

September 28, 2015

Ms. Pam McConnell
Deputy Mayor
City of Toronto
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West – Suite A7
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Deputy Mayor McConnell,

Thank you for attending the Toronto Public Library Board meeting on September 21, 2015 and addressing the Board concerning *TO Prosperity – Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy*.

At the meeting, the following resolution was approved:

That the Toronto Public Library Board endorses the City of Toronto's *TO Prosperity: Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy* and directs Library staff to forward any comments in relation to the report to City staff.

It is important to note that at the meeting the Board also approved the following resolution regarding the 2016 operating budget submission:

That the Toronto Public Library Board approves budget enhancements totalling \$0.958 million comprised of two Youth Hubs, Sunday service open hours enhancement, Internet wi-fi hotspot lending and a digital innovation hub which are also to be considered for inclusion in the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

For your reference, I am providing information from the *2016 Operating Budget Submission* report to the September 21st meeting of the Library Board (Attachment 1). Please note that the Internet wi-fi hotspot lending initiative is a pilot project targeted to Neighbourhood Improvement Area branches.

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As mentioned at the September 21st meeting, these enhancements are only a few of the ways the Library contributes to equity for all in Toronto. The suite of services provided by the Toronto Public Library along with the many roles we play, such as being the digital lead for the city, makes us a strong partner in contributing to prosperity for everyone.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to improving people's lives. We look forward to reviewing the final report in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickery Bowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Vickery" on the top line and "Bowles" on the bottom line.

Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

/nrm

Attachment

Toronto Public Library Board
2016 Operating Budget Submission

Budget Enhancement Request

The following budget enhancements totalling \$0.958 million net and gross have been submitted to the City to be considered as part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Budget Requests.

2016 SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS (\$000s)

	GROSS	REVENUE	NET	%
Sunday open hours enhancement	557.5		557.5	0.32%
Poverty reduction - Youth Hub Expansion (phase 2)	200.0		200.0	0.12%
Internet Wi-Fi hotspot lending	100.0		100.0	0.06%
Digital Innovation Hub	100.0		100.0	0.06%
Total 2016 Service Enhancements	957.5		957.5	0.56%

Sunday Open Hours Enhancement

A request to improve open hours on Sundays is in keeping with the Library Board's approved plan for open hours and responds to the most consistent customer request for additional service hours. The approval of the requested funding of \$0.558 million would provide 4,497.5 hours of additional service, or a 30% increase in Sunday service hours. The funding would allow year-round service in eight of the 27 branches currently with Sunday service and add Sunday service to six new branches (Bridlewood, Centennial, Fort York, Mount Dennis, Runnymede and Scarborough Civic Centre)

Expanding Sunday service supports the objectives of the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy by extending access to essential services including space, technology and information. Year-round Sunday service responds to the needs of children and families who remain in Toronto during the summer, the increasing number of students who attend school year round, and the needs of entrepreneurs and small business owners for mobile work space accessible during non-traditional hours. Adding Sunday service to six additional branches increases geographic equity and improves service at the neighbourhood level.

Poverty Reduction – Youth Hub Expansion

The City's Poverty Reduction Strategy provided funding to TPL in 2015 to establish Youth Hubs at two library branch locations: York Woods and Cedarbrae. To support the second phase of the City's Poverty Reduction Strategy, the additional \$0.200 million request for 2016 would provide Youth Hubs at Maria A. Shchuka and Fairview branches. The Youth Hubs address the City's objective of *providing out of school-time programs for children and youth in neighbourhoods across the city*. The Hubs provide access to nutrition, information and technology, homework

support, and complimentary programs that build life and leadership skills. Volunteer tutors contribute to successful outcomes for participating youth.

Internet Wi-fi Hotspot Lending

People who lack broadband Internet access at home are at a disadvantage when it comes to education, job-hunting, access to government services, and participation in our networked society. The Library has played a key role in bridging the digital divide by offering computers and Internet access in its branches. To extend access beyond library locations and open hours, TPL proposes following in the footsteps of other major library systems by lending wi-fi hotspots that users can take home. Digital literacy training would also be offered to participants in the program. An additional \$0.100 million is requested for 2016 to support this new service, with supplementary funding to be provided by a private partner.

Digital Innovation Hub

The introduction of a digital innovation hub at the S.P.O.T. (Success Power Opportunity Teamwork) youth space located at Malvern Branch provides a new learning, collaboration and creation opportunity that fosters, supports and inspires youth development of knowledge about new and emerging digital technology in a transitioning neighbourhood improvement area where youth are facing many challenges. Youth will be provided with the information, tools and support to participate in, contribute to and succeed in today's digital environment. Start-up costs for software and equipment and a digital design technician (1 FTE, effective third quarter) are included in the proposal. This initiative is aligned with the Poverty Reduction Strategy in creating pathways to prosperity and access to services through expanding digital access.