

f.

A redacted signature, consisting of three horizontal black bars of varying lengths.

December 3, 2011

Nancy Marshall
Secretary, Toronto Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto On M4W 2G8

This is in response to the assault by budget chief Mike Del Grande on the operation and content of Toronto's public libraries.

It is difficult to write, because the responses are so obvious that they shouldn't be necessary. Libraries and all that they offer and shelter and preserve are a part of our collective intelligence and our freedoms. The attitudes expressed by Del Grande and the damage proposed by his ilk are frightening.

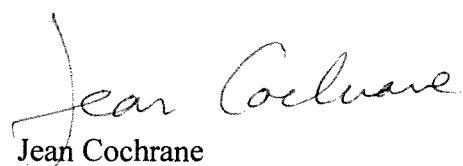
Of course books in traditional and electronic form should be the library's core. They offer knowledge as information and as wisdom. They offer entertainment, enlightenment, scholarship, consolation, friendship and joy.

Of course books and written materials should be provided in more than one language, for pleasure, for information, comfort, for research and for the value that comes with reading a book in the language in which it was written. In our immigrant society they may be the lure that brings people into the library and from there into the wider community.

For of course libraries should be community centres, as they have been for decades. Children listening to someone read a story may discover a wider world, may find the world of art and reading opening to them. Adults share issues, share enthusiasms, meet the people who write and think, and share ideas. Newcomers get help learning the new language and puzzling new ways. The lonely may even find ease.

On and on. Of course movies matter. And of course access to computers matters.

It all seems so obvious, and so valuable and, just now, so vulnerable.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean Cochrane".

Jean Cochrane

Nancy Marshall - Cultural illiteracy and the TPL: first Margaret Atwood, now DVDs

From: Michael Black <michaelblack@sympatico.ca>
To: <citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mchan.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_crawford@toronto.ca>, <councillor_parker@toronto.ca>, Wong-Tam Kristyn <councillor_wongtam@toronto.ca>, <councillor_milczyn@toronto.ca>, <councillor_kelly@toronto.ca>, <councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_carroll@toronto.ca>, <councillor_minnan-wong@toronto.ca>, <councillor_debaeremaeker@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, <councillor_grimes@toronto.ca>, Athanasiu Andrew <aathana@toronto.ca>, <councillor_perks@toronto.ca>, <councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca>, <councillor_thompson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor_perruzza@toronto.ca>, Councillor Berardinetti <councillor_berardinetti@toronto.ca>, <councillor_bailao@toronto.ca>, <councillor_augimeri@toronto.ca>, <councillor_fletcher@toronto.ca>, <councillor_moeser@toronto.ca>, <councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca>, Mihevc Joe <councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca>, <councillor_paternak@toronto.ca>, <councillor_lindsay_luby@toronto.ca>, Councillor Robinson <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_filion@toronto.ca>, <councillor_lee@toronto.ca>, <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>, <councillor_stintz@toronto.ca>, <councillor_colle@toronto.ca>, <councillor_cho@toronto.ca>, <councillor_shiner@toronto.ca>, Matlow Josh <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_dford@toronto.ca>, <councillor_digiorgio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <councillor_mammoliti@toronto.ca>, <councillor_holyday@toronto.ca>, Mayor Ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>, <councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca>
Date: December 7, 2011 9:30 AM
Subject: Cultural illiteracy and the TPL: first Margaret Atwood, now DVDs
CC: <oped@thestar.ca>, <city@thestar.ca>, <facts@globeandmail.com>, Anne Marie Aikins <aaikins@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <media@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <jpyper@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <dcharlton@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <cauyeung@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, Margaret Henry <mhenry@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <scaron@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <jgaisford@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, Joan Links <joan.links@utoronto.ca>, <ltao@toronto.ca>, <eglass@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <kpalmer@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <info@local4948.org>

Municipal budget-cutters have attempted to justify down-sizing the Toronto Public Library on the grounds of the decreasing importance of printed books, especially amongst the younger population demographic. With the TPL having successfully branched out into 'new media' such as DVD, one would assume that library management ought to be congratulated. Instead, Councillor Mike Del Grande is critical of movie "freebies" and suggests that it is high time for taxpayers to start paying money to borrow DVDs -- either a "nominal fee" of \$2 to the TPL, or market rates to privately operated video services (to which Del Grande would like to give a monopoly for the lending of mainstream Hollywood DVDs).

There is no intrinsic reason why the lending of movies should take place within the private sphere. Public libraries got into the video business first. I have been borrowing films from local libraries

for forty years. I well remember the days when movies were only available reel-to-reel, and neighbourhood video stores did not exist.

I believe that a certain confusion exists in Council between the functions of three types of lending services.

1. Historically, 'subscription libraries' were the norm. They charged members either per annum or per loan. A few still exist. For example, I've used The London Library, where membership doesn't come cheap: Cdn. \$685 yearly.
2. The establishment of free status public libraries in 1882 was hailed as a great achievement, insofar as it opened up significant cultural resources gratis to the lower classes. So important is this principle that the Ontario government prohibits public libraries from charging patrons for basic loans.
3. Loan charges do lie at the heart of fast disappearing video rental stores, which in essence are privately run, for-profit libraries.

I consider the TPL's proposed charge for DVD loans an ill-considered abomination. Late return charges are of a different order, as they are avoidable and should be deemed a penalty. However, toonie DVDs may be seen unequivocally as a revival of user fees, which defeat the whole concept of a free public library. They will not only take us back to the bad old days of subscription libraries, but forward to the failed business model of bankrupt chains such as Blockbuster. We may find ourselves on a slippery slope that ends in \$685 membership dues.

Sharp differences exist between the lending practices of public and private entities; likewise their respective collecting mandates do not display across-the-board duplication. Thanks to the interlibrary loan system, Toronto Public Library users can place holds on tens of thousands of titles. In the documentary, art and foreign language film categories, neither video stores nor online streaming nor DVD-by-mail services cannot compete against the TPL's wide range of choice.

Few commentators mention a rental store niche that most libraries steer a mile clear of: pornographic videos. One of the reasons behind the mushrooming of the popularity of the VCR in the 1980's was that it made porn flicks readily accessible. Many old-timers have a difficult time disassociating video from porn, and this ambiguity may unjustly discolour their opinions on the legitimacy of audiovisual material in libraries.

The mission of a public library extends far beyond education. (We have schools for that.) In the straight-laced year of 1909, the TPL's chairman commented on the library's future as "**a source . . . of innocent pleasure and of inspiration to unnumbered generations of our fellow citizens.**" DVDs that are classed as "recreational" rather than "art" clearly serve a purpose in the TPL scheme of things that was set a century ago. Some Torontonians who might not otherwise go to the library regularly will make the trip to borrow popular videos. Admittedly, they won't be vastly edified by the likes of "Gilligan's Island". But once they are inside the library, they will be tempted to borrow more serious items, including books. Just as retailers don't make a direct profit from loss-leader merchandise, so we should think of "Gilligan's Island" as a sort of intellectual loss-leader. Its real purpose is to get potential patrons in the door. The TPL spends about \$885,000 of its \$17 million acquisitions budget on popular DVDs, which in turn account for almost a tenth of all of all circulated materials. To put it another way, the initial 5.2% commitment to blockbuster DVDs is resulting in about 9.5% of all loans. That's called getting bang for your buck.

Attempting to differentiate between highbrow and lowbrow movies has other pitfalls. Councillor Del

Grande is trying to impose on the TPL his own standards of taste. Movies which currently might be considered too vulgar to fall within the purview of library collecting, may be re-appraised by critics. For instance, many pulp pot-boilers that used to attract the contempt of snobs are presently revered as great examples of film noir.

B-movies are the subject of serious critical attention, as are glitzier motion pictures by Hollywood top-grossers such as Steven Spielberg. In books on the history of cinema, art theatre retrospectives and university film studies courses, little effort is made to exclude Hollywood studio flicks from more rarefied indie productions. The film collection shelves at U. of T. and York University are full of mainstream movies, which students can freely borrow. Is Councillor Del Grande privy to certain niceties of library stewardship that trained film librarians are in the dark about? He certainly doesn't believe in one-stop shopping. For instance, TPL patrons may soon be scratching their heads over the likes of "2001: A Space Odyssey". It's a key film by a key director, so perhaps patrons should go to their library to borrow it. Or perhaps not. If Kubrick's "2001" is condemned as a Hollywood blockbuster, it may be necessary to pay money to rent it at the local video store. In the worst case scenario, titles may fall through the cracks: too popular for the TPL, but not popular enough to justify stocking at a commercial video business.

Toronto is known for our support of cinema. We are one of North America's leading producers of movies and television, an economic sector that injects \$1.1 billion into the city every year. We host one of the world's great international film festivals. Our city has spent tens of millions building the Bell Lightbox, a state-of-the-art showcase for film that attracts serious movie lovers from around the globe. Why shouldn't our public library system continue to provide the same sort of fare for residents to take to their homes? Stocking Toronto's public library shelves with DVDs is an investment in the Toronto's cinematic infrastructure at the local level. And it costs a fraction of what the film industry contributes to this city.

We should no longer view literacy as relevant just to the written word. In the contemporary world of YouTube, literacy also applies to the moving image. DVDs, with their commentary tracks and supplements, improve cinematic literacy. Unlike the theatre experience, DVDs enable serious viewers to dissect film using freeze-frame, zoom, fast-forward and backtrack capabilities. Clearly, the TPL's audiovisual collection enables local cinefiles to sharpen their critical skills throughout the year, thereby developing into more discerning hosts at festival time in September.

The library board is considering an emphasis on English-language, Canadian content in its DVD collecting. This makes about as much sense as TIFF restricting film exhibition to local productions in English. We cannot cater to the demands of xenophobic boors who flounder hopelessly when confronted with subtitled foreign films. Furthermore, the TPL's book collection is subject to no such differentiation. We aren't going to start burning library copies of plays by that crowd-pleaser, Moliere, simply because he was a foreigner who chose to write in French, one of this country's official languages that Councillor Del Grande disdains. Nor should we be trashing Truffaut or Fellini or Kurosawa movies for similar specious reasons.

