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**COMMUNICATIONS  
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

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**TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – June 21, 2010**

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The following items (a, b and c) are provided for the Toronto Public Library Board's consideration:

- (a) Draft letter from Matthew Church, Board Chair, to all Toronto Members of Parliament urging their support for Bill C-509 to sustain the Library Book Rate permanently and extend its provision to include all library media types that are loaned between libraries.

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1) approves sending the letter (Attachment a) to Toronto Members of Parliament.

**Background Information:**

Bill C-509 is a Private Members Bill introduced in the House by Merv Treen, Member of Parliament for Brandon-Souris (CPC) on May 28, 2010 for second reading. Members from all parties spoke in favour of the bill, but debate was not completed before the House adjourned for the day. Another hour of debate will be scheduled in September.

The Library Book Rate (LBR) is a benefit to all public libraries and is a cost effective encouragement to libraries sharing collection titles through interlibrary loan rather than having to purchase a title that is needed either sporadically or by a very limited number of people. It offers a mailing rate between libraries that is about one-fourth of the cost of regular mail. While TPL is able to send books to many other public libraries in Ontario via a provincially funded delivery service, we do benefit from the LBR for the more than 1000 titles a year that are mailed using the Library Book Rate. The loss of the Library Book Rate would more than quadruple the cost to send these loans using regular mail rates and add pressure on the operating budget. The current LBR applies only to printed books. Bill C-509 would extend the preferential rate to all library media, thereby enabling greater sharing of resources at a reduced cost.

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- (b) Letter from Diane Broad, Manager, Community Family Support Services/Y-CONNECT, Griffin Centre; Julie Callaghan, Program Director, New Heights Community Health Centres; Kim Hinton, Manager of Community and Neighbourhood Development Unit, Family Services Toronto; and Bathurst-Finch Neighbourhood Action Group to Matthew Church, Board Chair, dated June 9, 2010, regarding increased hours and service capacity for Centennial Library.

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1) requests the Board Chair to respond to the letter (Attachment b) advising of the Board's decision regarding Agenda Item No. 14 – *Adjustment of Branch Open Hours – 2010/2011* concerning the Centennial Branch.
- (c) Letter from Joe Clark to the Secretary and Board members, dated June 10, 2010 regarding the Islamization of public space.