



Community & Neighbourhood Services
Eric Gam, Commissioner

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August 31, 2004

Gillian Mason
Chair of the Library Board
Toronto Public Library
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8



d.

Dear Ms. Mason: *Gillian*

I met yesterday afternoon with the two other Co-Chairs of the Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force to prepare the agenda for the September 9, 2004 meeting of the Task Force, and was able to raise with my colleagues the request made in your letter to me of July 16, 2004 to consider adding a Library Board member to the Task Force.

We agree that the Library's vision and demonstrated results in connecting people to each other and their community are consistent with the Task Force vision and will be a key element in its success. Certainly, the high profile in your new Strategic Plan to providing library service meeting the needs of low-income priority neighbourhoods and increasing your contribution to community capacity building attests to the congruence of our objectives. We also value the contribution made by the Library through its participation in the Interdepartmental Reference Group. However, we have had a number of requests to expand the Task Force and are concerned over manageability and effectiveness should there be no limits on membership, and the criteria for exclusion if there was. We agreed therefore to leave the Task Force as originally established at our initial meeting back on April 8, 2004, but to make sure that every opportunity is made for participation and input through the Reference Group and other mechanisms so that the Task Force can be fully informed and guided by the community.

Given the importance and role of the Library in ensuring Strong Neighbourhoods, you can be assured that we will be looking to the Libraries as a key partner for the Task Force. Already, you have provided valuable research support through the Interdepartmental Group, ensuring that the City has been able to make a solid contribution to the work of the Task Force. Hopefully, through my acting as one of the Co-Chairs, you will feel that the Library already has a place at the table, and we will work to make sure the Libraries remain a full partner in this initiative.

Sincerely,

ERIC GAM
Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services

c.c.: Francis Lankin, President, United Way of Greater Toronto
Bob Harding, Chairman, Brascan Corporation
Josephine Bryant, CEO, Toronto Public Library
Sue Hunter, Strong Neighbourhoods Task Force
Chris Brillinger, Community and Neighbourhood Services Department