The representation of Hindi films in the library's collection has been the target of criticism. Annual Bollywood movie production is approximately twice that of Hollywood, and enjoys popularity outside of India in many Asian and African third world countries. The library's DVD shelves accurately reflect this popularity. Toronto is known for its multiculturalism. Half of the city's population was born outside of the country, and 31% speak a language other than English or French at home. Implementing unreasonable English-language content standards demonstrates an insensitivity to the ethnic preferences of the library's tax-paying patrons.

The film collecting policies of the Toronto Public Library display true business savvy, employing standard techniques such as emphasis on new media, one-stop 'shopping', loss-leaders, long-term infrastructure investment, wide selection and responsiveness to the taste of customers. None of this seems to matter to Councillor Del Grande, as he seems to have an ulterior motive for seeking a \$2 DVD user fee. If it is approved, borrowing will plummet and the TPL will surely lose its position as the continent's most heavily used library system. Declining patronage will then be seized on as an excuse to close branches, the avoidance of which was the ostensible purpose of user fees in the first place.

Yours truly,

Michael Black

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Nancy Marshall - Say No to a Two-Tier Toronto Library

From: Mary Kainer <marykainer@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 7, 2011 10:53 AM
Subject: Say No to a Two-Tier Toronto Library

Dear Chair and Members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

It was with sadness that I read that the Toronto Public Library System is considering charging for the use of some materials.

While the library system serves us all, it is of greatest benefit to those in our communities with the most limited resources. If necessary, the well-to-do can afford to buy books, rent movies, subscribe to magazines and newspaper, buy a computer, pay for internet hookup. Many, many in this city are not so fortunate.

It is the public library that makes it possible for the less fortunate to check their internet, read a book, read the newspaper, check out their favorite magazine and share movie time with their family.

A toonie may not seem much to board members or councilors who earn wages above the average. But all too many in this city already have to line up at a food bank. None of them have the means to pay a toonie to take out a movie.

Our public services should be accessible to all the public, not just those with means. Canadians don't want two-tier medicine and we don't want two-tier access to public services either. Let us say no to making Toronto a two-tier city.

--
Mary Kainer
219 St. Clarens Avenue
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www.artist-marykainer.ca

Nancy Marshall - FW: Toronto Public Library: adult literacy program

From: Kath Boyle Hatcher [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 8, 2011 5:38 PM
Subject: FW: Toronto Public Library: adult literacy program

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: councillor_lindsay_luby@toronto.ca
Subject: Toronto Public Library: adult literacy program
Date: Thu, 8 Dec 2011 16:38:10 -0500

Good day, Councillor!

I know there is much consideration about where to save money and work toward a balanced budget in the city. I have heard that at the next Library Board meeting, to be held this Monday, one of the services up for closure is adult literacy. I feel very strongly that the Library provides an important service in this regard, and I hope you will be there to vote against this measure if it comes to council for approval.

The library offers a program whereby trained volunteer tutors, supported by a small number of dedicated adult literacy professionals, help someone begin to learn to read and write.

There are very, very few places an adult who might only be able to write their name can make a start at learning to read and write. This population is often marginalized and without a voice. The adult literacy learner is at a huge disadvantage when coping with an "information" society. School reports, health information, job applications and the internet are things which are difficult or impossible to manage.

Yes, there are literacy programs within the school board, but the Library program services those people whose literacy skills are at such a beginning level that they need one-to-one tutoring in order to make sense of print and move toward inclusion in a classroom. The benefit of improved adult literacy is reflected in increased social engagement, improved participation with their children's education and more opportunities to enter the workforce and contribute as taxpayers.

I believe the adult literacy program which the Toronto Public Library delivers is important to our city. I hope you will support the continuation of this service and encourage your fellow councillors who sit on the Library Board to keep the adult literacy program open.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Boyle Hatcher
[REDACTED]

Nancy Marshall - Bookmobile One

From: Elizabeth Griffin <elizabeth.griffin@primus.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 8, 2011 5:47 PM
Subject: Bookmobile One

Dear Library Board Members,

I write to state my support for the continuation of the ongoing library service to our neighbourhood on Toronto Island, and to emphasize the tremendous value that our community places on the weekly visit of Bookmobile One and its exemplary staff. Like most city libraries, the Bookmobile has devoted regulars, including many seniors and young readers who depend on this service for all sorts of reasons.

Please help to maintain Bookmobile One.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Griffin, M.A.C.

Artifact Conservator
5 Wyandot Avenue, Algonquin Island
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Canada
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Fax 416 203-1015
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Nancy Marshall - Bookmobile One,Toronto Island

From: <cthompson52@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 8, 2011 6:12 PM
Subject: Bookmobile One,Toronto Island

Dear Library Board Members:

The Bookmobile is an example of what the city does best, by providing an invaluable resource for all people, the old, the young ,the handicapped and just plain people who have an interest in reading for all kinds of reasons. If elected officials of a city like Toronto can not see the benefit of reading for enjoyment,learning,developing skills, interacting with others in a safe and respectful environment they should get out of the business of governing and spend some time at the library! The bookmobile has given great service for tens of years, to many small communities that count themselves grateful for such a fine service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Thompson
5 Wyandot Avenue
Algonquin Island, Toronto, M5J 2E6

Nancy Marshall - Library board vote on Monday

From: Lilli Chu <lilli_chu@yahoo.ca>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 7:45 AM
Subject: Library board vote on Monday

Dear Nancy,

Would you please send this email to all members of the Library Board.

When I went to tutor my adult learner at the library last evening, I found out that the Library Board is meeting on Monday to vote on cuts to the tutoring program as well as to many children's programs. The coordinator of the tutoring program just found out about this yesterday!!

I am absolutely incensed that this is happening! There is little time to act. I am going to send a copy of this letter to the members of the Library Board with a plea to reconsider this decision.

When I go to my local branch, I see the library packed with adults and students of all ages. As a former teacher with the TDSB, I often recommended the after-school tutoring programs to my students and their parents. A trip to the library was a highlight for my kindergarten classes because each child received a personal library card.

When my children were toddlers, I took them to the preschool activities that were always available at the libraries. I was fortunate to live in an area where I had access to a few libraries (the Main Street, Dawes Road and East York branches) so I could participate in several programs.

As a child of immigrant parents in a small Ontario town, going to the library was such a treat. There were so many new worlds to explore!

I still use the library regularly to read the latest books>

I implore you to reconsider this decision because the library is such a vital part of community life in Toronto!!

Lilli Chu



Nancy Marshall - Dec 12 TPL Board meeting: possible cuts to TPL literacy program

From: Anna Larsen <ALarsen@laboureducation.org>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 10:21 AM
Subject: Dec 12 TPL Board meeting: possible cuts to TPL literacy program
CC: Stephanie Gris <stephanieg@mtnl.ca>, Steve Shallhorn <sshallhorn@laboureducation.org>, John Cartwright <jcartwright@labourcouncil.ca>

The Secretary
Attn: Nancy Marshall
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8

Dear Toronto Public Library Board members:

The Labour Education Centre is greatly concerned about possible cuts to the very valuable literacy program delivered by the Toronto Public Library. We know first hand how important the program is to adults with low literacy skills. Our centre is a community-based agency (Don Mills/Eglinton) that delivers Ontario's Literacy and Basic Skills program to adults at LBS levels 2-5. We are not able to serve adults at the lowest LBS level (level 1) – precisely the focus of the TPL program. We frequently refer people to the Don Mills/Lawrence and Fairview TPL literacy program locations.

There is a real shortage of literacy programs in the high-need geographic areas served by the library's literacy program. Any cuts will have a severe impact on adults who are working so hard to improve their reading and writing skills with the goal of getting a job or better job, enhancing their independence, or accessing further education and training.

TPL's literacy program is an integral part of the broader literacy contribution made by the library. Our Centre is extremely appreciative and recognizes the library as a vital literacy partner. We regularly and frequently use TPL's literacy deposit and take our classes to library branches where adult students learn about the library's exciting programs and services. Our learners participate in the annual Learners' Conference hosted by TPL – a truly inspiring event in Toronto's literacy calendar.

From its first days as a community resource, Toronto's libraries have offered a gateway to the world of reading by offering books but also the opportunity to learn and improve reading for people of all ages. We urge you to uphold these historic values which remain so important today.

Sincerely,
Anna Larsen
Project Director
Literacy and Basic Skills Program
Labour Education Centre
15 Gervais Drive, Suite 100
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416.537.6532 ext. 2204

Nancy Marshall - program cuts adult literacy

From: Irene Davis <irenehd@rogers.com>
To: <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 1:40 PM
Subject: program cuts adult literacy
CC: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Jaye,

I am writing to you because you are councillor for my ward and a Member of the Toronto Library Board.

I am dismayed that the Board is considering eliminating the Adult Literacy Program.

I have been a volunteer tutor at Yorkwoods Library for 21 years. I was also on contract staff as a coordinator at Don Mills and Flemingdon Park for five years, in charge of training and matching tutors and supervising tutor/learner pairs.

I have dealt with learners who have absolutely no reading or writing skills and with learners who have minimal reading and writing skills. I understand well the value that the program has in terms of enabling learners to have better lives and to get a better job. Indeed, in a great many cases the program enables learners who have no job to get one, and thereby contribute to the economy rather than collect social assistance.

One learner, when she left the program, told me, "I was blind and now I see." Another, whose supervisor at work had continually red-pencilled his reports, said, "You have made me taller in life."

