

8614
b

From: FrankTrotz <gaby-trotz@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 18/11/2011 7:46 pm
Subject: cuts

Please make no more cuts to the library budget.

Thank you
Frank Trotz

8615

From: Eric Woodley <eric.woodley@utoronto.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 18/11/2011 7:48 pm
Subject: Library debate

Dear Council,

Cutting hours and collections makes libraries pushes libraries into irrelevance. I agree with the library committee on this point. It is unfortunate that the current council is lacking the political resourcefulness to raise appropriate funds, and in general, foresight on the library matter.

Sincerely,
Eric Woodley

8616

Nancy Marshall - library cuts

From: diana chastain <dianach@me.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 18, 2011 10:45 PM
Subject: library cuts

To the Toronto Public Library Board

To Councillors Ainslie, Davis, Doucette, Palacio, Robinson,

I am very concerned about proposed Sunday closing or curtailed hours at Flemingdon Park Public Library.

I am a retired elementary school teacher who taught in Flemingdon Park at Grenoble Public School for 20 years and well know the community. Flemingdon Park has 3 large elementary schools (about 1,000 pupils at Grenoble public school alone when I was there), a large multi-ethnic immigrant population many of whom are on limited incomes, some in social welfare housing.

Because of its location, it is completely cut off from any other area with a library as it is bounded by busy Don Mills Road, Eglinton Ave. and the Don Valley parkway and river. It is a bus ride (an expense for many) or long walk to Thorncliffe Park, the nearest other library. Many people have no car and children would not be allowed to go there alone.

The Flemingdon Park Library is a busy well used hub for this community of over 20,000 inhabitants including many at risk children and their families. The library should remain open on Sundays year round. There is not enough to do in Flemingdon Park for these thousands of children, and we well know what happens to at risk children when they don't have positive places to go and activities to occupy them.

Nancy Marshall - Libraries

From: K W <k.w.contactme@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 7:40 AM
Subject: Libraries

To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not close our libraries, please do not reduce our libraries. We need and depend on them. If you take action against them, then we will be watching and taking note. We are the people of this city, and we are not going to go quietly on this matter. Our voices will be heard.

-K. Worzel

Nancy Marshall - Jones

From: Amy Withers Eckert <amy.withers@gmail.com>
To: Councillor Fletcher <councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 1:25 PM
Subject: Jones
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Hi there,

i am opposed to the cutting of hours at Jones library. Cutting one day (Monday) is too much. Monday is the busiest day of service at Jones. I go to the library frequently, as does my family. I do not have time to attend various meetings in support of the library. Although I will keep trying to attend.

Questions for the Board:

- Why has the Library board chosen to cut the busiest day?
- Have management salaries been cut by an equivalent percent?

Awaiting your reply,

--

Amy Withers

8619

Nancy Marshall

From: Marsha Kirzner <marshakirzner@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 1:56 PM

Dear n Marshall,

Please do not cut services from our libraries. We need them. Most people, particularly the 99% of us as voiced recently by the youth around the world, need access to books, computers, audible books, newspapers, childrens programs, etc. Immigrants, children whose first language is not English, mothers of pre-schoolers, and many other groups. We do not need new buildings, we need services. Please do not cut our libraries. Yours truly, Marsha Kirzner

8619

Nancy Marshall

From: Marsha Kirzner <marshakirzner@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 2:02 PM

Dear N. Marshall,

I just realized that you are planning a cut to the area most in need of a library, the Jones and Dundas street library. What you are not thinking about is that there is a high immigrant population in this area. Plus it is a lower-income area than the Riverdale (Riverdale library, Pape/Danforth library) and the Beaches library (Ashdale branch). Yet you are planning on cutting more hours from this library than from the libraries that are from areas of a higher socio-economic status, meaning they have more access to culture. Please think again. Yours truly, Marsha Kirzner

p.s. no cuts to libraries

8620

Nancy Marshall - Library closures

From: j colwell <colwellej@yahoo.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 1:59 PM
Subject: Library closures

Please prevail upon Mayor Ford & the Council for no further cuts to our libraries; they are an essential part to a civilized, informed population & especially for people who are ESL and/or have no money for books. Thank you!

PS Sometimes it's a warm place to get out of the cold & be with other people; winter is here! JC

Nancy Marshall - library cuts

From: ELSA CAMPUZANO <campu@rogers.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 2:14 PM
Subject: library cuts
CC: "councillor_docuette@toronto.ca" <councillor_docuette@toronto.ca>

8621

Hi,

I just want to let the Toronto Public Library board meeting that I oppose further cuts to our libraries -- specially the cuts to the library' collections

Sincerely,
Elsa Campuzano

8622

Nancy Marshall - proposed cuts to service and collections

From: Michael Warden <michaeljwarden@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, Mayor Ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>,
<councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 2:22 PM
Subject: proposed cuts to service and collections

To the members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

I am writing to express my opposition to any cuts to the acquisitions budget or operating hours of the Toronto Public Library system.

This past week I attended a meeting at Runnymede public library. Anne Bailey and Councillor Sarah Doucette were present. Speaker after speaker from the audience expressed his/her opposition to cuts that would affect our library system, which is one of the very best in the world and a justifiable source of pride for Torontonians.

