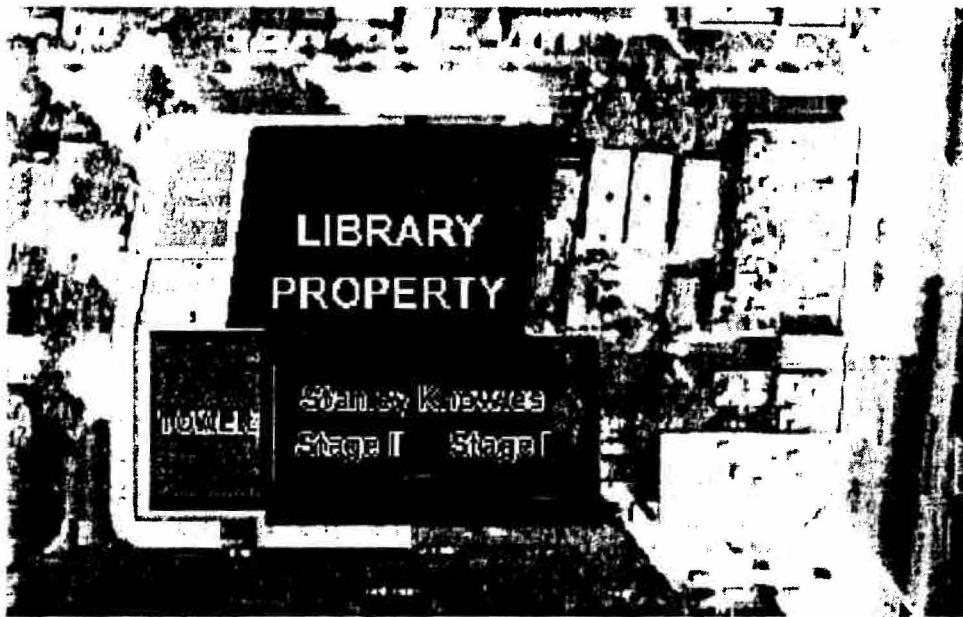
Respectfully

Terry

Terry Mills

[REDACTED]

LIBRARY TO EXERCISE ITS PROPERTY RIGHTS



1. Stewardship over public assets

Protect public assets - not give them away

The adjacent Applicant is situating 60 apartments zero-lot-line beside the Toronto Public Library property. This encumbers the Library's land, rendering it's air-rights valueless. The Library should have exercised its rights, stipulating "Get Off". Instead it gave the value away, a gift to the neighbour.

2. Management of Fiscal affairs

Acquire financial consideration when conceding air-rights

The Library was aware of the potential to build 120 apartments on this portion of its air-rights. This represents a land value of between \$6-\$8 million based upon \$50-\$60,000 per unit. No compensation is known -- and if the Library accepted cash it should appear as a matter of public record.

3. Commitment to "Unlocking Social Housing"

Part of the City's Social Housing Land-Bank

This site is the "sweet spot" for Unlocking Social Housing in the Yonge Eglinton locality. There is established affordable housing facility already on land, Stanley Knowles Co-op, which seeks expansion.

4. Application of Intensification Policy

Development here represented optimum intensification

Developing the Library and adjacent site in concert with each other represented the optimum Intensification.

5. Exercise of Good Planning

Ensure Good Planning has been exercised

The adjoining development application has been in the works for 8-years... the Library was fully aware.

- Terry Mills
ARRIS