The Adult Literacy Program exists on volunteers; the cost in terms of paid staff is minimal compared to the free contributions of volunteers. Costs saved here will show up in increased social assistance costs and in loss of the productivity these people could provide. They will show up in human terms as well, in people who have difficulty grocery shopping because they cannot read the labels on cans and packages, or who end up in hospital because they cannot understand the labels and dosages on medicine bottles and therefore make a serious error.

The province of Ontario understands the importance of this program and contributes to it. I certainly understand the importance of the program. I first began volunteering at Yorkwoods when I lived in the Bathurst - Sheppard area of North York. I now live in the Yonge - Eglinton area, but continue to travel to Jane and Finch to work at Yorkwoods.

I ask you and the Board to reconsider eliminating the Adult Literacy Program.

Irene Davis

irene davis writer
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available from Barnes and Noble, Chapters/Indigo, Amazon, and on Kindle

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Public Library Board Meeting - December 12

From: Judi Snively <judi.snively@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 1:49 PM
Subject: Toronto Public Library Board Meeting - December 12

Good Afternoon,

I am including Mr. Palacio in this email as he is both a member of TPL board and my City Councillor. As it has become clear that the city is not in as dire a financial state as has been portrayed, the 10% reduction in the Toronto Public Library's budget does not seem warranted. However, as that is the current situation, I am writing to express my concern about the Toronto Public Library's proposed elimination of literacy programs for children and adults.

I think/hope I'm safe in assuming that the TPL Board does not need to be informed of the value of literacy to individuals, communities and cities, so I will limit my comments to addressing the role the library currently plays and must continue to play in adult literacy in Toronto.

The Adult Literacy program at the Toronto Public Library is critical to literacy programming in the city. In many parts of the city, the Toronto Public Library is the only option for people, particularly those at the lower levels who are most in need of support. In other areas of the city, there *are* other literacy programs, but they almost all have waiting lists so it is highly unlikely that they will be able to accommodate the learners who are ousted from the TPL program. For many adults admitting that they cannot read and seeking help is the most difficult decision of their life. It would be a shame if, once they had taken this step, they had to stop because the program was deemed not worth the investment.

Moreover, In addition to the 300 learners who will be directly impacted by the elimination of this program hundreds of others will be indirectly impacted. The literacy staff at the Toronto Public Library has provided guidance and support for staff and volunteers at Toronto's other community literacy programs, including providing workshops on resources available at the library. The learners in these programs will also be severely impacted by these cuts.

The children and families who use the Ready for Reading and Leading to Reading programs and the adults who use the literacy program are among the most vulnerable in the city. They are also the people who will be least able to write their councillor or write letters to the editor but this does not mean that they are less affected by these services. Cutting these services may not create the waves that cutting branch hours would, but it should not be seen as an easy answer. Please try to find another way to reduce costs.

Thank you and Regards,

Judi Snively

1181A Davenport Rd.

Toronto, ON M6H 2G6

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] proposed cuts to literacy services

From: fran zimmerman <fran_zim@hotmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 1:53 PM
Subject: [Possible Spam] proposed cuts to literacy services

To the Board of the Toronto Public Library,

I have been a literacy program worker for the last 10 years at a community-based literacy program (not part of TPL), and have seen the impact of the TPL literacy programs in communities across the city. As it is, adult literacy programs are bursting at the seams and we are constantly trying to find programs for learners in their communities, as these are the ones that are most accessible to them. Closing those programs run by TPL would have a devastating effect on community-based literacy in Toronto. Without these programs, many people will have no access to upgrading their literacy skills in order to move on to higher education or to a sustainable job. Their chances at improving their lives and their full participation in society will be cut short. In addition to the 300 or so learners who would be directly affected by the elimination of TPL's literacy programs, other programs across the city would feel the impact. The TPL literacy deposit program provides literacy programs with resources specifically for adult learners every year and also provides support and expertise through their participation in our tutor training sessions.

I haven't even mentioned the children's literacy programs, which are so obviously important as well. Many of our adult learners have managed to help their children get the support they need by taking them to library programs. These parents understand the importance of literacy to their children's lives and futures. Eliminating these programs and adding service charges would be eliminating the best and most important aspect of public libraries -- that they are free and accessible to all.

If the Toronto Public Library can't understand the importance of providing free and accessible literacy programs, when the need is so obviously high, our city and communities will be much the poorer, both literally and figuratively, for it.

Please do not eliminate literacy programs. There has got to be another way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fran Zimmerman

From: Sonal Champsee <sonal@champsee.com>
To: <ainslie@toronto.ca>
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 09/12/2011 1:54 pm
Subject: Please do not cut the Adult Literacy Program at TPL

Dear Counsellor Ainslie,

I tweeted my concerns to you earlier this morning, but I wanted to follow up with an email regarding the proposed cuts to the Adult Literacy program at the Toronto Public Library. I have been a volunteer in this program for over 5 years.

I strongly oppose cuts to adult literacy. This program is largely run by volunteers--a few staff members (6 FTE according to the staff report) co-ordinate over 300 learners and over 300 volunteers, assess learners, and use their professional expertise to train volunteers. The actual day-to-day training and tutoring is conducted by members of the community like myself who provide a minimum of 2 hours of their time each week to help adult learners reach a level of literacy that allows them to function independently in today's world.

The program itself operates at very few libraries, with short hours, with some provincial funding, very little staff, increasingly less space (our room at the North York Central Library has been halved in order to build offices) and relies heavily on volunteers to deliver its services--one of the challenges is finding volunteers enough to accommodate all the learners who want to participate. I cannot imagine how one can argue that this program operates inefficiently. If this program is being considered for a cut, then the Library Board is truly scraping the bottom of the barrel to find excess.

There is no similar program in Toronto to help so many learners with a low level of literacy. Even if there were, how would you inform potential learners? You can't send out letters and fliers, you can't put out an email campaign, you can't put this up on a website or on a billboard or send it out on Twitter--you cannot easily promote a program in the traditional way because these means depend on people having a certain level of literacy. The library--as a community hub-- provides an ideal place to reach out to people who do not have this level of literacy.

I am writing to you because the learner I currently tutor--one of over 300 learners in the program--does not read well enough to read the newspaper where such cuts might be talked about, nor read the staff report that details why the program may be cut. My learner cannot write well enough to write a letter to tell council or the TPL Board what kind of impact cuts like these will have. My learner cannot go to City Hall to make a verbal deputation in person because like most people in the adult literacy program, my learner keeps their participation in the adult literacy program a secret.

My learner is motivated and desperate to learn to read and write independently, and lives in fear that other people will one day find out about their inability to do

something that most of us take for granted: reading and writing. The reasons why my learner cannot read and write are complex, and the process of teaching an adult to read and write for the first time is very difficult. Currently, my learner is dependent on the very few people who know about this inability to do common things like filling out a form, writing an email, or reading the news.

My learner is not stupid. My learner speaks English fluently, my learner is a hardworking, taxpaying citizen of Toronto who believes in fiscal responsibility and in fact voted for Mayor Ford, but my learner cannot read or write sufficiently to participate in the democratic process to express that these cuts will prevent my learner from being independent.

I am not some 'left-wing bike-riding pinko.' I am in fact a self-employed mid-sized Toronto landlord and small-time property developer who drives daily, who was born in Scarborough and brought up in North York--by such shallow measures one might think I am in favour of such cuts. I am not. I volunteer my time at the Adult Literacy program because I believe that every person should have the ability to read and write, and that this ability empowers them to be independent and make informed choices for themselves.

Please do not take this away from those least able to tell you how these cuts will hurt them.

Sincerely,
Sonal Champsee
416-803-9414

From: Robert Bernecky <bernecky@snakeisland.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 09/12/2011 1:55 pm
Subject: Fwd: Re: [myNeighbours] Bookmobile - Here on Saturday, Gone Thereafter?

I can't make a deputation, but the bookmobile is a valuable, and irreplaceable, resource, particularly for the elderly (which I am becoming) and handicapped of the city. A trip to the library is already a half-day journey for me, and as my health degrades, it will be even longer.

Children and the disabled ALL need bookmobile service, much more than they need a ferris wheel on the waterfront!

My career as a computer scientist and researcher began around 4th grade, with trips to the local libraries, where I learned about science and mathematics. If the children of this city are to learn and prosper, we need to give all of them convenient access to libraries.

We need to preserve the bookmobiles; I hope the board and council will agree with this, and take action to preserve and, indeed, expand the city library system.

Sincerely,
Robert Bernecky
18 Fifth Street,
Ward's Island, Toronto.

10 Miss Anne Pyper

Hi miss Pyper, Good day. Madam, My Name is Joshua Harrison a Student at the Donmills adult literacy program, I must say before I joined this program I almost give up to have some one do anything for me now I can do so much for my self like writing my res, my reading, I am so thankful for this program, and the staff here, I just can't give enough thanks and Prais for the things I learn here and I am sure there are so much more people like my self that are looking for the same opportunity like my self, I am so happy the day I join this program because today I can take a pen up and feel confident to step you, These word of the kind and goodness of this program, may God bless have a good day, Joshua.

Part of the Adult Literacy Program at Don Mills Dec 8/2012

To: Janet Typer

Since my Father's passing around the library was a great help. I started with Computer classes, tried to learn but still is a ~~com~~ challenge for me. Books helped me, then the Math Class with Steve Keary well he has the best Teacher I've ever had in my life, for me to go to a class on math is a miracle cause I've always hated Math. He's #1 helping me to improve in many ~~ways~~ ways counting, working with money learning how to work Visa interest etc. . . . many things measurements, too. Did this English Class not to be, Please keep this Class going for the sake of us people that are so behind & straggling Struggling to survive. Thank you very much. I hope you can help this Janet Giannarino

December 8, 2011

To the Library board
C/o Jane Pyper, C.E.O.

Why would you want to close the literacy program in the library? I have been coming to the program since December 2005. I am 76 years old. When I was a child I never went to school because I did not have any parents looking after me. My father died when I was 7 and I did not know my mother. I struggled to survive and always wanted to learn to read and write. Since coming to the program I have learned to make my self understood when I write a sentence and I could not do that before. The program is very good for me as well as for others. I think the program needs to continue to help people who want to help themselves by learning to read and write. I am so grateful for the literacy program.