The present mayor ran on a campaign of no cuts, just efficiencies. Fewer books and other resources, and shorter operating hours, are not merely efficiencies. They are cuts which could lead to decreased use of the libraries and then the inevitable call for further cuts.

There are many components that can make a city great. An excellent library system is one of them. I urge you not to jeopardize it.

Yours truly,

Michael Warden
50 Glendonwynne Rd
Ward 13

Nancy Marshall - The Budget

From: ANN COLLINS <anncollins@rogers.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 19, 2011 8:57 PM
Subject: The Budget
CC: "councillor_docuette@toronto.ca" <councillor_docuette@toronto.ca>

Dear Ms Marshall:

I understand the Toronto Library Board will be convening to debate their budget on Nov 21, at the Reference Library on Yonge St. Unfortunately, because of health and age issues, I will be unable to attend.

However, as a long time user of the Swansea Memorial and Runnymede Libraries, I am very concerned about the future of these, as well as of all of the Toronto area libraries.

I am sure I do not have to stress to you, how important access to libraries is to young and old, and especially to new immigrants, many of whom (I know this personally through some of my past experience volunteering with them, and also with the poor) rely on libraries as a resource not only for books, but also for the use of computers to help with their studies, and for job searches.

The future of this great country (I came here in 1958), is dependent on the successes of the young, and of those who are lucky to be welcomed here from around the world and willing to work hard and contribute to future generations. These successes can only be achieved if people have access to the resources which help to educate, enrich, and stimulate the brain.

I apologize if I sound as if I am telling you something that I have no doubt you also believe.

I sincerely trust and hope that you will do your best to get the best deal possible for all of us.

Thank you.

Ann Collins

8624

From: debora puricelli <littlemissbrown2@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 19/11/2011 9:00 pm

i hope we can put enough momentum behind the library to keep it up and going strong inspite the budget changes i wish all the best and just wanted to share my support keep up the great work peace love and libraries debora

8675

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] No Cuts to TPL

From: 9thermidor [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>,
<councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>,
<councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 8:51 AM
Subject: [Possible Spam] No Cuts to TPL
CC: <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>,
<mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

Councillor Ainslie
Chair TPL Board and
Councillors on TPL Board
Toronto ON

November 20, 2011

Dear All:

I am writing to urge you to reverse the Board's decision to cut 100 librarian and other staff positions.

This measure will make it impossible for the Toronto Public Library to staff children's librarians who specialize in introducing our kids to the wonderful world of books and literature. It will hasten the introduction of book vending machine and cut off homebound people from their library. I want my library run by people, not machines!

I believe the decision to cut library staff was made in haste, without full information, and absolutely no consultation with the public. There has not been a proper evaluation of the social and economic impact these cuts will have on Toronto, unlike other major cities where comprehensive studies have been conducted before big changes are made to their library systems.

Cutting 10% of the Toronto Public Library's budget will have devastating consequences for our public library.

No cuts to TPL Branch hours or the purchase of materials (collection) or any other proposed cuts are required or necessary.

This is a phony crisis created for crass political purposes.

G. Turner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - November 21, TPL Board, budget debate

8626

From: Susan Schellenberg <seaschell@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 10:14 AM
Subject: November 21, TPL Board, budget debate
CC: Councillor Doucette <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>

Dear Nancy Marshall

As a 70 year plus Toronto Public Library (TPL) user and supporter I strongly agree with the "No further budget cuts" side of the November 21, TPL Board, budget debate.

My support for a "No further budget cuts" debate outcome originates in my never having witnessed prior operational fat where the TPL is concerned and my admiration for their current willingness to "row the cost cutting boat" with budget cuts in a \$9.7M amount.

Beyond this \$9.7M amount we are talking amputation not cut. An amputation when seen in the "Occupy Toronto context, will aggravate rather than help to lessen the out-of-balance economic, social and political stressors currently affecting individuals, families and communities throughout Toronto and the globe. An amputation that in seeking to appease will, as the history books show, encourage even more tyrannical budget demands.

Thank you

Susan Schellenberg
M6P 2P4
T. 416-766-3845
www.susanschellenberg.com

8627

From: Matthew Salathiel <msalathiel@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 20/11/2011 12:11 pm
Subject: Cuts to library hours etc.

Hello:

I would like to make my opposition to further library cuts known in writing as I cannot make the meeting on the 21st. Based on the presentation at the recent Pape/Danforth Branch meeting I attended, it is my understanding that the board, via various efficiencies etc., was able to come up with an approximately ~5% cut to the budget. In order to meet the Mayor's request of 10%, further cuts, primarily to open hours and collections, will be necessary. I want the Board to STOP at this current ~5% and not go any further and I want the Board to stand up to the Mayor and tell him that any further cuts (i.e., the remaining 5%) will have significant detrimental results on the community which will also have further financial ramifications as time goes on.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Matthew Salathiel
Ward 30 Resident

Nancy Marshall - Letter to Library Board - 2012 Budget and proposed service reductions

From: Ceta Ramkhalawansingh <ceta_r@yahoo.ca>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 1:58 PM
Subject: Letter to Library Board - 2012 Budget and proposed service reductions
CC: AdamVaughan <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>, CetaRamkhalawansingh <ceta_r@yahoo.ca>

8628

Please circulate to Board members:

62 Beverley Street
Toronto, ON
M5T 1X9

November 19, 2011

To: Toronto Public Library Board
cc: Councillor Adam Vaughan

Re: 2012 – Budget and Service Level Reductions

I am a resident of Ward 20. My local branch is the Lillian Smith Library. However, I have also used the City Hall Branch, the former branch at Metro Hall, as well as Spadina and Ashdale branches in addition to the Metro Reference Library. I have attended a budget consultation meeting and I have also completed the survey.

