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Responses to Michael Foderick's December 18, 2014 Email Communication

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Anna Berger</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 2:57 PM

Thank you for your response,

However, as an information professional with a great deal of awareness regarding library budgets, re-allocation of resources as pertains to professional, paraprofessional, and non-professional staff in addition to changes in programming formats and budgets, hiring and retention practices, etc, I am also highly suspicious of any claims that the TPL is not in any way at risk by being asked to either continue operating with the very reduced budget it was forced into circa 2011 or to further reduce that budget while also expanding locations and hours. These expenses must be covered, and too often are being covered at the expense of trained professional staff with the knowledge and skills to maintain what is and has long been an astounding library services system. Our public libraries are about much more than materials; they are community sources of learning, entertainment, and innovation, as well as serving as a hub for many small business across the city.

The Toronto Public Library is an important resource to our extremely diverse communities city-wide, and deserves more attention. I and many of the library's many engaged users look forward to opportunities to engage with the City on this matter.

Best,
Anna Berger-Carey

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	rboeh
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 2:57 PM

Hi Nancy,
Do thank Michael Foderick for the information.

Merry Christmas

Richard Boehnke

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Jennifer Yang</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:10 PM

Hello,

Please forward me a copy of the proposed 2015 TPL budget, or forward me a link to it. I would also be interested in seeing the prior year's budget.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Jennifer L. Yang

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Zofia Kata</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:10 PM

CONGRATULATION !!!

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Kaitlin Perri</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:15 PM

Hello,

Thank you for forwarding this on to me. However, it is lacking critical information to make it a wholly transparent response.

Of course maintaining current library services means a small percentage increase: populations increase, inflation continues, In order to combat that inflation the board has decided to to reduce 40% of security guard budget which, in my opinion, is a DRAMATIC cut to the basic safety of libraries.

This dramatic cut greatly *affects the assurance of safety for all library patrons*. According to your own documents, "...On-site guard services would be discontinued at approximately half of the current 31 locations and backup for incidents at these branches would be provided by the one remaining mobile guard. In addition to the elimination of one mobile guard, there would also be reduced guard service at other locations."

How is removing all security from half of all TPL locations NOT a decrease in services?

I appreciate the very well crafted, very biased response. However, I would like to know how the board can issue this official statement, given the reality of the situation? And, again, how is removing all security from half of the TPL locations not a decrease in services?

Sincerely,
Kait Perri

Subject	Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>dmckee</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:20 PM

Thank you for the helpful information in your e-mail.

Would it be possible to get information on how budget and policy changes have affected staffing at local branches? Has the balance between part-time and full-time staff changed to any great degree?

Denis McKee

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>karen brandes</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:27 PM

Fantastic letter!!! Thank you so much. You have certainly put my mind at ease. There are so few educational avenues for kids, elderly, etc these days that cost no money and this is by far the best news I have had regarding this issue.

I plan to attend one of those meetings you mentioned and am sure I will hear about the time and venue as it draws nearer.

Again, thank you so much for taking the time and making the effort of inform us of your decisions and the upcoming events.

Sincerely,
Karen Brandes

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>GaziHabib Rahman</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:28 PM

Dear Michael Foderick
 Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

c: Mayor John Tory
 Councillor Paul Ainslie
 Councillor Ana Bailão
 Councillor Sarah Doucette
 Councillor Mary Fragedakis

Thank you very much all of you to build a better community in Toronto by Toronto Public Library. Library is our heart for education and resource and creative place of our new generation to build Canada best place in the world.

We also very much appreciated by heard new Library at Scarborough Civic Centre and increase time schedule.

I hope that all of you doing hard work to build the best City in the world.
 Happy Holiday and New Year 2015.
 Gazi Rahman

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Dennis Bartels</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:48 PM

All services provided by the Toronto Public Library before the Ford cuts must be restored.

D. Bartels

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>victoria lammers</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:50 PM

Dear Sir,

Thank you so much for responding to this query. I have been a TPLB user since 1951. It was a real thrill at 6 years of age to receive my first library card and to be entrusted with 3 books.