Yours truly
Gladstone Powell

TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

TO whom I am concern.

I heart in the LIBRARY the literacy program. It might be closing. I am very upset because this program helps me a lot to learn reading and writing. I hope the program stays. It is the best program. Because it is one to one and you learn better. With all the people valentining their time for us.

Mary Panopoulos

Dear staff.

My name is Chris Benshaw

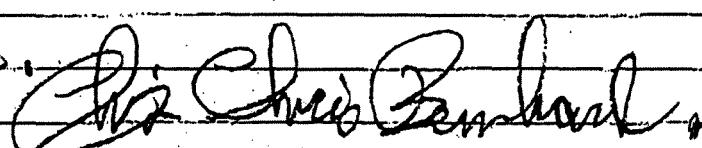
I am learning disabled.

So ~~plus~~ my brain has been

altered from 2 strokes on ^{the} brain

injury from Anesthesia, so I need
all the help for me - so this
going to be hard to except.

for me so please find heart
to allow us to continue that
how can I feel good so
big I can how will you feel.

Christopher Benshaw am 46 years
old. so I'm just started my
litter. 

Hilroy

To whom it may concern,
The Adult Literacy program provided
a necessary service to allow adults
to learn/improve their literacy
skills. For ESL students it
expands on their previous lessons
and gives them further practice to
improve proficiency. This will help
them with getting jobs. For English
speaking adults who have not
mastered literacy, the program
gives them the opportunity to
improve their skill. They have
"fallen between the cracks" and
have not been able to learn
the basics of reading and writing.
This program helps them gain
and gain pleasure. This gives them
a sense of pride when they master
a simple task that we take for
granted. The program (before and
now) volunteers) therefore the costs
should be minimal. The students
are motivated because they want to
learn with specific goals in mind.
The program can make a big
difference in the lives of the
students by giving them the skills
necessary to find jobs.

I feel it is a very important
program that needs to stay.

Christie Beitelman
(Author)

Dear Administrators.

9th Dec. 2011

I am a tutor in the Adult Literacy programme and I am appalled that you would even consider eliminating the programme.

Are you aware that nearly 50% of our adult population, excluding immigrants, First Nations and the incarcerated are functioning well below the minimum acceptable literacy level?

Any programme that addresses this problem, that affects our whole nation, in lost productivity and personal hardship is extremely important, not just for Toronto but for all of Canada. Any organization that considers eliminating a programme such as this is ignoring the problems completely!

So much for the generalities, the student I am tutoring had a stroke at the age of 40 and suffered Aphasia, a condition that wiped out a large portion of his memory. He had to learn again how to speak and how to relate to others. In the programme I have seen him progress to the point where he can read fluently and write a letter with some degree of ease.

Please do not deny him further progress that this programme will provide.

Believing that you will do the right thing

Geoff Burrows

Hilroy

To: Jane Pyper, C.E.O.

Re: Adult Literacy Program

Dear Miss Pyper:

I am a volunteer literacy tutor at Don Mills and Fairview libraries, with thirteen years service. I have worked mostly with special needs learners. We, the tutors, volunteer our time, because we see firsthand the progress of the learners. Last week, one of my learners was able to write the days of the week from memory for the first time. I will always remember her smile of achievement.

Each week, I tutor two learners and lead two conversation circles. These group sessions are a way to engage the learners in a discussion of new words, ideas, and concepts, and have been proven to be very successful.

It has always been my belief that the library is a place of learning for everyone. What good do all of the books in our libraries do if a portion of our city's population cannot read them?

Please remind everyone on the Library Board, that because our program is staffed with mostly volunteers, it is extremely cost effective.

What better agenda for a public library is there than the promotion of literacy?

Sincerely,

Mary-Lou Randall
mlrandall@hotmail.com

To the Toronto Public Library Board:

I have been a literacy tutor in the Toronto Public Library system since 2004. During that time I have become increasing aware of the profound difference that the Adult Literacy Program has made in the lives of many members of our community. In my experience, the program has provided the support and expertise to give "learners" many opportunities, not available otherwise. Many learners go on to obtain citizenship, employment, and driver's licences. Some learners have developed new skills to benefit their families and community, such as, reading recipes to improve nutrition, reading to their children, reading newspapers to better understand the society they live in and obtaining volunteer positions.

The program fosters a greater sense of confidence and self esteem, and many other intangible benefits that all our citizens deserve and that make for better mothers, fathers, friends and employees.

Let us not reduce service to some of the most needy members of our library population.

Anne Neidhardt

December 8, 2011

The Library Board
c/o Jane Pyper C.E.O.

I am a retired teacher who has been working as a tutor in the literacy program at the Don Mills Library for 6 years. I have been teaching a gentleman who is determined to learn to read and write properly. Since he was not educated as a child. It is a pleasure to see the effort he puts into everything that we do and the results shown are amazing. Each learner that I have observed in the program comes with his or her own needs, but what each has in common is a strong desire to improve his or her circumstances. As a volunteer I enjoy being here to help in whatever way I can and truly feel satisfaction knowing that my contributions are helping someone achieve his goals. I think it is a shame that the board is even considering ending such an important and necessary program to the community.

Sincerely,

Barbara Adelstein

To Whom it May Concern

I have been a tutor in the Literacy Program in the North York Public Library system for 5 years. During that time I have seen one of my learners go from not knowing the alphabet to reading at level one, doing his own banking, writing simple messages and learning to use a computer for research and email. His whole life was changed.

This program is invaluable for helping people learn grow and develop. Some learners are new Canadians; some are disadvantaged people with learning difficulties. Many cannot learn in a traditional classroom setting. Many do not want to admit to others their difficulties. All increase their self esteem and their life skills.

One learner was able to maintain his job by receiving help to pass a necessary test.

It would be short-sighted to close this program and a travesty for this great city



Trudy Molke

48 Overbank Crescent

Toronto ON

Nancy Marshall - Bookmobile

From: Freya Godard <godard@colcomm.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 4:47 PM
Subject: Bookmobile

Ms. Nancy Marshall
Secretary, Toronto Public Library Board

Dear Ms. Marshall:

I am writing to express my dismay at the proposal to do away with the Bookmobile. As a long-time resident of Toronto Island, I belong to a community that is very dependent on the Bookmobile.

I am especially concerned about our many senior citizens, for whom the effort needed to get to a public library on the mainland would be extremely daunting.

Since private cars are not allowed on the Island, a resident who had to go to a library on the mainland would first have to walk or bicycle to the ferry, regardless of the season or the weather, then spend 15 minutes on the ferry, and then walk to the bus or LRT or, if they had a car, to the parking lot or street where they park. All of that could easily take more than half an hour before they could even get begin their mainland part of the trip. (The closest library is probably the City Hall branch.)

I would urge the Board to consider the hardship they would be causing by doing away with the Bookmobile.

Yours sincerely
Freya Godard
10 Lakeshore Avenue
Ward's Island
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 1X5

Nancy Marshall - TPL Board meeting and cutting the adult literacy program

From: Annie Mahoney <akmahoney@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 2:34 PM
Subject: TPL Board meeting and cutting the adult literacy program
CC: <councillor_mihevc@toronto.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

To the Toronto Public Library Board:

I understand that this Monday, December 12, you will be meeting to vote on budget cuts, and that the adult literacy program is on the table.

No one likes losing services, and I can see that the city has made cuts inevitable. But it is wrong to cut programs for people who are learning to read or trying to improve their reading skills. If the Toronto Public Library is for anyone, it seems it should be for these people most of all.

Other literacy programs in the city are already very full and underfunded. I know this because for the last 3 years I have worked at once such community-based adult literacy program. And the 300 or so learners displaced by closing the TPL's program will not all find spots elsewhere. The work they have been doing to improve their lives will simply stop.

I hope that you will spare the library's literacy programs. Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Annie Mahoney
67A Winnett Ave.
Basement Apt.
Toronto, ON M6C 3L4
416-654-2880

Nancy Marshall - Do not cut adult literacy programming.

From: Jenny Horsman <jenny@jennyhorsman.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 3:04 PM
Subject: Do not cut adult literacy programming.
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library. As someone who has been involved in adult literacy work in this city since the early 80s I am amazed that such a retrograde step would be under consideration.

I am appalled that you are considering cutting the Adult Literacy Program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

I can hardly believe that anyone needs a reminder of how vital good literacy skills, are not only for the individuals concerned, but for society as a whole. Literacy is already done on a shoestring relying extensively on volunteers. It is hardly the gravy but rather the absolute bare necessity without a scrap of extra.

I would hope that you will fight tooth and nail for some semblance of justice. Everyone should have the opportunity to use the public library and to read the books stored there. Everyone should be able to help

their children to read and start them on the path of using the public library. Public libraries have been the means whereby many people have moved out of poverty and into success in school. This city needs to support the public library system, and the libraries need to support the poorest and most marginalized people who seek to use them.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Jenny Horsman,

Dr Jenny Horsman
Spiral Community Resource Group
<http://www.learningandviolence.net>
<http://twitter.com/LandVdotnet>
Facebook Group: Learning and Violence

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”

Interpretation of the Talmud

----- End of Forwarded Message

Nancy Marshall - Library Cuts impact on Literacy

From: Sonja Greckol <sonja.greckol@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 3:16 PM
Subject: Library Cuts impact on Literacy

Dear Ms. Marshall,

The letter below was sent to You Board Chair Mr. Ainslie.

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Your spirited defence of non-english material in the TPL system was much appreciated.

Sonja Greckol

416 466-4188

Sonja Greckol

416 466-4188

From: Katherine Vatcher <K.vatcher@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 09/12/2011 4:55 pm
Subject: Library cuts

I want to voice my opinion as a teacher of Adult Literacy here in Toronto for the TDSB. Cutting any present library services would be a dis-service to the general public. My student's lives have been enriched by their reading.