I note the following:

- (a) Hours of service reductions have been proposed for 56 branches or **60 per cent** of all branches;
- (b) The total hours of service level reductions of 19,144 hours is the equivalent of closing **9.2 branches** using 40 hrs as a standard.

These reductions will have a significant impact on those who rely upon the library to undertake job searches and to do homework, likely people who are the most vulnerable in our city.

With respect to Ward 20, I must point out two problems with the reductions proposed for Lillian Smith and Sanderson branches..

The Lillian Smith branch houses a **highly specialized children's literature** collection – the Osbourne collection. The proposed elimination of two mornings (Monday and Thursday)

during the school week will have an overall negative impact for school visits. This will compound the reduction in library service within the public school system.

Recommendation: *Review all proposed reductions where there are special collection, and especially where school visits are involved.*

The Sanderson branch is located in a neighbourhood with very high needs. The proposed Sunday closure will be detrimental to the children of this neighbourhood.

Recommendation: Retain existing hours of operation for Sanderson, especially Sunday hours.

Finally, it must be observed that with the closure of the Urban Affairs library and the delay in other library programs at Sanderson and Cityplace will have a negative impact on this densely populated community. **The proposals for Ward 20 should take these previous and additional reductions into account.**

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh
ceta_r@yahoo.ca

8629

From: Guy Ewing <ewingguy@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 20/11/2011 10:00 pm
Subject: Letter regarding tonight's budget debate
Attachments: Letter to Library Board.doc

Please see the attached letter to the Toronto Library Board regarding tonight's budget debate, also pasted in the body of this email.

Thank you.

Guy Ewing
379 Concord Avenue
Toronto, ON
M6H 2P9

To the Toronto Public Library Board:

I understand that you will be meeting tomorrow night to decide whether to cut an additional \$7.8 million from the Toronto Public Library's budget for the coming year, in addition to the \$9.7 million you have already approved. At the public consultation meeting that I attended at the Parkdale Branch, I learned that the \$7.8 million would reduce hours of service and reduce the collection.

Along with every Torontonians I have talked with about this, I feel that it would be appalling for you to cut an additional \$7.8 million from one of our most precious resources, one that is so vital to our future as a place of access and equity. Tomorrow night, I feel that you must choose between the will of the citizens of Toronto who value the Toronto Public Library and one politician who, with no mandate from us to cut any services, let alone such an important part of our social fabric, who has taken it upon himself to ask you for cuts. I would prefer that the Board ask for an increase in the Toronto Public Library's allocation. Failing that, I would ask you to request the same allocation as last year. Failing that, I ask you with all my heart not to reduce your request by an additional \$7.8. Torontonians will stand behind you on this. Please stand up for your fellow citizens. "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide."

Yours truly,

Guy Ewing

Nancy Marshall - Library Board meeting Nov. 28

8630

From: RGinsberg <rena.ginsberg017@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 10:07 PM
Subject: Library Board meeting Nov. 28
CC: Councillor Davis <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>

To the members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

As a regular TPL user and volunteer, I urge you to stand firm and make no further cuts to the library budget. Any more cuts to hours and/or collections will seriously jeopardize the quality of our invaluable library service.

Please vote against implementing any additional cuts.

Thank you.

Rena Ginsberg
M4C 4K3

Nancy Marshall - Library Board Meeting, Nov. 21

8031

From: [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 11:34 PM
Subject: Library Board Meeting, Nov. 21

Dear Ms. Marshall:

Re: Toronto Library Board meeting, Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

The Board will be voting on whether to make cuts to library hours, collections or programs in the 2012 operating budget.

I support no cuts - not to the library hours, not to the collections and not to the programs.

Cuts do not serve the public, the library users of the buildings, the collections and the programs. When using my local libraries and the reference libraries, I can see how heavily libraries are used; there are few seats and many users. Some programs are quickly "sold out". Statistics show circulation has increased. How could the Board then consider cutting any of these areas when libraries are so heavily used and resources are in such demand? To meet the many varied needs of Toronto in this day and age, the TPL budget should be increased.

I urge the TPL Board to consider the users and the city and vote against any cuts that have been proposed.

Yours truly,
Janice Sellers

[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - potential library cut backs

8632

From: Anya Seerveld or Ian Jameson <ian9anya2@rogers.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 7:31 AM
Subject: potential library cut backs

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I think of our public libraries as sanctuaries. It's where kids eat their lunches. It's where there is free internet. It's where we can go if we need to get cool in the summer. Not to mention it's where ANYONE can access material to read. We would rather pay more taxes than have our library hours or locations cut back.

