

January 13, 2015

Mr. Harry Thurston  
Chair  
The Writers' Union of Canada  
#600 – 460 Richmond Street West  
Toronto, ON M5V 1Y1

Dear Mr. Thurston,

I am writing on behalf of Michael Foderick, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board in response to your letter of January 8, 2015 regarding the Library's pilot project for the purchase of second-hand copies of books from the public. Your letter will be reviewed by the Board at its meeting on January 19, 2015.

The Board has been working to manage the Library's budget by containing and reducing costs and pursuing alternative sources of funding. A pilot project to allow patrons to sell books to the Library to supplement popular adult fiction titles in the Library's collection is part of this effort; a test of the value and practicality of buying popular books from the public using a controlled list. The Board will be evaluating the pilot project at six months and one year.

I want to reassure you that the Library is not changing its purchasing practices. Library staff will continue to order the same number of copies of all titles and any books acquired through the pilot will simply supplement the Library's holdings of these titles.

Toronto Public Library is and always has been a strong supporter of authors' rights for fair compensation and adheres to Canadian copyright law in its buying practices. It is indisputable that the Library is in a strong business partnership with publishers. In 2014 alone, Toronto Public Library spent \$18 million on materials in all formats, including print and digital; more than 80% of this amount was spent in Canada.

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Thank you for making the Board aware of your concerns. I hope this explains the context and rationale for this pilot project.

Sincerely,

*Vickery Bowles*

Vickery Bowles  
City Librarian

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