Our library system is so very important to so many. I am happy that it will be an ongoing part of our Toronto.

Most sincerely
Victoria E. Lammers

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Mandy Thomson</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:52 PM

To the Board Chair:

Congratulations on work well done. Yes, i do believe it is one of the most beloved institutions in the city.

This city is also a city whose citizens have become jaded, and have watched the erosion of so many services and pleasures by sometimes callous politicians and appointed people.

You hold a treasured public trust in your hands. Please do not disabuse this during your tenure.

Many thanks for your efforts,
Mandy Thomson

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Sharon Mugford</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:58 PM

Thank you.

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Lilian and Joseph</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:05 PM

Dear Michael

There is clearly a difference of opinion between the City Librarian and the Acting City Librarian. As you say in your letter, "Toronto's public library system is perhaps the most beloved public institution in the city. " I agree wholeheartedly with this statement. A Library is a hub in a community and offers so much to all of us.

I am concerned that, I quote "After years of suffering the corrosive effects of inflation, Library service has already been cut to the bone. This plan brings new risks that are far too steep." We have inherited our schools, hospitals and libraries from previous generations and it is our duty to protect them, develop them and allow them to serve Toronto residents with security and with confidence.

Sincerely, Lilian Grebenc

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Bernadette Millette</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:18 PM

Thank you for your response. It is always good to hear both sides of the issue.

Bernadette

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Claire Law</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:22 PM

Thanks for the info.

Claire law

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Tony Hamill</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:32 PM

Thanks for this additional information on this important topic. I will certainly be at one of the public consultations.

Sincerely
Tony Hamill.

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Anne Parsonage</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:36 PM

i believe i checked the box that i do not want to be kept in the loop of this ... please remove me from your "keep informed" list, thank you
Anne Parsonage

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Tamara Bernstein</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Cc	Councillor Doucette
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:46 PM

Thanks very much for this information! It is very helpful.

Tamara Bernstein

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Ms gertrude macgregor</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:51 PM

Thank you for this information. I appreciate your candor and will do my best to show up at an event near me.

Sincerely,
Marianne Bindig

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>michael kaler</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 4:57 PM

Dear Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board,
Thanks for your message! I am glad to hear that messages such as the one I sent have convinced you to hold public consultations. I appreciate your willingness to change your plans when you became aware that people were taking note of your actions.

I am also glad to hear from you that you resisted the pressure from Mayor Ford's administration to cut library hours.

I am glad that the collections budget is going up in raw dollar amounts; thank you for providing the figures, which show that it has increased at less than the rate of inflation under Mayor Ford's administration, thus effectively decreasing in terms of buying power. Perhaps you could make a note of that in future mailings of emails such as this one? Otherwise people might think that you were trying to conceal important information about the library's real state of funding.

I share your pleasure in the news that two new branches are open or are opening soon; however, I don't understand how they can be run with the 0% increase in funding that you propose, unless money is taken from elsewhere in the system. Perhaps this could be clarified in future mailings as well?

Thanks again,
Dr. Michael Kaler

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Maggie Hayes</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 5:05 PM

Thank you for the clarification. The TPL was overwhelmingly important to me as a child growing up in Toronto in the Fifties. I want the best it can give to children today.

Maggie

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>mimi mimi</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 5:10 PM

Thank you; Please keep me updated on any public consultation meetings.

Mimi Shulman

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>James McKernan</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 5:34 PM

Dear Nancy

Thank you for the clear, well written and thoughtful response.
I will inquire at the source (of the other information) why there is such a discrepancy between the two sources of information on this topic.

I have hopes this type of clarity is typical for the new City Hall under Mayor Tory.

Kind Regards
James McKernan

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Sally Jaeger</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 5:39 PM

Thank you for sending this information!

