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Reminder to the Purchasing Librarians, Board Members and Other Administrators

As our branch librarians and their assistants are so wonderful and helpful to find books - we can appreciate as much as we could except, but some of them do not give their names out, even just first name or 'number' could do that library systems could give them if they are not proud of their names or work.

But, many purchasing librarians have given so blind eye and any love for their beloved Canada they buy from other countries that it seems they just go for the cheapest imported books where suppliers may be offering big commissions or discounts [text removed].

New immigrants and our students who seek jobs as data entry persons or translators Do need jobs and Canadian experience to be part of the work force - and it costs at least 10 times to get a job done in Canada than in China or India.

I urge purchasing librarians - city libraries, directors, members of the library boards to remember to buy at least 50% Canadian -published books and show your responsibility and patriotism - and check our system if they are doing it.

The art councils of Provinces, cities and Canada should also change a bit to accommodate the ethnic writers and their works to encourage and include them in their wonderful offerings that helps all of us.

This month I am completing my 41 years in Canada and around 95% of that time I have been living and working (half of that reading , writing and teaching) in Metro Toronto. There have been some successes but how much a person or even a group of people can do when lots of people in administration are bent upon ignoring basic human rights, playing super human colonial biases and playing deaf and dumb to the feelings of the almost 50% of the population and hurting them by discrimination by commission and omission.

Before amalgamation of Metro Toronto - at least 7 administrations including old city of Toronto were doing much better than what has been there in last 10 years - in spite of efforts by me, my company and many others - most by doing nothing or negative action by our purchasing people and cataloging librarians. For example –

- 1) There used to be lists of books published - recorded or cataloged in different libraries in different languages(at least first 10 – 25 languages)
- 2) There used to be booklets published showing libraries having those books in these languages.
- 3) Display of books in ethnic languages just as in English
- 4) There were more libraries having books in ethnic languages - population percentage of the ethnic citizens have risen at least 5 times in 40 years and services given them may have been cut to half in average.

Some Suggestions

- 1) The new city librarian should be multilingual (having some knowledge [text removed] and some records of working to enhance multi-lingual books and materials.
- 2) Any new employee of the librarian should be at least bilingual and have appreciation for other languages.
- 3) Each language spoken more than French in Toronto(they are 11) should have a selection and working in or all main offices of the library to promote and protect at least major languages of the city.
- 4). No issue of the 'What's On' should ignore , give major languages at least 30% space for them.
- 5) Any book published in the city – should be collected at least 2 copies – even if negotiation may have to be done for it. Records may be kept by cataloging and reporting in the 'What's On'.
- 6) How somebody like Mrs. H Grewal if she agrees to be consultant, she worked for Metro library for around 20 years and did wonderful job.

In last few years, we have tried to :

- 1) Get some (may be 100) books in Don Mills Library in Punjabi – they are there rotting in the storage.
- 2) To have mention of our languages, their books and have them in what is on.
- 3) To buy 2 or even more copies of the books published in city of Toronto in our library system in ethnic languages – they are not many any way.
- 4) Even of ten writing to the city libraries, the mayor and phoning for about a year - PRACTICALLY NOTHING has happened - TIME & ENERGY IS WASTED FOR DOING NOTHING. [Text removed.]

Even I am qualified to teach English in Ontario and Manitoba, enjoy reading and writing it but still it is my language No. 4 – and I feel insulted when it takes weeks and months to wait for books in my third language and enjoy them – spend so much time, money and effort to publish but my own city does not have courtesy to buy even 1 copy of the book – even published in English.

Let us help each other and all residents of this city – all of them pay taxes and expect services.

Attention: Nancy Marshall

Please distribute this letter to all members and the board of others concerned with this matter.

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