



November 25, 2008

Dr. Jane Barratt
Secretary General
International Federation on Ageing
4398 Boul. Saint-Laurent, Suite 302
Montréal, QC, M2W 1Z5

Dear Dr. Barratt:

The Toronto Public Library Board is pleased to provide its support and welcome to the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) in their consideration of re-locating the IFA head office within the City of Toronto.

It is our belief that the City of Toronto community provides an ideal setting for IFA's effective operations for many reasons, including:

- Toronto is the most diverse municipality in Canada, which offers IFA the opportunity to work with a wide range of organizations dedicated to promoting seniors' issues and serving seniors' communities;
- Toronto is a city of shared values based on principles of equity and social justice;
- Toronto offers significant opportunities for research and connection between IFA and teaching hospitals and major academic centres; and
- Many Toronto organizations have their own international networks that would aid both IFA and the Toronto community in enhancing global learning, policy development, advocacy and quality management related to issues on ageing.

Toronto Public Library is the world's busiest urban public library system. Every year, more than 16 million people visit our 99 community based branches and borrow more than 29 million items. Through collections, services and partnerships, the Library provides support and resources to empower all age groups in the community. A broad range of services both integrated and specialized are provided to seniors. In its new strategic plan, *Our Shared Stories; Writing the Future of Toronto's Library 2008-2011*,

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the Library has renewed its commitment to engage Toronto's diverse communities in their city and neighbourhoods and to continue to address the needs of older adults – those in the workforce, active retirees, and frail persons – with a focus on culture, community and lifelong learning.

We have reviewed IFA's mandate and priorities and see great congruence with our service philosophy and practice of working collaboratively with other organizations and institutions serving seniors. In particular we are excited about the opportunity to contribute to shared learning and the potential for utilizing IFA's skills and resources towards achieving strengthened and effective services for seniors.

Organizations such as ours who work within Toronto's community have a long history of embracing community engagement and empowerment. We believe that you would find many Toronto organizations including the Toronto Public Library aligned with and ready to work positively with IFA.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gallagher Ross
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board