Sally Jaeger

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Nina Pena</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 5:48 PM

Thanks for your response. Can you also please note that security staff are also important in a public space, such as, a library? Though the TPL Chair noted some locations do not have a lot of incidents documented - isn't that an indication that their presence in a branch is helping to diffuse troublesome incidents from occurring in the first place ---which is harder to document but a rational person should take into account? Please keep our beloved library space by ensuring to provide assistance in keeping it safe. Library staff should not have to also put themselves in harm's way when dealing with troublesome incidents. They also need the support of trained security staff that are well versed in dealing with potential violent incidents.

Also - the 2 percent increase should be considered seriously and I thank you for putting it to the public. We need to invest in our city services like the library that serves to assist all our citizens - taxpayers - regardless of their background and political leanings.

Thank you,
Nina

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Dinah Tremain</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 6:05 PM

Thank you very much for the email. It is very clear, concise, informative and helpful.
Diana Tremain

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Garnet Ward</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 6:12 PM

Thank you for forwarding the message from M. Foderick.

It does appear we were a little hasty. I'm embarrassed to admit I jumped on the bandwagon without checking the facts. I'll be more cautious in future.

G. Ward

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Diana Buck</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 6:54 PM

I have a message for the 'policy makers' in our city government.

Every morning I get up and look across the street at my library. Every day I see people, homeless or jobless, standing outside the door in all weathers, waiting for the library to open. If they are homeless they have been either in a shelter that puts them out at 7am or a sleeping bag.....somewhere. When the library opens then that is where they will get warm, spend their day and use a washroom til the shelters or their cardboard boxes take them back in at night. For the jobless and for the youth after school, it may be their only access to the internet, and if they are immigrants, contact by email or skype to their families back home.

I am a senior on a strict pension with physical disabilities and when I look through my window and see that open (still) library I know that , books and dvd's are just a few minutes away. Books and dvd's that I can't afford and don't want to buy.

What would you do if you were poor, old, homeless, jobless or an immigrant? How do you think you would do if the only time you had access to water, toilets and warmth was the Public Library? Doubt you would survive. Your comfortable and spoilt. You think it can't happen to you. But it could.

The only thing I ever learned in school that I needed was how to read. All the world opened to me like Aladdin's cave. I have been everywhere in the world. I know something of almost all countries down through history. I read good books, bad books and books I didn't understand.....but I read. And as long as the library opens its doors, I will as long as possible, go through them into the world of wonder.

Diana Buck
Reader of books

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Margaret Murray</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 7:02 PM

Sorry

I am unable to attend any meetings and contribute. I am quite disable but I do support you in all your efforts.

Margaret Murray

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>dilin</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 7:52 PM

I hope this is true.

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>michèle brennan</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 8:45 PM

Thank you

Michèle Brennan

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>barbara</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 9:18 PM

Thank goodness you are doing public consultation. It is about time.

thanks
barbara

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	keith weaver
To	Nancy Marshall
Cc	mayor_tory@toronto.ca; councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca; councillor_bailao@toronto.ca; councillor_doucette@toronto.ca; Councillor Fragedakis
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 10:17 PM

Thank you for the information sent on behalf of Michael Foderick.

In my comment, I tried to avoid blanket statements condemning the library board, and instead crafted my own text. This text focussed on the attacks (and they were indeed characterized as such by many people) mounted against the Toronto Public Library by Rob and Doug Ford. These attacks were stunning in the depth of ignorance they revealed, and dumbfounding in the way they appeared to make the implicit assumption that any public dollar spent was fair game regardless of the return it generated.

Evidently, my statement was not clear enough, and for this I can only offer my apologies.

But I am not apologetic in stating my current and ongoing concern that the knee-jerk budget cutting response remains alive and well even though the Ford hammerlock on the city's budget is no longer in place. I recall the report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives which described the steady erosion, in relative terms, in library resources and services over 20 years. I recall the report by the Martin Prosperity Institute last year. These two reports, as I read them, said, respectively, that the Toronto Public Library was being slowly starved of the funds needed to do its job, and that the money spent on the public library pays a disproportionate and positive dividend. Your response to my comment seems to me to be saying quite the opposite: that what I have heard and read is incorrect, that the library budget is fine, that fears about the health of the library are premature. I would like to believe that. Yet, when I look on the library's web site, I can find no statement on this funding question, no summary of the library's level of funding over time, and in fact nothing to back up your statement that appears to be saying that everything is alright. Let me add that what I am looking for might well be there, and that I have just not found it. But I would expect any such posting to be quite prominent given the levels of public concern that have been voiced.