Sincerely,

Ian Jameson and Anya Seerveld
ian9anya2@rogers.com

From: Nancy Carroll <nancycarroll@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 8:45 am
Subject: Library Board Meeting

8633

To the Library Board:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this evening's meeting, but I wish to register my support for the Budget Committee's recommendation NOT to cut library hours or collections budgets. Public libraries, along with public education, are essential to building a fairer society where individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to learn and realize their potential in a safe, friendly, supportive environment. Libraries make us more intelligent. What could be a better use of our tax funds as we face the challenges of the 21st century?

Sincerely,

Nancy Carroll
Writer, Editor, Communications Consultant
Wordreach
416 762 3990
www.wordreach.com

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Library Cuts

8634

From: Tafler Rylett <taflerrylett@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 9:26 AM
Subject: Proposed Library Cuts
CC: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>

To Library Board,

I am writing you to express my support for no more budget cuts to our libraries!!!

Libraries are absolutely vital to the health and well-being of our communities and if you have ever visited them on a regular basis you will see that they are always full of people and are absolutely packed on Sundays!!!

As a long-time resident who has brought up two children in Toronto, I have depended on the libraries and continue to depend on them as a fantastic resource. There should be no more cuts to library hours or purchasing!!!

Thank you

Cathy Tafler
842 Manning Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2W8

From: Geraldine Withey <glwithe@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 9:28 am
Subject: Caution with library cuts

8638

Please be very, very cautious with library cuts.

I am a concerned citizen who greatly values a libraries place in the community.

Gerry Withey

8636

From: Manuel Buchwald <mbuchwald@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 9:40 am
Subject: Library Budget

I am writing as a concerned citizen and user of the Toronto Public Library.
I do not agree with the plan to cut library services.

I understand that the city is attempting to control spending. However, it appears to me that this policy is being waged unfairly. The Toronto Police Services budget was given an increase, notwithstanding the rhetoric that there was a cut.

Why pick on the Toronto Public Library budget? Polls have shown that the citizens (we're not just taxpayers) of this city are willing to pay more taxes to maintain or enhance services. It is only a small, vocal minority that believes in the cuts.

If crime is the issue with respect to the Toronto Police Services budget, then one should state that Libraries help prevent crime much more efficiently than police.

Yours sincerely,

Manuel Buchwald, O.C.
15 Dearbourne
Toronto M4K 1M6

Nancy Marshall - keep libraries open - evenings, Sundays, when people can go

8637

From: "Kathleen G. O'Neil" <kgoneil@look.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 12:06 PM
Subject: keep libraries open - evenings, Sundays, when people can go

We can afford to keep libraries open - evenings, Sundays, when people can go to use them. It is much cheaper than encouraging ignorance...

Kathleen G. O'Neil
78 Olive Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 1V1

Phone: 416-537-4732
E-mail: kgoneil@look.ca

8638

Nancy Marshall

From: A RENDA <arniesellstoronto@rogers.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 12:17 PM

Hello Cathy and thank you for the email. Yes I believe libraries should remain open to the public from 9 - 5 daily. Its important for the literacy of the whole country we must keep on top of the world and provide the people the choice to stay on top of literacy. To generate more income charge more on overdue books. Let the people accept responsibility as well. Good Luck with this I hope to have a pleasant resolution to this matter so we can put it to rest.

Mr Ford do the right thing for the people and our literacy. Smartness creates lots more money for everyone.

Respectfully
Hall of Fame

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Nancy Marshall - Proposed library cuts

From: Miriam Wohl <miriam@coophousing.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 1:10 PM
Subject: Proposed library cuts

I am writing to request that you vote in favour of keeping existing library hours and continue to purchase new book selections, so that the many people who cannot afford to buy books for themselves will continue to have this wonderful resource. As someone who uses a local library, I see many seniors, students and parents with children using the facility to its full extent. And those looking for work or researching school papers have a wonderful, safe place to access the internet. Our local library is one of the hub centers of our community, along with our community centre, schools, parks and civic center. These are places where we meet, keep our minds and bodies healthy – and as a result, give back to our communities. Please keep this in mind when voting!

Miriam Wohl
Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto
Phone: (416) 465-8688 ext. 212
Fax: (416) 465-8337
Please Visit: www.coopcostcutters.com

From: Cara Reeves <NoResponseRequired@tpl.ca>
To: <answerline@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 9:52 am
Subject: Feedback Form

8640

No reply is required

Name
Cara Reeves

Message

I am writing to the Library Board to thank them for safe guarding Canadian Culture and to recognize the future of the libraries need to reach the children.

Please, the library needs to be leading forward into increasing education and literacy programmes, the library hosts community groups that form the heart and soul of the community.

The library is an essentially mandated phenomenon to ensure cultural growth and development. We need more library programmes, not less and we will stand behind you to ensure the government understands how many people consider the right to educate themselves, no matter what their income levels, is a basic human right.

There are vast and specific legal contracts signed when libraries were created that they be maintained at public expense for the continuity of the spirit and intent, the purpose of the libraries.

It is the egalitarianism that the world recognizes and has respected since Treadeau and Margaret Atwood became the most famous Canadians on the planet along with Wagnere Gretsky and Celienne Dion.

Please sustain and expand library services.

