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Councillor Michelle Berardinetti



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June 16, 2015

Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
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Attn: Nancy Marshall
nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Re: Toronto Public Library – Eglinton Square Branch

I am writing with regard to the Eglinton Square Branch of the Toronto Public Library and in particular the significant changes that are being proposed which will be discussed at the June 22, 2015 meeting of the Toronto Library Board. This branch is located within my Ward 35 and is an integral part of the community.

The changes being proposed are very important for this community and for Ward 35 as a whole. The potential increase in the branch size from 4,716 square feet to the Toronto Public Library Service Delivery Model standard 10,000 square feet model is very much needed at this location. The branch is used by many people ranging from the very young to older residents and the more than doubling of the branch size would assist them significantly and improve their library experience.

This increase in size is also warranted in view of the fact that the branch is a very busy location in terms of use and is in fact ranked number eight in the top quartile of neighbourhood branches across the City.

The additional space would be an incredible asset in terms of providing more innovative programming and increased services to residents who depend on the branch. It is important to note that demand in this community will continue to grow as more people locate to the area. There are developments being proposed in the immediate area that would add many more residents to the community not to mention the potential impact of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT currently under construction along the west end of Eglinton Avenue and moving east towards the catchment area of the Eglinton Square Library Branch.

I understand that the landlord who owns the shopping centre has indicated a generous interest in contributing to the renewal process at the branch which would potentially result in a situation where the changes could be initiated without having to result to debt funding.

The renewal of this branch would allow for service delivery areas aimed at various groups including children, adults, families and teens. It would improve the library experience for those using the branch and add additional seating for reading and studying. Services such as wireless access would be improved.

In view of the enormous benefits for this community I am requesting that the Toronto Public Library Board approve this significant and very much needed improvement to the Eglinton Square Branch.

You may be assured of my strong advocacy for this initiative through the budget process and at Toronto City Council.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Regards,



Councillor Michelle Berardinetti
Ward 35, Scarborough Southwest