If there is such material on the library's web site, please direct me to it. If it is not there, please tell me where else I might find a reliable and even-handed statement on these matters.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Weaver

cc: Mayor John Tory
 Councillor Paul Ainslie
 Councillor Ana Bailão
 Councillor Sarah Doucette
 Councillor Mary Fragedakis

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Ronnie Seagren</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 10:25 PM

Thanks for your informative letter. I would be delighted to attend, as long as it's not on a Thursday. I am personally a very strong user of the library collection - books, audiobooks, and some ebooks. Our families need the services that our libraries provide.

Ronnie Seagren

To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 10:38 PM

Dear Mr. Foderick,

Thank you very much for your lengthy explanation of the Board's budget and planning for 2015. The TPL system is an absolutely wonderful treasure and I am very pleased that this Board is proactive and intent on keeping services and collections intact and increasing. Keep up the good work.

Julie Drexler

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Arthur Zimmerman</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 11:23 PM

Dear Ms. Marshall:

Surely you don't believe the crap being shovelled by "Fearless" Foderick! Typical weenie Conservative, serving out numbers that really don't mean much, just the way that Flora McDonald used to do to evade the points of ministerial criticism. For one example, my local branch on Dufferin near St. Clair has had to cut back its hours in the last couple of years, there are lots of useless volunteers on staff and a couple of the public computers have been taken out of service. The librarians are not at all happy having to do their jobs with reduced support and interest by the city.

Dr. Arthur E. Zimmerman

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>J GOUSE-SHEESE</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Thursday, December 18, 2014 11:36 PM

Thank you for your response to my previous email. While it is heartening to hear that the library board is committed to 'improve and protect' the Toronto Public Libraries, I find your assertion that you have an 'excellent record... in improving services' disingenuous. The only reason the library system has not been decimated over the last few years is because library patrons were engaged, united and vocal in their defense of an essential city service. Perhaps your board, in turn, might engage in some courageous advocacy at city council to avoid budget targets of zero per cent in future. A two per cent increase is not merely inadequate for 'the largest public library system in the world', it is a bad joke. With an ever increasing population in the city, the ability to 'maintain existing services and service levels' is, in truth, a cut in services and service levels.

Further, if I understand this message correctly, the two per cent increase is merely a recommendation that would allow 'progress on...strategic priorities including opening the new Scarborough Civic Centre library'. Does this mean that without the two per cent increase the Scarborough Civic Centre library would NOT be able to open? Sounds like another bad joke to me. What kind of an organization spends money to prepare a facility that it potentially cannot use because there is no guaranteed operating budget?

Finally, I very much resent the condescending tone of this email and the implication that those of us who wrote to object to a zero increase budget were ill informed. If you are genuinely interested in improving the library system, you would be well advised to take advantage of the power and passion of community advocates rather than offending them.

Janice Gouse-Sheese

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Susan Wayne</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 3:56 AM

Dear Mr. Michael Foderick,

Thank you for your reply via Ms Nancy Marshall. I completely agree with you about the importance of accurate and current information being shared prior to important decisions being made. So, I am pleased to hear there will be an opportunity to participate in four consultative and information sharing meeting in February.

I am unaware that there was such a plan in place to provide such a series of meetings for the community prior to the recent engagement of community members that resulted in the letters and comments you and the Board received. I agree with and commend your analysis about the commitment and regard the library enjoys in Toronto.

Sincerely,
Susan Wayne

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Edward Berger</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 8:44 AM

Thank you for that informative response.

Ed Berger

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Jim Meeks</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 9:41 AM

Could you provide me with the full quote from Anne Bailey?

“[It] would maintain existing services and service levels ... and make progress on a number of important strategic priorities, including opening the new Scarborough Civic Centre library”.