Thank you for the good work that you do and recognizing the historical and archival roots to the community provided in the local libraries.

We need to know who we are and the library is a vital link to that knowledge. The children need us to lead the way.

All the best for the meeting tonight,
Kind regards,

Cara Reeves.

From: Judith Thompson <juditht@uoguelph.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 2:02 pm
Subject: libraries

8641

Hello,

As a playwright and a professor of theatre at the University of Guelph, I want to express my very strong feelings about keeping libraries open seven days a week. Libraries are a quiet place to read and write and engage with ideas. Many students live in chaotic, crowded and noisy places, and they simply would not be able to work intensively at home—a library is by far the best place, where they don't have to buy five dollar coffees and wait for a seat, and listen to noisy conversation.

When people have a quiet place to READ AND WRITE AND EXPAND their minds, the whole of society benefits.

thank you

Judith Thompson

3642

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] library cuts

From: Doug Hart <doug.hart@watershed.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 2:32 PM
Subject: [Possible Spam] library cuts

Hello

I like many others am not in favour of library cuts. Libraries and access to knowledge are key to healthy children and a healthy society.

If we cut libraries, we will pay for it many times over in future with a poorer, meaner society in future.

Thanks for considering my point of view.

Doug Hart

--

Douglas Hart, MSc



Watershed Technologies Inc.
(416) 538-7940
(416) 992-0746 mobile
www.watershed.ca

Nancy Marshall - Library Board meeting tonight

8643

From: Patricia McKee <patricia_mckee@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 2:35 PM
Subject: Library Board meeting tonight
CC: <councillor_docuette@toronto.ca>

I'm writing this as I cannot attend the meeting of Nov. 21/11. I wish to add my two cents worth to let you know how the cutbacks to services would affect most seniors.

I am on the board of the Swansea Area Seniors Association and understand the limitation of a lot of our seniors to use the library system even as it now stands, without some of the services being cut back. Services such as delivery of materials to shutins, large print books etc. (so many have vision issues) which enable seniors to keep in touch with the world around them. I have noticed that they sometimes lack the ability to advocate for themselves. Therefore, I wish to speak on their behalf, I also know that I will be there myself one day.

I am aware that library services are very important to those low income, vulnerable patrons as well, hopefully they are able to speak for themselves, and so I concentrate my efforts on the senior, sometimes silent, majority that often do not realize how cutbacks would affect them until they subtly happen.

Please bring these concerns to the table of the Toronto Area Library Board.

Regards,
Patricia J. McKee
29 Southport St.
M6S 4W7

8644

Nancy Marshall - Deputation

From: Angela Ting <angela_ting2003@yahoo.ca>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 3:17 PM
Subject: Deputation

Hi Nancy,

I received your email from a library worker at the Forest Hill Library meeting.

I come from a middle/upper class background, I grew up in the North York area and have always enjoyed the library's services and materials.

I've found myself in a financial position I never thought I'd be in. I also experience depression and anxiety.

For me the library has become a lifeline for many things: job search, learning, entertainment and also a safe place I can come to when I'm not feeling well.

I thought the library system was an essential service and was surprised and dismayed to hear the Ford government was suggesting cutbacks. I would like to see the library system invested in, instead of being taken away from. The quality of life has far more value than the dollar saved.

If you've ever been in a challenging financial position or experienced a time when things felt hopeless and you had a place where you could go to that you depended on and helped you, then you know what the library means to me.

If you haven't then I hope you won't have these painful experiences in your lifetime.

Best regards,
Angela Ting

Nancy Marshall - Opposed to Cutting Library Hours

From: Helena Kaluzhsky <hesione213@hotmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 21, 2011 5:15 PM
Subject: Opposed to Cutting Library Hours

8645

Dear Ms. Marshall,

It was my intention to attend today's meeting; however, due to unforeseen circumstances, I am unable to do so. Therefore, I am writing a letter to the Library Board outlining my concerns. I am strongly opposed to cutting library hours.

I am an ESL teacher for the Toronto Catholic District School Board and, as such, have been involved with the Malvern community for more than five years. I teach at the Malvern Library and all my students are residents of the immediate area. My class is in high demand - I have a regular attendance of 25 students a day and over 20 other people on the waiting list, as I am unable to accomodate them at present. Mine is the **ONLY** low-level (1-2) morning part-time ESL class in the area. The only other one is an evening class at Finch and Tapscott, for which one has to take two buses. The location and hours are especially convenient for mothers with young children who are preparing to join the workforce, for seniors or people having health problems who, nevertheless, want to be active in the community. Cutting the Malvern Library hours, especially on Thursday mornings, when the ESL class runs will have an extremely negative influence on the Malvern community.

I hope my voice will be heard. This is not just my personal concern; it is also the one of all my students.

Respectfully,

Helen Kaluzhsky

8646

From: Susanna Hood <susannahoodhum@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 21/11/2011 9:22 pm
Subject: opposition to a further reduction in library services

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express to the Toronto Library Board my opposition to the proposed further reductions to library hours.

My and my parents' regular branch, the Parliament Street branch, is facing a potential reduction of 13 hours per week.

The fact that the library might be closed several mornings of the week as well as Sundays (often my only free time to visit the library), will significantly affect my and my parents ability to make use of library services that we value.

