

March 28, 2013

Ms. Sarah Cooper  
Director  
National Reading Campaign  
110 Spadina Avenue, Suite 801  
Toronto, ON M5V 2K4

Dear Ms. Cooper:

The Toronto Public Library Board recognizes the importance of reading in the lives of all Canadians and in particular, the residents of Toronto. To that end, the Library has built a collection designed to meet the needs of these residents and, as outlined in the Library's Mission Statement, promotes universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, experience, information and ideas.

In the Library's Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 under the first Priority Area of *Grow a City of Readers* the Library is committed to *fostering literacy and a love of reading as a first priority; supporting readers of all ages in improving print literacy skills and in discovering great stories and books*. Goal 2 of the plan is *to champion the joy of reading and connect readers, authors and creators*; Goal 3 is *to support readers in building print literacy skills as an essential foundation for future achievement, especially for children at critical stages in their development*.

The significance of reading is further recognized by the Library's programming for the public, which emphasizes reading discovery and enjoyment. As only one example, the Library's annual Keep Toronto Reading Festival is a month-long celebration of the joy of reading with a variety of events and activities, including the One Book city-wide book club.

The Toronto Public Library Board endorses the goals and work of the National Reading Campaign in making reading a national priority for Canada and its dedication to the principles that reading is essential to the well-being of our society, to our functioning as a democracy and the foundation for future learning for individuals.

Sincerely,

Councillor Paul Ainslie  
Chair

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