



Local 4948

Affiliated with CUPE and the
Toronto & York Region Labour
Council

MAUREEN O'REILLY
President

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Toronto Reference Library

JAMES JOHNSON
Facilities

STEVEN BURDICK
Support Services

SARAH DECLERCK
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Toronto Public Library Workers' Union Local 4948 (CUPE)

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TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
City Librarian's Office

NOV 8, 2011

RECEIVED

November 5, 2011

Toronto Public Library Budget Committee
C/O Toronto Public Library
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Members of the Toronto Public Library Budget Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the over 2400 members of the Toronto Public Library Workers Union Local 4948 to congratulate and to thank you for voting on November 1st to defend public libraries. Your decision to reject branch closures and cuts to library services, including cuts to hours of service, and instead to listen to the residents of Toronto who do not want their public library service diminished, was critical in the fight to protect public library services.

More and more library patrons continue to join our campaign, expressing their support for public library services and opposition to branch closures, reductions in library open hours and other cuts to library services. We have shared our relief that the Budget Committee chose to listen on November 1st to patrons. We have also shared our deep concern that the cuts that were adopted at the October 17, 2011 will have a profound impact on library services if not reversed.

I urge you to reconsider the cuts to librarians and library staff and by consequence, to library service, that you made at the Board meeting on October 17, 2011. The decision to cut 100 jobs would bring the total staff cut since amalgamation to 14%. There is absolutely no way that you can continue to cut staff without having a significant negative impact on services. Such deep cuts to staffing will result in fewer staff and librarians to assist patrons with locating, researching and cataloguing library materials and fewer staff to run library programs and outreach activities for children, youth, seniors and newcomers.



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Cuts to staff will mean longer wait times for services, including the home library service that delivers library materials at home to patrons who are not able to access their local neighborhood branch on account of mobility limitations. The cuts to library staff also mean fewer good jobs in our communities and fewer opportunities for young people seeking jobs in public library service.

Cuts to library staff have a negative impact on the morale of the staff who continue to struggle to provide quality public library services in an understaffed library system where, in spite of library usage having risen 29% over the last decade, the numbers of staff cut who deliver those services also continues to rise.

The residents of Toronto understand that the public library services that they know and love are delivered with a human face, by professional library staff that take great pride in delivering world-class library service to the City of Toronto.

I implore you to reverse your decision to cut 100 full-time jobs and to be steadfast in your opposition to cuts to library services at the Board meeting on November 21st. Torontonians have been unwavering and vocal in their opposition to cuts to public libraries and are counting on you to vote in defense of public libraries on November 21st.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Reilly
President, TPLWU Local 4948
cc: TPL Board Members