Best Regards,
Jim Meeks

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Dwight Chizen</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 10:50 AM

Dear Nancy,

Thank you for sending this letter from the Library Board.

While it is comforting to know that the Library funding will increase by 2%, less than the rate of inflation, this is still a reduction in funding overall. I believe that the cuts over the past four years under the uncaring regime of Rob Ford should never have occurred and that City Council should be asked to make up the difference in funding over the next four years, so that even better services with greater resources can be provided to the citizens of Toronto, especially the young and the elderly.

With the unprecedented growth in the population of Toronto, there needs to be matching growth in City resources to serve the population. If we had a physical presence with its well used yearly budget before this growth, we should expect an increase in budget for the Library system, not reductions followed by just holding the reduced line as City Hall proposes.

Sincerely,
Dwight Chizen,

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Peter Gorman</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 11:13 AM

Thanks for the response. Please note:

Mr. Foderick is quick to take credit for proposing a budget increase for our public library in 2015. What he has failed to mention is that the Board's proposal is 20% less than what the Acting Librarian, Anne Bailey, recommended to "maintain existing services and service levels." 1 This lesser amount was opposed by almost half the board (6-5).

Existing services will be maintained under Mr. Foderick's proposal only if security is gutted, an ill-advised measure in today's day and age, and a "rainy day" fund is drained, leaving our public library vulnerable should anything unexpected occur during the year. It's important to note that City Council has been starving our public library. Over the past four years, the TPL's cumulative budget has risen less than 1%, an amount that is 86% below the rate of inflation 2. In other words, inflation has been allowed to corrode the purchasing power of our public library.

In fact, today the TPL has less purchasing power to buy materials for the collection than it did in 2010. This means fewer books are available to TPL users and the TPL's important role as a curator of knowledge has been diminished.

In fifteen years our public library still has not recovered the loss of open hours cut as a result of amalgamation. Only outrage expressed by Torontonians protected open hours when Mayor Ford's administration proposed cuts. You might recall Councillor Doug Ford's remark that "I have more libraries in my area than I have Tim Hortons".

Concerning the opening of two new branches, Mr. Foderick is taking credit for decisions made long before his membership on the Library Board. But he fails to mention that the current Library Board presided over the closure of the Urban Affairs branch of the TPL during its term. A report 3 from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides additional context for the financial crisis our public library faces. For example, the study found that since 1992, the cumulative operating provincial and municipal cuts to the city's library budget totals \$800 million (2002 dollars). The cuts mean a lot fewer staff: since 1992, Toronto has lost 532 library staff. Staffing levels are nearly 25% below what they were 20 years ago. Cumulative cuts to the acquisitions budget since 1992 have resulted in \$51.6 million in materials being removed the shelves, despite growing demand.

Mr. Foderick is right about one thing. The quality and integrity of public debate depends on honesty and transparency. This debate should be about re-investing so that our public library remains a vital force of good in our city.

1<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/content/about-the-library/pdfs/board/meetings/2014/nov17/09b.pdf>

2<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/content/about-the-library/pdfs/board/meetings/2014/nov17/09b.pdf>

3https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Ontario%20Office/2012/11/Great_Equalizer_0.pdf

Regards,
Peter

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Joanne McBay</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 11:26 AM

Dear Mr. Foderick,

In regards to the information about the operating budget: I am inclined to believe the hard-working staff of the library long before those city councillors who have been so blatantly patronizing to the voting public they represent. Please have more respect for our intelligence.

Thank you,
Joanne McBay

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Diana Fancher</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 11:50 AM

Not an accurate picture by any means. I have very little respect for people who try to disguise cuts in this manner. Mr. Foderick should hand over the chair to someone who represents the opinions of the electorate.

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Paul Clifford</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 11:58 AM

Thank you for answering my letter. I appreciate the efforts you and your colleagues are making. But I wish you will do more as I worry about the future of the library system.

Sincerely
Paul Clifford.