As part of the whole proposed picture of cutting 19,444 library hours across the city, I find the proposed cuts to the Parliament Street branch to be extremely distressing. When I visit the library, I am struck by how it is always filled with people from my community of all ages and social and cultural backgrounds making use of so many services. The librarians are always occupied helping people. The atmosphere vibrates with a quiet concentration that one can find nowhere other than a library. This a space conducive to learning and meaningful contemplation.

I hope that in the board's deliberations, you will strongly reconsider these proposed cuts. The world we currently live in, and Toronto as part of that world, is in desperate need of calm, creative, educated thought. Removing access to spaces that support and nurture creative thinking and learning is a step in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,
Susanna Hood

Susanna Hood
susannahoodhum@gmail.com
www.humdansoundart.ca

Nancy Marshall - Library Cuts Unreasonable

From: "Jackson, Jennifer" [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 22, 2011 1:41 PM
Subject: Library Cuts Unreasonable

8647

As I cannot attend the meeting, I am writing to voice my opinion.

I feel strongly that there should be no further cuts, other than the \$9.7M (5.7%) reduction that the Board has approved.

The Mayor's "ask" is totally unreasonable and targets families, seniors and children, many of whom are less fortunate, who make use of the libraries and their community programs.

Thanks,

Jennifer Jackson
[REDACTED]

3649

G. Ian Bowles
21 Potsdam Road #51
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M3N 1N3

Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8

Dear Board Members:

Open Letter to the Toronto Public Library Board

I live in the neighbourhood of Jane and Finch, and am aware that the city of Toronto is planning to decrease the hours of operation, as well the collection at the York Woods community library. I am a member of several groups that are part of the demographics of Toronto, and on their behalf I must express my outrage at the thought of diminishing the capacity at our local library. I was born in Toronto and currently work and live in the city, and until recently have been able to enjoy and learn here as well. Such experience will potentially become harder because, if you proceed with the cutbacks you have planned, you will make it more difficult for me and others of my community to achieve the productive expression we expect of living in the twenty-first century.

First, I was in a car accident in 2001 and since have suffered the effects of a traumatic brain injury. I was fortunate that I recover well after being in a coma for six weeks, but many who have such experiences have difficulty with what many people take for granted. Many of us have come to expect library services as they are currently offered. Many of us need to continue reading, to work on computers, to have social interactions and maintain responsibilities that are offered at our community library. Many of us also have difficulty with transportation. Trying to coordinate individual libraries at different locations across the city according to when they're open at different times can be expensive and difficult.

Second, as a resident of a Priority Neighbourhood, Jane and Finch, I am concerned that you are potentially cutting back on community resources that fight crime, drugs and gangs. We have already lost Sundays to previous cutbacks: so our library and community services stand empty and unused on one of the days that the youth of the neighbourhood could make the most use of it. I am one of the residents who actually grew up in the area: I went to High School at CW Jefferys across the ravine from the library. So I remember when the library was open every day and I could visit whenever I needed to. It established a connection to the community that I've never lost. By

decreasing hours you will be effectively breaking that connection to an entire generation. Libraries and community activity provide an alternative to gangs and drugs for our youth: I will not be surprised if the crime rate in the area rises as we proceed with these cutbacks. If they see that their municipal leadership doesn't care about community resources, why should they?

Third, I'm a working professional. I am busy and having the library hours reduced is extremely ineffective as far as my use is concerned. I happen to live across the street from the York Woods library, and yet trying to coordinate my time and effort to be able to show up at the right time and have more than 5 minutes use is difficult. I can only imagine it's worse if users live farther away. I use the Internet Card Catalogue and Interlibrary Loan already quite extensively: I had hoped that as I got settled in my job I would have more time available to enjoy the full services of the library, but as it turns out the library won't have time for me. It is unfortunate that as I mature, I am not able to take advantage of resources that were so important to me as a youth.

I am a geographer and did my Master's Research in Bulgaria in the mid-90s. One thing I remember distinctly: that although Bulgarians were in the midst of economic transition and hard times, they always had access to inexpensive literature. Book tables were common at open markets, and individual books sold quite inexpensively. Here in Canada, we have no such source of cheap reading material besides our libraries. In Bulgaria, that kind of access safeguarded the generation's literacy. Here in Canada, without libraries, books have become so expensive that I worry about maintaining literacy in large parts of the population.

These outline my primary concerns about the proposed budget cuts. I know that some people consider libraries to be extraneous or, in the mayor's words, "gravy". Those of us who use our libraries would disagree wholeheartedly. They are an important resource: culturally, economically, and with regards to public safety. We have already lost significant hours of operation at our branch. Continued cuts will threaten the well-being of my neighbourhood, my communities and potentially Canadian society.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Ian Bowles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

G. Ian Bowles

November 22, 2011

OPEN LETTER TO:

Jane Pyper, City Librarian, Toronto Public Library,

Email: citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Chin Lee, Toronto City Counselor, Ward 41 Scarborough-Rouge River

Email: councillor_lee@toronto.ca

Re: Toronto Public Library Woodside Square Proposed Service Changes - Public Consultation-2011

My name is Pallavi Grandhi, a Grade 12 high school student. I am a resident of Rosewood, a community at the heart of Ward 41 Scarborough-Rouge River. Personally I would like to express my gratitude to the Toronto Public Library. All my life the TPL has been invaluable to me.

