

February 3, 2010

Ms. Valerie McDonald

Dear Ms. McDonald:

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 27, 2010 regarding the Sick Kids Reading Room.

Toronto Public Library has been supporting library services at the Hospital for Sick Children for almost 60 years and since 1995, has worked in partnership with the hospital and the Toronto District School Board through the Reading Room. As you indicate and as we well know, these services provide important resources for hospital patients and their families.

In these challenging economic times, the City has requested that Toronto Public Library (like all other city services) reduce our operating budget. This is never easy and staff have attempted to pare costs without materially affecting service. In the case of the service provided at the Hospital for Sick Children, while we will be reducing our financial commitment, we will continue to support library service at the hospital. We are currently examining several options to do this, including training support for hospital volunteers (for which HSC is so well regarded), regularly scheduled library programs at the hospital provided by library staff, the provision of a deposit collection and continued financial support for the Reading Room collection. These approaches will be reviewed in the coming months with our partners so that we can continue to support library service at the hospital in a meaningful manner.

We appreciate your interest in library service at the Hospital for Sick Children. If you require any further information in this regard, please contact Anne Bailey, Director, Branch Libraries at abailey@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Yours truly,



Matthew Church
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board

c: Anne Bailey
Director, Branch Libraries

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