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To: Gillian Mason, Meyer Brownstone
From: Jane Pyper
Date: April 28, 2003
Subject: Response to Issues Raised at OLBA Council Meeting
cc: Josephine Bryant

I have reviewed the material supplied by Meyer concerning the OLBA Council meeting, and offer the following comments for the Board's consideration:

1. Provision of TPL Board Performance Measures and Board Composition Material

We are pleased to share information in connection with the Board's performance measures and composition with the OLBA Council. I understand all relevant reports have been forwarded electronically to the Council.

2. Block Membership and Advocacy

OLBA has been advised of our willingness to participate in the Block membership project as a pilot library. We will wait to hear from them when they are ready to begin the project.

In regard to advocacy relating to the upcoming municipal elections, the attached flyer was developed for the 2000 municipal election in response to Board direction at the October 2, 2000 meeting. This document was a modification of one developed by the Ontario Library Trustees Association (now the OLBA). A similar document could be prepared and shared with other Ontario public libraries. Specific to the Toronto Public Library, staff could prepare a fact sheet with information about the Library including the Library's use by the community for candidates in the upcoming election.

3. Assistance to Smaller Libraries

Outlined below are a number of initiatives TPL is involved in which provide assistance to smaller libraries:

- a. The Virtual Reference Library (VRL) was developed for use by all libraries in the province. The VRL Advisory Council has been established with representation from other Ontario public libraries. At present, approximately 65 libraries link to the VRL from their web sites.

- b. TPL's training scripts are made available to other public libraries via the Ontario Public Library Association's Internet listserv for training in other library settings.
- c. TPL's procedures and support materials relating to the Summer Reading Club, Leading to Reading, Kids @ Computers, and volunteer programs are made available to interested libraries. The Leading to Reading material was sent to over 90 Ontario public libraries.
- d. Staff from other libraries are often invited to participate in TPL training sessions. For example, library staff from other systems attended a recent session with an outside speaker organized by TPL on establishing homework programs for children and youth.
- e. TPL coordinates the provincial Summer Reading Club program.
- f. TPL provides expertise and advice to other libraries. For example, Adult Literacy Department staff conducted a collection development workshop at a recent literacy conference.

Providing TPL's discarded library materials to other Ontario public libraries is not recommended, as these materials have been withdrawn from our own collection because they are dated, damaged, and/or no longer in demand. For these reasons, they would not be useful in other collections. In addition, revenue from the sale of our withdrawn material is used to support important TPL programs. Currently, these funds support our Leading to Reading and English Can Be Fun children's programs.

4. 2004 OLA SuperConference

TPL staff are active members of the Ontario Library Association and are well represented in elected positions in addition to being speakers and participants in the OLA Superconference. In 2003, eight TPL staff were speakers at the conference and 110 staff attended the OLA SuperConference. We look forward to being active presenters and participants in the upcoming annual conference.

Please let me know if there is any other information that I can provide.