The Golden Oak Club Reading series has been a key feature in my teaching. Last year my Level 1 readers devoured 15 books from the selection. They also got to meet some of the authors at various libraries who spoke about their work. This thrilled and inspired them onto a higher level of commitment to their life goals, to become contributing members of our Canadian society and off the Social Service rolls. If the government were smart they would see that the money spent here would actually be an investment for the future. I protest any cuts, please add this letter to any you have gathered and could use in support of NO CUTS. Kathy Vatcher

Nancy Marshall - Proposed cuts to the Public Library

From: SHAMSH KARA <shamshkara@rogers.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.caand>
Date: December 9, 2011 5:14 PM
Subject: Proposed cuts to the Public Library
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor.

We just found out about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library. We would like you to know that we do not support cutting the adult literacy program and believe that the library board is there to protect the services for those disenfranchised members of our community. Also, that it is ridiculous to cut a program that uses volunteers to help other members in the community.

Yasmin & Shamsh Kara

Tel: 416 441 3999

Nancy Marshall - Re" Keep the Adult Literacy Program

From: Joy Lehmann <jlehmann@idirect.ca>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 6:07 PM
Subject: Re" Keep the Adult Literacy Program
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I have read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community.

However, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I cannot understand how you can consider cutting a library program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most! Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions. Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one-to-one help. Volunteer tutors who offer their time and assistance to support the critical learning that goes on in this program.

I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

**Joy Lehmann
(416) 466-3162**

Nancy Marshall - no more cuts to libraries and literacy programs

From: "S. Barker" <sarabarker@teksavvy.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 7:52 PM
Subject: no more cuts to libraries and literacy programs
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councilor Paul Ainslie:

We do not need to cut public services in order to balance the books. You must know very well that we had a surplus and that this deficit was brought on by a mayor and like minded councilors who are ideologically driven to cut taxes and cut the public sector.

I am addressing this letter to you because I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library System, one of the great prides of our city which as already been cruelly cut. There are many examples of how these cuts are devastating to the people of our city. I will give just one, the literacy program which gives so much and costs so little.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

People with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance freely. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

As an alternative to any further cuts to our libraries, just say "NO," we're not willing to cut 10% and then propose a tax on liquor in bars or bring back the sixty dollar a year car registration tax, or raise the tax on my house. These cuts are making the current city administration many enemies even among those who voted for the current mayor believing his false promise to cut no services.

Yours truly

Sara Barker
Toronto M6H 2P9

Nancy Marshall - Do not cut adult literacy programming.

From: Jenny Horsman <jenny@jennyhorsman.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 8:11 PM
Subject: Do not cut adult literacy programming.
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library. As someone who has been involved in adult literacy work in this city since the early 80s I am amazed that such a retrograde step would be under consideration.

I am appalled that you are considering cutting the Adult Literacy Program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

I can hardly believe that anyone needs a reminder of how vital good literacy skills, are not only for the individuals concerned, but for society as a whole. Literacy is already done on a shoestring relying extensively on volunteers. It is hardly the gravy but rather the absolute bare necessity without a scrap of extra.

I would hope that you will fight tooth and nail for some semblance of justice. Everyone should have the opportunity to use the public library and to read the books stored there. Everyone should be able to help their children to read and start them on the path of

using the public library. Public libraries have been the means whereby many people have moved out of poverty and into success in school. This city needs to support the public library system, and the libraries need to support the poorest and most marginalized people who seek to use them.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Jenny Horsman,

Dr Jenny Horsman
Spiral Community Resource Group
<http://www.learningandviolence.net>
<http://twitter.com/LandVdotnet>
Facebook Group: Learning and Violence

“Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world’s grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.”

Interpretation of the Talmud

----- End of Forwarded Message

----- End of Forwarded Message

Nancy Marshall - library jobs lost

From: Eleanor J Long <eleanorjlong@yahoo.ca>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 8:14 PM
Subject: library jobs lost

Dear Sir or Madam.

This whole budget cuts are going to far. My daughter works in one of your libraries. When is this going to end. Why doesn't Mayor Ford take a paycut along with those who work for him and do his dirty work. They should have thought about the condition of the budget along time ago instead of leaving it to the last minute. I'm sure they have some money saved up some where else instead of blaming us for there stupid mistakes. Thankyou.

Mrs. Eleanor Long

Nancy Marshall - Adult literacy programs within the Toronto Public Library

From: Linda Sullivan <sullivli@sympatico.ca>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 8:25 PM
Subject: Adult literacy programs within the Toronto Public Library
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie,

I am writing to you about the proposal to cut adult literacy programs from the Toronto Public Library system. Please do not support this wrong-headed and negative proposal.

I have been a literacy volunteer for over 20 years in the city of Toronto. And during that time, I have admired the support that the public library has shown to adult literacy. If adult literacy has a place anywhere in our city it should be at the public library. Literacy learners get help and support in their effort to become literate and independent at programs across the city including those at the library. This work is at the heart of the whole purpose and 'reason for being' of public libraries.

Please recognize the importance and value of this work in the mandate of our public libraries, and do not cut this service out of the budget for the library. Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, as those running the public library know better than anyone. The individuals who attend the library's adult literacy programs need this service to learn to read.

Linda Sullivan
82 Wilson Park Road, Toronto, M6K 3B5
416-535-8014

From: Austin Jeffries <bildad@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <Mayor_Ford@toronto.ca>
Date: 09/12/2011 9:01 pm
Subject: Library budget cuts

Dear councillor;

I say first rental fees for DVD CD, all languages this what they do in the UK 2\$ per DVD however I think a \$.50 would be more in line here to start.

If that does not float then cut non English DVDs /CD's this is predominately English country!

At minimum \$.25 one time user fee/day for the computers.

Festivals and other services are non essential to the core of the Library.

Educational ESL should be handled by the Provincial or Federal governments.

After all its the federal government who has allowed the various ethnic diversity into the country with out making appropriate funding available for ESL.

Remember being political correct cost money so put your mouth where your money is.

I say enough is enough, lets get back to basics Libraries lend books and dvds etc all else is secondary.

The poor note often played, these same folk have lots of funds for drugs, downloading I tunes, hours of talk time on I phones ,tons of junk food& lattes.

Sounds harsh but it is a reality.

Austin Jeffries Ward 44

A big user of the core Library system

Nancy Marshall - Cuts to Adult Literacy program

From: Neila Lem <neila@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 9:12 PM
Subject: Cuts to Adult Literacy program
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

**I read about the proposed cuts to the
Toronto Public Library.**

**Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot
read a road sign or a menu or
medication instructions...Imagine that
you cannot read a story to your child or
that you cannot help your child with
homework.**

**These individuals with literacy issues
need one on one help. This program
uses volunteer tutors who come in to
offer their time and assistance.
Because of this, I do not, in any way,
support the elimination of the Adult
Literacy Program. I am appalled that
you are considering cutting a program
that serves a group of people who have
little power and voice and who need
this support the most.**

**Since I know that the library board is
there to serve the best interests of the**

community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Neila Lem

From: FrankTrotz <gaby-trotz@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 09/12/2011 9:23 pm
Subject: adult literacy

I live in Parkdale and have had the good fortune to be a teacher for forty years. I am shocked that the Adult Literacy programs are being considered to be reduced or eliminated. Programs to support adult literacy is an essential service for many reasons:

1. To be illiterate in Toronto means most jobs are unavailable.
2. A disproportionate number of people in prison are illiterate or semi-literate.
3. Many refugees to Toronto need basic reading and writing skills.
4. The already low self esteem of semi-literate adults will be further eroded
5. Some adults with Learning Disabilities need a chance to remediate their literacy skills.

Once again, I am aghast at the places where cuts are being considered--the most vulnerable of our citizens are being put significantly at risk. I would imagine that if you looked at the parents of the children who are having their breakfast and lunch programs cut, you would find many to be functional illiterate in our unfair city.

I have loved the city that I have lived and worked in all my life, but I am fast becoming ashamed to be called a Torontonian.

Susan Gaby-Trotz
84 Wilson Park Road
Toronto

Nancy Marshall - Adult Literacy Program

From: FrankTrotz <gaby-trotz@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 9:33 PM
Subject: Adult Literacy Program
CC: Nancy Marshall <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

**Frank name
(416)5346819**

Nancy Marshall - Don't Cut Adult Literacy Programs

From: Megan Ewing <megewing@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 9:36 PM
Subject: Don't Cut Adult Literacy Programs
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Sincerely,

Megan Ewing
416-799-7722

Nancy Marshall - libraries

From: brian graff <briangraff@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 10:22 PM
Subject: libraries

I oppose any cuts to the libraries. Period.

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Public Library

From: Linda <maxweb27@hotmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 10:33 PM
Subject: Toronto Public Library
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Name: Linda Webster
Phone Number: 416-846-0536

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Bookmobile Service Cancellation

From: Nina Nakajima <nina.nakajima@utoronto.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 9, 2011 11:56 PM
Subject: Proposed Bookmobile Service Cancellation
CC: <councillor_mcconnell@toronto.ca>, <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_vaughan@toronto.ca>

Dear Toronto Public Library Board Secretary,

Please reconsider your proposal to cancel the Bookmobile service. The Bookmobile is an important part our family life.

I understand the TPL had agreed to avoid branch closures. The Bookmobile IS our branch. The Bookmobile visits our neighbourhood, Toronto Island, once a week, on Saturdays from 10:30am to 12:10am. My two kids, aged 6 and 2, and I visit it almost every week. We take out, on average, about 20 children's books a week. Before my son was born, my daughter and I used to spend about an hour at the bookmobile every Saturday, reading on the tiny bench at the back of the bus. When she graduated from kindergarten, she was given an award for "her interest and ability in the amazing world of books and reading". Indeed she loves books and her favourite activity is reading.