I am writing to you with a deep concern for our community and society which I feel is being systematically undermined with regards to many aspects of public service. This is surely degrading our society.

Unfortunately, we are continually being misinformed and fooled into voting for politicians that offer to reduce our taxes without consequences. They fail to disclose to the public that the only way they can reduce taxes is to degrade or eliminate the services that have been established and evolved over time. We must keep in mind that the purpose of our taxes (or government/public services) is to support and improve our community and society in a manner that the people choose.

One of the most fundamental and important aspects of these services are our public library systems and services. We need to understand that these systems and services have taken many decades and enormous efforts to establish and evolve.

I believe no sane person can argue that we can be or progress as a community and a civil society without our public libraries. I also believe our fantastic public library system (TPL) is second to none and is one of the key elements that makes our city so great and admired throughout the world. Our public libraries are already a fundamental component to the daily lives of many in our community. We should recognize that this essential service will become an increasingly important factor for our aging population and play a very important role in the continuing progress of our community.

We should be exploring ways to improve, expand and promote our public libraries and the services that they provide to our citizens in an ever changing world. It is incredibly insane and irresponsible of those that allowed this to become a topic of politics. I believe no one will argue that we should not make all of our public services more efficient including our public libraries, however pointing at inefficiencies as a twisted argument to support the broad cuts to the services only serves to degrade the system as a whole. Let us not be distracted, neither clouded, nor confused and misled by those who may have their own agenda or may be somewhat clouded and confused themselves with respect to these issues.

More specifically with respect to these TPL Public Consultations:

It is unfortunate that we even have to resort to these sessions to spend our time trying to defeat such negative issues and retrograde actions; instead, I wish that such meetings could have been used to engage our community to explore issues to improve services or efficiencies or other progressive ideas.

- I do not believe that neither our community nor the long established public library needs to continually justify its existence or to redefine its importance. The importance is inherent to our society. I expect that we as a reasonably advanced society should all know this and that we have grown far beyond this point.
 - We must also know that any politician that fails to understand such fundamental aspect of our society is simply not qualified in any manner to represent the public in our society and most certainly not qualified to hold any public office in our community.
- We must also remember that the public has never provided a mandate to the current nor any government to cut our public library services. To the contrary, we have always valued our Public Libraries and Library services which have continually evolved and grown keeping pace with our community over many decades. It is obviously important that we do not undermine this evolving process in any manner.
- We must be able to continue to rely on these services without the need to reevaluate such fundamental and long established and understood principles of our society at each election cycle.
- We must expect and in fact demand that these services improve and adapt to the changing environment.

We must understand and expect that these unfortunate unilateral budgetary cuts forced upon our public library system will invariably result in some negative consequences. However I would urge those in our public library system to not be too reactive to these monetary pressures forced upon the system and try their best to minimize these negative consequences to the public. It would be very useful to make those efforts transparent to the public so they can appreciate the complexities and issues that are being confronted in this crisis.

The current changes and proposals to reduce hours of service and increase fines etc., will surely degrade our TPL services to the public. It seems we are ignoring or temporarily forgetting the true purpose of our public libraries:

I believe we can simply summarize the purpose of our public library system as follows:

The purpose of any public library system is to maintain a repository of all knowledge and provide public access to that knowledge.

Two key ingredients that make this work are as follows:

- Repository of knowledge (this is an unbounded definition: “as deep and wide as possible”)

- Public access to the knowledge (this is also an unbounded definition: “for environments, methods, mechanisms to facilitate the unfettered access”)

I can only hope that the TPL adheres to these principles. I realize that the TPL goes far beyond this and is truly intertwined in our community. However, I would like to emphasize and remind us that “Public Access” should be about promoting the use and facilitating access of the “repository of knowledge” for all individuals in our society with minimum impedance.

I feel that with these reactionary changes and proposals, we are surely degrading our services and somehow forgetting the purpose of our public libraries. This is illustrated as follows:

1. The increase of fees charged to patrons for overdue items etc..
 - a. This, in principle goes against the ease of access to our libraries. I believe it will not help to promote, but instead it will most certainly discourage use.
 - b. It may place undue burden on those that can least afford such unexpected costs.
 - c. We must not penalize or impede the public but rather encourage and promote the use of the library.
 - d. Other misguided libraries may have already instituted policies of ever increasing fees possibly as auxiliary means to raise some funds. This is certainly not a service to the public. They are not examples to be followed; rather we should lead in this regard.
 - e. I believe that we can do many positive things in this area of promotion.
2. Reducing hours – once again this is degrading access, for example:
 - a. We should recognize that Sundays are leisure hours for most of the public and may be the only opportunity for families as a group to spend their time utilizing their TPL Community Libraries.
 - b. Sundays are also the only reasonable time available for students to utilize the TPL services for longer durations.
 - i. Sunday branch openings may be coordinated with TDSB schedules allowing closures during holidays (such as summers and Christmas etc.)