Subject	Fwd: Responding to the chair of the Library Board
From	<u>Brian Denike</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Cc	action@ourpubliclibrary.to
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 1:15 PM

Mr Foderick;

I received your email in response to the upcoming Toronto Public Library proposed budget and opposition to same by Maureen O'Reilly of OurPublicLibrary.to.

I wish to place on record my support for Ms O'Reilly (see attached) and my opposition to your stated position.

I believe Ms O'Reilly makes a very valid argument that you have, in fact, not presented all the points to be considered. In fact, it appears your position is one of acquiescence to a proposed budget cut for the library, rather than opposition to further staff and budget cuts as well as being

a champion for the general public's concerns, which one would expect to be your job as Board Chair.

In the interests of honesty and transparency, please respond to the issues raised by OuPublicLibrary.to rather than spinning the facts for your own personal gratification and credit.
Brian Denike

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Maureen O'Reilly [OurPublicLibrary.to] <action@ourpubliclibrary.to>

Date: Friday, December 19, 2014

Subject: Responding to the chair of the Library Board

To: emerbri@gmail.com



Dear Brian,

You may have received a letter from Mr. Foderick, chair of the Library Board.

I value your commitment to all of the wonderful things our public library does and stands for. Were it not for people like you, our public library would have suffered even deeper cuts than those experienced during the past four years of the Ford administration.

That's why you deserve the all the facts and context on the issues Mr. Foderick has raised. I believe this will make for the kind of discussion we need to ensure City Council values our public library as we do.

- Mr. Foderick is quick to take credit for proposing a budget increase for our public library in 2015. What he has failed to mention is that the Board's proposal is 20% less than what the Acting Librarian, Anne Bailey, recommended to "maintain existing services and service levels."¹ This lesser amount was opposed by almost half the board (6-5).
- Existing services will be maintained under Mr. Foderick's proposal only if security is gutted, an ill-advised measure in today's day and age, and a "rainy day" fund is drained, leaving our public library vulnerable should anything unexpected occur during the year.

It's important to note that City Council has been starving our public library. Over the past four years, the TPL's cumulative budget has risen less than 1%, an amount that is 86% below the rate of inflation². In other words, inflation has been allowed to corrode the purchasing power of our public library.

In fact, today the TPL has less purchasing power to buy materials for the collection than it did in 2010. This means fewer books are available to TPL users and the TPL's important role as a curator of knowledge has been diminished.

In fifteen years our public library still has not recovered the loss of open hours cut as a result of amalgamation. Only outrage expressed by Torontonians protected open hours

when Mayor Ford's administration proposed cuts. You might recall Councillor Doug Ford's remark that "I have more libraries in my area than I have Tim Hortons". Concerning the opening of two new branches, Mr. Foderick is taking credit for decisions made long before his membership on the Library Board. But he fails to mention that the current Library Board presided over the closure of the Urban Affairs branch of the TPL during its term.

A report ³ from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides additional context for the financial crisis our public library faces. For example, the study found that since 1992, the cumulative operating provincial and municipal cuts to the city's library budget totals \$800 million (2002 dollars). The cuts mean a lot fewer staff: since 1992, Toronto has lost 532 library staff. Staffing levels are nearly 25% below what they were 20 years ago. Cumulative cuts to the acquisitions budget since 1992 have resulted in \$51.6 million in materials being removed the shelves, despite growing demand.

Mr. Foderick is right about one thing. The quality and integrity of public debate depends on honesty and transparency. This debate should be about re-investing so that our public library remains a vital force of good in our city.

After receiving more than 3,500 messages from concerned citizens, I am pleased the library board decided to consult the public about the TPL's budget. As we learn more details about the consultation, I will share them with you.

In the meantime, thank you for all you do to support our public library!