Living on the Island, other branches are not easy to access, especially with young children. Were the Bookmobile service to be cancelled, I would not be able to make the journey to another branch of the library on a regular basis. The trip to the next closest branch, St. Lawrence, involves a 15 minute ferry ride and a 15 minute bike ride (pulling a trailer with two kids), or during the snowy season, a 25 minute walk with a stroller. To use public transit would involve taking the streetcar AND the subway AND then another streetcar. And the return trip would have to be timed with the ferry schedule.

I am shocked that the Bookmobile, our branch, may be eliminated because our neighbourhood already has such limited access to the library. We can only visit a library once a week for an hour and forty minutes. The bus is often crowded and difficult to move around in. There is no seating except for the one bench at the rear which can seat one adult and one child. There is nowhere to hang up coats if one wishes to linger. The collection is very limited.

Yet the Bookmobile and our professional and friendly librarians provide a gateway to the amazing world of books and reading for our family.

Please do not take away this valuable resource from my children.

Sincerely,

Nina Nakajima
3 Fifth St.
Ward's Island
Toronto, ON

Nancy Marshall - KEEP MY BOOKMOBILE ALIVE!!

From: Emily Persich <beebblebee@hotmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 12:08 AM
Subject: KEEP MY BOOKMOBILE ALIVE!!

Hello, my name is Emily Persich. I am 13 years old and I am attending high school. I am very concerned about the discussion about ELIMINATING bookmobile services. I have lived in this community(Harbourfront Area) for my entire life and I can definitely say that the bookmobile brings great joy to my week. And not just that, but it helps me with school work and other activities. Its fantastic that I don't have to walk 20 blocks to the nearest library. Especially when its raining or snowing outside. I disapprove at even the thought of this. My Bookmobile brings such enjoyment to me and I can surely say to my whole community, and I'm sure many others. You don't know how much this means to me. I have grown fond of the people who work there and just by going there I have met different people from my community. I love the bookmobile and think that this is a very UN-reasonable request. The bookmobile not just lets me borrow books, movies, CD's and much, much more, but it also gives me a chance to excel as a student by accessing different sources.

PLEASE re-think what you are considering. You are cutting people of jobs and crushing peoples joy also their access to education.

KEEP MY BOOKMOBILE ALIVE!

Sincerely,

Emily Persich

Nancy Marshall - No to Bookmobile elimination

From: claudine tapawan <miss_mocha@hotmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 11:16 AM
Subject: No to Bookmobile elimination

Good morning Ms. Marhsall and Councillor Ainslie,

I would like to respectfully request that you consider keeping this service. My kids and I have this ritual every Friday night to bond over our love of books and movies. As a long-time loyal patron of Bookmobile One, I have seen families grow with more and more little babies coming in to absorb the atmosphere. It also gets packed during that hour and many get disappointed when it is delayed or not coming. There are quite a few elderly folks as well as some with limited mobility who are most going to be affected by the absence of this valuable service. With the proliferation of e-readers, I still marvel at the amount of people who still visit our beloved Bookmobile. When life goes to fast, I relish the time I can sit down with a good book and the anticipation as I flip through each page.

Please keep the Bookmobile Service.

Thank you,
Claudine

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy Programs - I vote NO

From: Shailla Ahmed <shailla.ahmed@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 12:30 PM
Subject: Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy Programs - I vote NO

Hello Councillor Ainslie.

My name is Shailla Ahmed and I vote against the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library. I do not support cutting the adult literacy program and I believe that the library board is there to protect the services for those disenfranchised members of our community. It is also ridiculous to cut a program that uses volunteers to help other members in the community.

Please vote against the cuts.

Thank you.

Shailla

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] My Thoughts

From: Colleen Burns <krgfroerer@bell.net>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 2:06 PM
Subject: [Possible Spam] My Thoughts

These proposed library efficiencies are not a good idea. When I was a child growing up in a poor neighbourhood and a bad family the book mobile was my saving grace. Also, penalizing people for not picking up a Hold on time is just silly and mean.

Colleen Burns
BA (High Distinction), MA
416-422-0901

From: "Daina Z. Green" <dzgreen@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 10/12/2011 4:20 pm
Subject: Vital Bookmobile Service

Ms Nancy Marshall
The Secretary
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario M4W 2G8
Phone: 416-393-7215 (9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday to Friday)
Fax: 416-393-7083
Email: Nancy Marshall at nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca

Dear Ms Marshall,

I am writing in support of the Bookmobile library service, provided in Toronto neighbourhoods that otherwise lack a local library branch. I am very alarmed to hear the Library Board is considering discontinuing this vital service.

As a Ward's Island resident, there is no branch close to where I live. Our Bookmobile is always crowded during the short time slot assigned to the Island community on Saturday mornings, and I know many of my neighbours, like me, make sure to be home in time to return our books and pick up new ones each week, especially those we order on line. We are always disappointed when the bus isn't available and we have to wait another week for our books.

As well as a place to exchange reading, listening and viewing materials, the Bookmobile is a gathering place, where parents read to their children and neighbours exchange local news.

I can't remember a weekend that I spent in Toronto when I did NOT visit the Bookmobile on Saturday morning. Of course, many of us are mobile and could probably make a trek to the city to visit a branch on our bikes or by TTC. However, we have many elderly and disabled neighbours who do not get to "the mainland" on a regular basis because of their physical limitations. The library is an invaluable resource to all of us that we support with our taxes. The Bookmobile is a key service to which we as Island residents should not be denied access.

Sincerely,

Daina Green

--

Daina Z. Green
alternate e-mail: dzgreen@gmail.com
19 Fifth St. Ward's Island, ON M5J 2C1 CANADA
tel: 416.203.2345
fax: 416.946.1912
www.dzgreen.ca

“Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.” Dalai Lama
“Sé amable cada vez que puedas. De hecho, siempre es posible.” Dalai Lama

Nancy Marshall - TPL Board Meeting 12 Dec 2011 - Agenda Item 9 ADULT LITERACY

From: Hilary Dawson <hilary@hilarydawson.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 4:30 PM
Subject: TPL Board Meeting 12 Dec 2011 - Agenda Item 9 ADULT LITERACY
CC: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <cmackay@devongroup.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <bwulffhart@mtsp.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

TO: Chairman Ainslie and members of the Toronto Public Library Board

ATTENTION: Ms Nancy Marshall, Secretary - For consideration in connection with **Agenda Item 9, Library Board Meeting December 12, 2011**

AGENDA ORDER: Please consider **Agenda Items 9 and 14** together, as they concern the same issues.

Adult Literacy

Can you read? Can you imagine not being able to? There are more illiterate adults in this city than you imagine, yet you are proposing to eliminate the TPL Adult Literacy program.

Maybe you found “The Girl Who Kicked A Hornet’s Nest” a bit of a struggle to get through, or maybe the instructions that came with your barbecue were pretty incomprehensible. Perhaps your spelling’s a bit shaky.

That’s not illiteracy. Illiteracy is when you can’t read the station name on the subway. Illiteracy is when you can’t read the instructions on the medication for your screaming, feverish baby. Illiteracy is when you’re constantly afraid you’ll lose your job if the boss finds out that you can’t read and write. Illiteracy is not being able to read your own contract - ask hockey player Eddie Shack.

I am one of Toronto Public Library’s 300 or so adult literacy tutors. In my 10 years of weekly sessions with learners, I have volunteered (calculated on my usual consultant rate) about \$28,000 worth of service to TPL. In that decade, I have seen two insecure and under-employed intelligent adults acquire not only literacy proficiency, but also self-confidence and more marketable skills. Adult literacy training has personal, social and economic benefits.

Agenda Item 9 - 2012 Operating Budget and Associated Capital Budget Impacts Update suggests elimination of both children’s and adult literacy programs. (Budget Reductions Summary, p.2)

- At the same time, the *Update* recognizes that “Literacy programs are closely aligned to the Library’s goal of encouraging reading for all ages.” (p.15)
- Regarding adult literacy, “The library’s primary focus is independence [and] employment/workforce preparedness.” (p. 17)

In fact, the full cost of the adult literacy program is not paid by the City of Toronto: in 2011, TPL

received \$100,000 for literacy tutoring from the Ontario *Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities*' Literacy and Basic Skills program. (p.17) Cancellation of TPL literacy programs will, therefore, incur a \$100,000 loss to City coffers, to offset the so-called "efficiencies."

The ***Final Report of the Service Efficiency Study*** produced for the Toronto Public Library by DPRA and LeisurePlan International Inc., November 2011 (**Agenda Item 14 Attachment 2-ii**) does not suggest the elimination of library literacy programs. In fact, it states:

- Basic literacy is "very important to the general public" (p.vii)
- "Literacy programs are a major focus of programming in the library." (p.27)

However, the consultants' *Service Efficiency Study* notes that the concept of literacy at TPL has extended to "health and wellness, business and finance, use of software..." and other topics which are less relevant to the library's mandate, but which use many paid staff hours (p. vii), unlike the adult literacy program which is delivered mainly by volunteers.

The *Service Efficiency Study* specifically recommends that service cuts should target programs

not directly related to the use of the library, its materials and *literacy* and conducted in branches that are not primarily *low income neighbourhoods*. (p.63)

I hope that you will follow consultants' recommendation and remove the TPL adult literacy program from the list of items to be cut.

Respectfully,

Hilary Dawson

Hilary J. Dawson
Genealogist & Historical Researcher
Member of the Association of Professional Genealogists
283 Deloraine Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5M 2B2
Canada

(416) 481-6622

Cc:

Members of the Toronto Public Library Board

- Councillor Paul Ainslie (Chair)
- Councillor Janet Davis
- Councillor Sarah Doucette (Mayor's Designate)
- Mr. Cameron Mackay
- Councillor Cesar Palacio
- Councillor Jaye Robinson
- Mr. Benjamin Wulffhart

Nancy Marshall - Adult Literacy programs

From: "Maureen Hynes" <hynes.maureen@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 10, 2011 6:39 PM
Subject: Adult Literacy programs
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I know you are as concerned as I am about the many proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

However, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

I believe that reading is a right, not a privilege.