I hope my concerns and suggestions will be considered in this process. I cannot imagine that we have allowed our politicians to even entertain these destructive ideas. Fundamentally I have the following questions for all of us:

1. Why are we allowing ourselves to fall backwards?
2. Why are we allowing this to happen in the first place?

For now I can only hope that more people wake up and decide to voice their opposition to these cuts and choose to vote accordingly in the next elections. I know that I certainly will. I look forward to our next election as by that time I will be of eligible age to register and vote. I will do my best to prevent such incompetent leaders to hold public office or have the ability to exercise such overwhelming control to degrade my society.

Nancy Marshall - Re: Submission to the Toronto Public Library Board meeting for Monday, November 21, 2011

From: Murray Lumley <murraylumley@ca.inter.net>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: November 20, 2011 9:19 PM
Subject: Re: Submission to the Toronto Public Library Board meeting for Monday, November 21, 2011

8653
+7117

Submission to the Toronto Public Library Board meeting for Monday, November 21, 2011

This is the third submission I have made to the Toronto Public Library Board, previous ones being on September 13 and October 17, 2011. My submissions are part of the public record with respect to the Toronto Public Library and I speak again with the same voice – that there be no cuts of any kind to the Toronto Public Library.

I understand that the Toronto Public Library Board will be voting on whether to make cuts to library hours, collections or programs when it considers the 2012 operating budget on Monday, November 21, 2011.

I also understand that the Board has already approved a \$9.7M (5.7%) reduction. To reach the 10% cut asked by the Mayor, the Board will have to cut another \$7.3M, and cut 19,444 hours and 106,000 new books.

I am aware that the Library Budget Committee is recommending NOT to cut these hours or these collections and that this recommendation will be debated by the full Board on Monday, November 21, 2011.

As a Toronto resident whose family uses and greatly appreciates the Library services and who realizes the important services the Library provides to all Torontonians, from seniors to children, to new immigrants to homeless people, I support the Library Board's recommendation to NOT cut any hours or any collections.

My reasons for supporting the above recommendations have been stated in previous submissions but I have one further piece of research information to add to my reasons and it follows.

It is a recently released research report called COUNTDOWN TO ZERO: Balancing Toronto's Budget by Sheila Block, November 2011, research supported by the Wellesley Institute and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. <http://tinyurl.com/89h8ryq>

I have taken the liberty of copying the Executive Summary from Ms. Block's report below. It explains in some detail why there is no necessity to make the drastic cuts asked for by Mayor Ford and his administration. As I have said previously in my submissions, Mayor Ford is trying to 'create a crisis' based on ideology alone, that does not exist, in order to gut vital services such as the Public Library. I will let Ms. Sheila Block speak for me:

"The City of Toronto is not in a severe financial crisis and without options, as the rhetoric coming from the mayor's office would have us believe. Rather, city council has real choices before it. It can make choices that will support a city building budget: one that builds a more inclusive, more prosperous and healthier city for us all.

Each year, over the past five years, the City of Toronto has started its budget process with a budgetary shortfall of over half a billion dollars. And, in compliance with the law, every year the city brings the shortfall down to zero. It has done so without gutting city services or selling off valuable assets.

This year's budget cycle — that began with a budgetary shortfall of \$774 million — is no different. This initial shortfall is not a deficit, but simply represents the amount of ground that must be covered through the budgeting process to ensure the budget is balanced. In previous years, a combination of increased revenues, cost-cutting measures, transfers from other levels of government, and use of reserves have brought the budget shortfall down to zero.

What's different this year is that the actions of city council have worsened Toronto's fiscal challenges. Mayor Rob Ford's decisions to freeze property tax rates and cancel the Personal Vehicle Tax have cost the city \$132 million

in revenues and have contributed to the 2012 budget shortfall.

This report shows how, without relying on transfers from other levels of government, city councillors can bring the budget deficit down to zero. Doing the same kinds of things that city council has done in the past can balance the city budget, with no need for drastic measures.

Specifically:

- Measures already announced by the city (TTC fare increase and increases in revenues) will bring the deficit down by \$131 million;
- Reversing last year's ill-advised decision to freeze property taxes and increasing this year's property tax rate by 3 percent (a total increase of 6 percent, reflecting two years' worth of normal increases) would increase revenues by \$136 million;
- If the city matches the average amount it has saved over the last five years through cost cutting and efficiencies, costs will be reduced by \$98 million;
- Over the last five years, the surplus from the previous year has averaged \$181 million. Assuming this year is no different, that amount could be applied to this year's budget;
- Another \$188 million can be found by accessing the \$88 million from the 2010 surplus that was put into a tax stabilization fund and by readjusting the projected increase in costs of salaries and benefits to reflect a more likely increase of \$116 million (double last year's increase). The combination of these factors and actions will bring the budgetary shortfall for 2012 down to \$41 million, less than the cost to the city of the mayor's decision to cancel the Personal Vehicle Tax. In other words, the fiscal crisis the City of Toronto is facing is more manufactured than real. The only fiscal crisis facing the city this year is the modestly painful, and preventable, need to make up for the loss of revenue resulting from the mayor's decision to cancel an important source of city revenue."

Sincerely,
Murray D. Lumley
1854A Danforth Avenue
Toronto, ON
M4C 1J4
Tel. 416-423-5406