Yours sincerely,



Maureen O'Reilly

Maureen O'Reilly
OurPublicLibrary.to

Copies:

Mayor John Tory
Councillor Paul Ainslie
Councillor Anna Bailão
Councillor Sarah Doucette
Councillor Mary Fragedakis

¹<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/content/about-the-library/pdfs/board/meetings/2014/nov17/o9b.pdf>

²<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/content/about-the-library/pdfs/board/meetings/2014/nov17/o9b.pdf>

³https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Ontario%20Office/2012/11/Great_Equalizer_o.pdf

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Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Sondra Bolton</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 2:24 PM

Dear Mr. Foderick,

In an email from Maureen O'Reilly, I learned today that the Board's proposed increase is 20% less than that recommended by Acting Librarian Anne Bailey merely to maintain the existing level of services, and that security will have to be gutted to keep things going at the present level. Everyone knows the library system is in big trouble and has been for some time. Those of us who love and value our library system—and we are many—await some real action from your Board. Propaganda is no substitute.

Sincerely yours,
Sondra Bolton

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	bradford.jb
To	Nancy Marshall
Cc	Jane Will
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 2:56 PM

Dear Ms. Marshall,

Why would you pick a fight over security in our Libraries? This makes no sens. Do you still believe that there are more Libraries than tim horton's? Please leave our library budget intact.

thank you,

John

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Allan Baker</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Cc	Councillor Ainslie
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 3:54 PM

Thank you for your response.

I am pleased that the Library Board has decided to hold public “consultations” on the proposed budget.

It was a surprise for me to read that our Library, in a growing city, has only opened two new branches over the past ten years. This must mean that there are under-serviced parts of the city, no?

Yes, I am aware that there were requests to decrease the hours for library branches over the past four years, and I am also aware that it was the citizens of Toronto who objected to these proposals. We do have a PUBLIC library system to be proud of.

Once again, thank you for your response to my letter.

Allan Baker

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>RGiroux</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 4:29 PM

Please do not lie, "message" or try to manipulate, Fordster!

Please FUCK OFF!!!

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	Irina Dumitrache
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 5:09 PM

Thank you very much for your reply and for shedding some light on the issue. Thank you for all the good work and improvements done to our library system and I like how you called it "perhaps the most beloved public institution in the city" - I agree with that.

Thanks again, and happy holidays!

Irina Dumitrache

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	Ines
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Friday, December 19, 2014 3:47 PM

Dear Michael Foderick, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board,

Thank you for taking the opportunity to inform me about the operating budget and how it has been used these past four years in services to our library system. My difficulty is understanding this information compared to the amount of monies that have been cut from the budgets these past 4 years.

In appreciation,
Ines Verdone

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Jan McQuay</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Saturday, December 20, 2014 10:30 PM

Dear Mr. Foderick, Considering that the City of Toronto's population is booming, and that this budget comes after a string of cutbacks in public funding, I am not impressed by a 2% increase in the 2015 library budget. Toronto's public services are not keeping up.

Jan McQuay

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Jill Slack</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Sunday, December 21, 2014 11:38 AM

Dear Nancy:

The information you have e-mailed to me regarding budget increases is a sham - if you continue to send me misinformation - I will report you as spam- your message is unsolicited.

Please take me off your mailing list now!

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Elaine Givertz</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Sunday, December 21, 2014 11:38 AM

Thanks for this information.

I am a committed user of TPL services. Mostly ebooks downloaded to my iPad. As a senior I am grateful for this service.

Elaine Givertz

Subject	FW: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>P GARBEL</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Monday, December 22, 2014 12:15 AM
Attachments	<<Response from TPLB Chair re TPL 2015 Budget.pdf>>

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope that this library board cares a little bit more then the last library board did. And also I hope that this board puts more in the budget instead of less in the budget. And also I would like to see a survey from this library board as well. And also explain to all the citizens of this city. What will be happening with this library board as well. I support the library. I do not support any changes or cuts to the library.

Christine Garbel

Subject	Re: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Dorothy Sittler</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Monday, January 05, 2015 9:00 AM

WONDERFUL. I am glad to have this new Mayor on board.

May GOD bless you as you walk through this.

Dorothy

Subject	RE: Response from TPLB Chair re Toronto Public Library 2015 Budget
From	<u>Sarah Bleiwas</u>
To	Nancy Marshall
Sent	Monday, January 05, 2015 9:35 PM

Thank you for this email and information.