Historically, adult literacy programs have been hugely underfunded by the city, the province and federally, and in my opinion, rely far too much volunteer labour. I am upset that adults who cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions or who cannot read a story to their child or help his or her child with homework might well be cut off from programs that will help them achieve these basic literacy goals.

People with literacy issues need one-on-one help. Programs in Toronto Public Libraries provide this one-on-one assistance through volunteer tutors who, after training, offer their time and assistance.

Since I know that the library board is intended to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program.

Maureen Hynes
416 516 2667

From: Fred Jackson <fredjackson@primus.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 11/12/2011 9:52 am
Subject: A Suggestion

Dear Board Chair

With the recent demands to improve the financial condition of the City by reducing funds available to the Library it behoves the Board to find or improve sources of income.

A suggestion follows based on present facilities and available resources to provide income and reduce landfill and waste .

In general surplus books , " left over " at Book Sales and Garage Sales, are deposited in recycling or garbage at a cost to dispose of the books and impinge on the environment either by land fill or incineration.

Quantities of used books devolve from housecleaning, estates , and other reasons . There is little market for these books and even difficulty in merely giving them away. On donation to Book Sales, books not sold on the day of the Sale are disposed of as described.

The Library has two used book stores located the Reference Libraries on Yonge Street ,one north of Bloor Street and another north of Sheppard Ave. They are rather small with limited inventory and a long , long trip on the TTC.

The other 97 Libraries on occasion may have a small trolley with few books being offered for sale. A most unappealing display.

Consider having a proper standard library bookshelf or two filled with used books from top to bottom sorted and marked as to price with the customer only having to take the selected books to checkout and pay and with this facility in all 99 Libraries .

Sorting need only be Fiction and non Fiction with sub sorts as feasible .

Extending this concept there could be these Books For Sale displays in various other locations , but that is for later.

Inventory of used books could be provided by donations from elders downsizing , estates , and left over from garage sales with Charitable Donation Receipts given to encourage donations .

Even Boy Scouts and Girl Guides collecting for fund raising could canvas for used books In this latter case the books could be purchased

from the Scouts or Guides at say 50% of expected selling price . The object for this approach is to publicize to a wide audience the existance of the Library's Bookstore.

Replenishing stock may be, after the system has grown and proved itself , by having a central warehouse where all books are accepted and sorted , priced and packed into boxes for delivery to the various Branches . At the Branch Library the staff would sign a receipt showing the sale value of the books. The Receipt would be returned to the Office and entered as a charge to that Branch.

The Branch would put the books on the Sale Shelf and keep half the proceeds remit the rest of the proceeds to the Office to be applied against their account. The account having been marked down to half the sale value of the books delivered to the Branch.

Unsold books could be boxed and returned to central warehouse and credited to the Branch' s account . These books would be unsold books exchanged from time to time for a fresh batch to keep the For Sale inventory on the shelf fresh and interesting.

Banana Boxes are readily available , free of charge, from Supermarkets , and are strong and re useable and will hold a goodly amount of books. Care must be taken as although Harlequin books are Light Reading both in word and weight and may fill a box if Reference Books such as Encyclopedia fill a box the weight may be near seventy pounds and awkward to handle. The difference is not the words but the paper .

The North York Book Store is downstairs away from the main library , an unknown to most clientele, and the facility should be moved to the main floor for easy access. The downstairs space could be used for the initial warehouse cum Office until the operation develops . A luggage Dolly would be useful in moving the boxes of books.

This program can and possibility should be introduced on a gradual basis and problems solved are the enterprises progresses.

Remember the intent is both to encourage Reading and the development of libraries in the home , to reduce landfill and incineration and the waste of useful and often valuable books and most important to develop Libraries in the public's mind such that budget reductions if unavoidable will be taken with care . If a small profit is realized so much the better.

Although retired , my work experience was Problem Solving and I am free to answer any questions that may arise and may assist in the development

of this enterprise.

Yours truly
Fred Jackson

Nancy Marshall - Adult Literacy Program

From: <bertelsen@sympatico.ca>
To: <ainslie@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 11:05 AM
Subject: Adult Literacy Program

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Sarah & Peter Bertelsen
613-549-8366

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Literacy Cuts

From: PAT HATT <hatt0518@rogers.com>
To: "ainslie@toronto.ca" <ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 11:13 AM
Subject: Proposed Literacy Cuts
CC: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

I read about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Imagine that you, as an adult, cannot read a road sign or a menu or medication instructions...Imagine that you cannot read a story to your child or that you cannot help your child with homework.

These individuals with literacy issues need one on one help. This program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer their time and assistance. Because of this, I do not, in any way, support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am appalled that you are considering cutting a program that serves a group of people who have little power and voice and who need this support the most.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and that you will reconsider closing this essential adult program. Reading is a right, not a privilege, and these individuals have nowhere else to go to learn to read.

Patricia Hatt
416-485-0518

Nancy Marshall - Toronto Public Library's Adult Literacy Program

From: Susan Lundy <lundy.susan@yahoo.ca>
To: "councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca" <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 1:41 PM
Subject: Toronto Public Library's Adult Literacy Program
CC: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Councillor Paul Ainslie:

A friend told me about the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library's Adult Literacy Program.

This is an essential program serving some of the most vulnerable citizens of Toronto. There are many adults in our city who cannot read basic information such as road signs, medication instructions, job applications or even their children's homework assignments. These people need individual help with literacy issues in order to carry out the daily tasks others take for granted.

The program uses volunteer tutors who come in to offer freely of their time and assistance. For these reasons, I do not in any way support the elimination of the Adult Literacy Program. I am shocked to hear that you would consider cutting a program that serves a group of people who must rely on others to give them a voice in the public forum.

Since I know that the library board is there to serve the best interests of the community, I believe that you will do the right thing and reconsider closing this essential adult program. Learning to read is an important skill that we need to extend to everyone in Toronto, especially those adults who have nowhere else to turn. They have placed their trust in the Toronto Public Library to give them the support they need.

Sincerely,

Susan Lundy
416-483-4396

From: Ed Janiszewski <edjan@teksavvy.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 11/12/2011 2:46 pm
Subject: Reconsider cuts to Adult Literacy Programs.

Kindly forward this request to all the members of the Library Board.

If I understand correctly, the Board is about to cut Adult Literacy Programs, which are primarily run by volunteers. The benefits of adult Literacy should be clear to you and that decreasing access to reading programs will diminish peoples' confidence, and self esteem, increase their frustration when attempting to participate in their community and increase their isolation.

Please reconsider this vital use of the few full time positions who coordinate hundreds of volunteers as tutors to those who seek to improve their lot in life.

Sincerely. Ed Janiszewski
767 Markham Street
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 2M4
416-531-5905.

Nancy Marshall - Re: No more cuts to Toronto Public Library

From: Murray Lumley <murraylumley@ca.inter.net>
To: "N. Marshall" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 8:05 PM
Subject: Re: No more cuts to Toronto Public Library

Submission to the Toronto Public Library Board meeting for Monday, December 12, 2011

This is the fourth submission I have made to the Toronto Public Library Board, previous ones being on September 13, October 17 and November 21, 2011. My submissions are part of the public record with respect to the Toronto Public Library and I want this one to be public as well.

I cannot attend this Library Board meeting but I hope this submission will be included for consideration by the board. I know that severe cuts have already been made to hours of service to the public, plus front lines staff cuts and I know that more are being asked for by the Mayor and his administration.

There should be no further cuts to the Library budget nor to service hours.

I am aware that last month, the Toronto Public Library Board unanimously rejected budget cuts that would close library branches, reduce hours or cut collections spending. However, to achieve the 10% budget reduction requested by the Mayor, the Library Board, under pressure from the Mayor has requested the City Librarian to propose a host of alternative cuts to meet that arbitrary target. The board must reject these proposed new cuts.

There is no need to make these cuts to the Library that serves everyone equally in Toronto. In fact there is a surplus of \$139 million in the proposed City of Toronto budget for 2012 that makes it unnecessary for these cuts. The City of Toronto Act also provides for further revenues that make any further cuts unnecessary to such a vital service to the people of Toronto, as the Public Library.

As a reminder, I am aware that the new proposals would eliminate the following programs:

- High school and kindergarten outreach activities
- Adult literacy programs
- Young children's reading-readiness programs
- Bookmobile service
- The Library's own publications
- The Keep Toronto Reading festival
- "One Book" community reads

plus cut the collections budget more - to \$3.8M or 22%, **reducing 168,000 new items to be purchased this year!**

In addition, new fines of \$1 are proposed for uncollected "hold" items. Another "efficiency" being considered is the acquisition of automated sorters over the next two years. This would cut another 7 customer service jobs, bringing the total staff cuts to 107.

To achieve the Mayor's full 10% reduction target (\$17M), these new proposals – or a combination of hours, collections and program cuts -- will be required. Many of the city departments **have not cut their budgets by 10%**. The budget cuts made by the Toronto Public Library already exceed that of at least 10 other agencies and boards. With divisions like the Police, the Mayor has already acknowledged that a "one size fits all" 10% budget cut is simply not practical.

Additionally, as has been reported in the media, there are a few Councillors who want to reduce or eliminate our multi-lingual and DVD collections. These resources contribute to literacy and recognize the diversity of our city. I believe they should be maintained. In fact the Library cannot 'rent out' media such as DVD's without changes to Provincial legislation. It would be absurd to change the 'Public Library' into a commercial rental organization.

In consultation meetings held across the City over the past month residents overwhelmingly said, "don't cut our

service hours, programs AND collections." 72.7% said they would use the library less if fewer items were available.

Please, for the sake of all of Toronto's citizens, vote against any of these new proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library.

