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September 19, 2005

The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur
Minister of Culture
Room 4320, Whitney Block
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3

Re: Public Library Operating Grant Program 2005/2006
File #: 20051DBC2834

Dear Madam:

On behalf of the Toronto Public Library, please accept my sincere thanks for the Ministry of Culture's 2005/06 operating grant to the Toronto Public Library (TPL) in the amount of \$4,127,362, which includes pay equity funding.

The Ministry's financial support will assist the Library to continue to concentrate on implementing the Board approved 2004- 2007 Strategic Plan – *Urban Stories: The Next Chapter*. The Library's Strategic Plan is the result of a comprehensive strategic planning process which brought together extensive research and consultation with residents, stakeholders and Library staff members. TPL will focus on the following four key service priorities over the next three years:

1. Books and Culture

- ◆ increase spending to build collections and improve access
- ◆ champion and promote reading: contribute to Toronto's literary culture
- ◆ broaden Torontonians' access to the City's civic and cultural life

2. Low Income Neighbourhoods

- ◆ provide library service that meets the needs of low income neighbourhoods in identified areas
- ◆ increase the Library's contribution to community capacity building

3. Newcomers

- ◆ contribute to the successful adaption of newcomers to Toronto
- ◆ help address barriers to labour market integration for immigrants

4. Youth

- ◆ create library services which address the needs of youth
- ◆ encourage youth to read
- ◆ support youth in school, career development and employment
- ◆ expand access to high quality volunteer experiences throughout the City

Public response to the priority areas in the new plan has been very positive. By focusing attention and resources on these four priority areas, Toronto Public Library will continue to make a positive contribution to the quality of life for the residents of Toronto. The Ministry of Culture's role in this contribution is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

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