



To: Toronto Public Library Board – February 19, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Toronto Reference Library Conceptual Design – The Information Commons and the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre**

Purpose:

To inform the Toronto Public Library Board of the conceptual design plans for the main floor and lower level of the Toronto Reference Library, incorporating the Information Commons and the new Toronto Star Newspaper Centre.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The Toronto Star has provided \$600,000 for the creation of a new and expanded Toronto Star Newspaper Centre at the Toronto Reference Library. The 2000 capital budget included \$300,000 to undertake detailed architectural planning for the revitalization and renewal of the main and lower floors of the Toronto Reference Library. There are no additional financial implications.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive the report and presentation of the conceptual design plans for the main floor and lower level of the Toronto Reference Library for information.

Background:

In 1999, the Toronto Public Library Foundation and the Toronto Star signed a \$2.5 million partnership agreement, which included \$600,000 for the creation of a new and enlarged Toronto Star Newspaper Centre at the Toronto Reference Library. Payment was to be in three annual instalments with the final payment scheduled for February 28, 2001. The agreement called for commencement of renovations by March 26, 2001 and completion of same by February 29, 2004.

In 2000, the Library Board secured \$300,000 in the capital budget to complete master space planning for the main floor and lower level at the Toronto Reference Library. This planning would allow the work on the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre to be placed in the larger context of planning for the revitalization of the entire building, and would provide the Foundation with the necessary tools for attracting additional partnership agreements to support the revitalization of the main floor. A request for an additional \$500,000 to complete detailed renovation and revitalization plans for the four upper floors at TRL is included in the 2001 capital budget.

Comments:

Moriyama and Teshima Architects, the original architects for the Toronto Reference Library, were engaged to undertake the redesign of the two floors in question. Goals for the design project included the following:

- To maintain TRL's position as an architectural and cultural landmark in the City;
- To create a "destination" with exciting physical spaces, collections, exhibits and services;
- To redesign and renovate the main floor of the TRL as the initial phase of a multi-year rejuvenation of the entire facility;
- To reconfigure floor space to maximize service potential and meet 21st century expectations and needs;
- To facilitate, within the overall design context, construction of the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre and showcase it to leverage future partnerships to fund the creation of other centres of excellence;
- To achieve a main floor design that can be implemented in stages;
- To create a "street presence" particularly in relation to Yonge Street;
- To create a clear purpose and focus of activity on the main floor.

Staff have worked with the architects to achieve an exciting conceptual design that meets these program objectives. Moriyama and Teshima will be in attendance at the meeting to present the design plans to the Library Board.

Conclusion:

The design plans for the Newspaper Centre were presented to the Toronto Star in December 2000 and were very positively received. Staff will continue to work with Moriyama and Teshima to refine the plans for both floors. Detailed working drawings will be prepared for the Toronto Star Newspaper Centre in preparation for a construction tender. Funding proposals will be developed for the Information Commons in preparation for the search for partners to fund its development.

Contact:

Linda Mackenzie, Director, Research and Reference, Tel: 416-393-7133, Fax: 416-393-7083, E-mail: lmackenzie@tpl.toronto.on.ca

City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.