Sincerely,
Murray D. Lumley
1854A Danforth Avenue
Toronto, ON
M4C 1J4

Nancy Marshall - Library Literacy Program

From: <liggins@telus.net>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 8:18 PM
Subject: Library Literacy Program
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Mr. Ainslie,

It was with great sadness that I heard the Toronto Public Library's literacy program may be cut. I am a new literacy tutor with the Toronto Public Library, and even within the space of one month, I have noticed a great improvement in my learner's literacy skills.

Many learners attend the Toronto Public Library's literacy program because of the individual attention they receive. Often, the lack of individual attention in a classroom setting is the very thing that has prevented the learner from acquiring literacy skills in the first place.

A community that is not literate is a community that is not productive, and I think that, given the Toronto Public Library's vision is to promote and enrich the democratic, cultural, educational and economic life of Toronto, it would be ironic to cut the Toronto Public Library's literacy program. I have been impressed by the structure and set-up of the Toronto Public Library's literacy program, and I hope you will vote to keep this valuable program at the Library.

Sincerely,
Christina Liggins

Nancy Marshall - TPL Adult literacy programme

From: Sue and Mike Bradley <the.bradleys@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 8:29 PM
Subject: TPL Adult literacy programme

Just heard from one of your tutors that TO may cancel this programme ... what an out rage as these people are trying to better their chances of opportunity and broaden themselves this should be encouraged to the fullest..... ! This Gov't should be ashamed of itself ! I hope that the library board can turn this around!! All the best .. Sue Bradley (friend of Hilary's (one of your titors)

Nancy Marshall - Cutting off programs in Toronto Public Library

From: Lavanya Ramanathas <lavanya_15_2000@yahoo.ca>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 11, 2011 11:11 PM
Subject: Cutting off programs in Toronto Public Library

Dear Madam,

I would like to inform you about how important those free programs that are offered in Toronto Public Library are. As I am a volunteer for Leading to Reading and Adult Literacy Program in Toronto Public Library, I would say that kids would improve their readings and comprehension through Leading to Reading Program. In addition to parents, they would like to send their kids to this program to improve their kids reading skills and certain immigrant parents were happy to see their kids reading a book which they cannot help with it due to English as their second language. From Adult Literacy Program, I saw adults, who were not able to have their education when they were in their homeland, like to learn and improve their literacy skills by joining in this program. I would kindly ask you not to cut off these kind of programs and other programs for kids or teens or adult from Public Library. By offering these programs in Toronto Public Library, the community ,which are living in certain region , would benefit and helpful for our future generations.

Thanking You.

Yours Sincerely,

Lavanya Ramanathas

Nancy Marshall - TPL Board Meeting December 12, 2011. Agenda Item 9 - Adult Literacy.

From: Dora Usher <dusher@rogers.com>
To: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, "councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca" <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 12:14 AM
Subject: TPL Board Meeting December 12, 2011. Agenda Item 9 - Adult Literacy.
CC: KarenStintz <councillor_stintz@toronto.ca>, "councillor_davis@toronto.ca" <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, "cmackay@devongroup.ca" <cmackay@devongroup.ca>, "councillor_palacio@toronto.ca" <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, "councillor_robinson@toronto.ca" <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, "bwulffhart@mtsp.ca" <bwulffhart@mtsp.ca>, "councillor_doucette@toronto.ca" <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, "councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca" <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, "mayor_ford@toronto.ca" <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

I am a resident of Ward 16 and a volunteer with the Adult Literacy Program at the at the Downsview branch of the Toronto Public Library. This program provides BASIC adult literacy training to adults who have either come as legal immigrants from countries where they have not been able to access adequate schooling, or have fallen through the cracks in our own educational systems. Having just returned from a visit to a foreign country where my language skills were minimal, I can empathise with an individual who can't read directional signs, who can't read medication labels, and who can't fill out a work application or read safety notices in the workplace.

Both the World Health Organisation and Health Canada consider literacy to be a major determinant of health. To cut a program that is largely provided by volunteers, with minimal professional staff oversight, (approx. 50 volunteers/one professional co-ordinator at the Downsview branch), (there are others as well), is to cut vital lifelines to well-being and human development. The social and economic benefits of this program greatly outweighs its cost. It is penny-wise and pound-foolish, and very short sighted.

I hope you will not cut this program.

Respectfully,
Dora Usher

Nancy Marshall - Concerns on Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy

From: Aleem Velji <aleem.velji@gmail.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 12:19 AM
Subject: Concerns on Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Dear Counsellor Ainslie,

I am sad to hear about the cuts with the Adult Literacy services that are currently being offered by volunteers through the Toronto Public Library.

I know we elected our Mayor and councillor to support the city. There were some good suggestions about cutting unnecessary spendings at time of election, but here we are dipping into some of the essential services that our city needs. We welcomed 276,833 new immigrants to Canada in 2010 according to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada statistics. As we know a lot of those immigrants i.e. parents, grandparents, young adult who have been through school systems where English was not a language of choice. Cutting such essential programs will leave a lot of new immigrants with improper skills to communicate in this country. Their kids will suffer when their parents from other country are not able to help them with their day to day lives i.e. from helping with their homework, parent and teacher discussion on what their child needs and even when they grow up to meet their friends and have a sit down discussion. Things that matter in everyday lives.

I am not sure why the city government would think that adult literacy program is an unessential service. I think this is one of the essential services that a country like Canada that is multicultural and welcomes many new immigrant needs everyday. Hope you will understand the citizens concerns and help us keep this program alive.

Your Sincerely,

Aleem Velji
(647) 530 4336

Nancy Marshall - Proposed cuts to adult literacy programs

From: Christopher Green <chris@greenfamilymail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 12:32 AM
Subject: Proposed cuts to adult literacy programs

To Whom This May Concern:

I have just been informed from a close friend at the proposed cuts to the adult literacy program in Toronto with the Toronto Public Library. I am appalled and disturbed by the choice to propose this cut. Toronto has announced this year a renewed initiative to tackle homelessness; however they are proposing to take away the very tools these people need in order to be successful in both keeping themselves off the streets and moving beyond these programs. While housing is a key component, the simple ability to read so that you can pay your bills and keep the lights on, heat flowing, or being able to make smart choices about your diet by understanding your food purchases are just as essential. In today's times, the inability to read and write is arguably a key contributor to both homelessness and the increased divide in wages as recently outlined by the OECD.

I sincerely hope that they reconsider their proposal, and look at the bigger picture. While these cuts may solve some immediate budgetary needs for the Toronto Public Library, the costs to restart these programs and the overall impact to Toronto's economy far outweigh these immediate reliefs tenfold. It amazes me that this was even a consideration given Toronto's/Ontario's overall plan to eliminate homelessness, and the fact that there is no mention or considerations noted to leverage Municipal, Federal and Provincial funding for economic development and homelessness strategies. Funding for programs such as this have far reaching impacts for the community as a whole, and based on the overall budget, explanations, and strategies, it seems that there is no real plan or vision in the cuts. All cuts in this budget have no upside or underpinning strategy, they are simply cuts without purpose or substance other than a strict monetary bottom line gain.

I would recommend a rework of this budget, creative financial planning for the Toronto Library in regards to leveraging non-standard lines of financial assistance from government programs which have direct impacts to their programs and services. These essential community programs should not so easily be swept aside.

Sincerely,

Christopher Green

Nancy Marshall - Cuts to literacy programming

From: Chelsea Rose <chelseakrahn@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 1:15 AM
Subject: Cuts to literacy programming
CC: <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>

To the Board of the Toronto Public Library,

I am a volunteer tutor with St. Christopher House where I have been working with learners in the adult literacy program for a year and a half. It has come to my attention that the Board of the Toronto Public Library will have to make some difficult decisions regarding mandated cuts to library services at a meeting of the Board on Monday, December 12.

I am writing to urge the Board to reconsider proposed cuts to the TPL's children's and adult literacy programs. Board members who may believe that these cuts would be easily absorbed by other service providers offering similar literacy programming would be mistaken. Literacy programming is in very high demand in Toronto and the GTA, and there are few organizations willing to accept lower level learners. TPL programming is the only viable option for many learners. Cutting these important services will mean hijacking the learning plans and goals of disenfranchised students, and the working relationships they have established with their tutors. In many instances, learners who enroll in literacy programming have had to overcome a history of rejection and embarrassment when it comes to school. If the adult and children's literacy services are cut, the TPL could be shutting people out of literacy programming for the rest of their lives.

The cuts will also be felt by organizations that benefit from TPL's expertise. Organizations like St. Christopher House receive important library resources and training guidance from TPL staff. The library needs to make literacy programming a fundamental priority and refuse cuts to programming at all costs. It would be shameful to see the library shut its doors to the concept of life-long learning.

As a community member in Trinity-Spadina and a volunteer with St. Christopher House, I have become familiar with the learning needs of many neighbours and friends. I stand in solidarity with those learners, their tutors, community organizations and TPL staff who oppose cuts to literacy programs and urge you to reconsider such a decision.

Sincerely,
Chelsea Krahn
Phone: 647-989-8707

Nancy Marshall - proposed cuts to toronto public library

From: Fahrin Premji <fahrinpremji@yahoo.ca>
To: "councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca" <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 1:44 AM
Subject: proposed cuts to toronto public library
CC: "nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

To whom it may concern,

I read about the proposed cuts to the Adult Literacy Program and I feel strongly against this proposal. The Adult Literacy Program offers a second chance to those who were not able to become literate in their youth and provides adults with an opportunity to create better futures for themselves and their families. The Adult Literacy Program targets those individuals in our society who are struggling in many aspects such as financial, career and education in which improving their literacy creates new possibilities. Additionally, this is a program that is run by volunteers and does not take a great deal of funding from the city (especially in comparison to other programs). Please consider the above considerations before any decision on the proposed cuts are made to this vital program.

Regards,

Fahrin Premji
(647) 938 7143