

2012.02.24

Re: Misinformation about library DVD collections

To the TPL Board:

In the recent budget process, right-wing politicians – one of them, disturbingly, a TPL Boardmember – set the stage for political manipulation of library collections. They have done so by questioning librarians' right to independently collect DVDs and periodicals. Evidence:

- *Toronto Star*, 2011.11.29:

Councillor Mike Del Grande, responding to the furor over proposed cuts to library hours, told reporters Tuesday that library users can access new releases like *Pirates of the Caribbean* at any of the [library's] 98 branches.

"Should the city library become a Blockbuster?" Del Grande said.

Blockbuster closed its Canadian stores in two stages starting last summer. Rogers Video will close 63 stores coast to coast.

- Unbidden, Cesar Palacio stated the library should rid itself of "popular" DVDs and all magazines. (Since Palacio believes the only purposes of a library are "literacy and library purposes" [*sic*], he really means all DVDs.)

Two city councillors, one of them a boardmember, want the busiest public library in the world to be stripped of cinema and periodicals. But isn't all this just "common sense"? The Toronto Public Library, which right-wing politicians don't even use, really is overrun with Hollywood product and other "trash." Isn't it?

No. I downloaded and sorted the entire list of English-language adult DVDs collected by the library in 2011. Only one of the 570 titles was *Pirates of the Caribbean*. The library collected more fitness and how-to titles than American feature films. (See attached list.)

Palacio and Del Grande have opened up a very large can of worms. By impugning cinema and periodicals – core components of the library's collection from time immemorial – they have begun a process that, if not checked, may culminate in outright political interference in library collections. If not nipped in the bud right away, at some point in the future of this Board every item the library buys will have to comply with right-wing political beliefs.

DVD titles acquired by Toronto Public Library (2011)

All English-language adult DVDs added to the collection in 2011

1. Abbott and Costello Show: Who's on First?, The
2. Adjustment Bureau, The
3. Adventures of Merlin: The Complete Second Season, The
4. After the Wall: a World United
5. Afterlife
6. Ageless with Kathy Smith: Staying Strong
7. Aki Kaurismäki's Leningrad Cowboys
8. Alias: The Complete Second Season
9. Alias: The Complete Third Season
10. Alias: The Complete Fourth Season
11. America, America
12. American Family, An
13. Antony and Cleopatra
14. Any Human Heart
15. Apocalypse: World War II
16. Arabia
17. Arbor: The
18. Art of Getting By, The
19. Arthur
20. At the Edge of the World
21. Athens: Mother of Western Civilization
22. Atlas: Uncovering Earth
23. Attack the Block
24. Bad Teacher
25. Bananas!
26. Barney's Version
27. Battle for Haiti
28. Battle: Los Angeles
29. Bears of the Last Frontier
30. Beastly
31. Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of A Tribe Called Quest
32. Beautiful Boy
33. Beaver, The
34. Becoming Chaz
35. Bedlam: Season 1
36. Beetle Queen Conquers Tokyo
37. Beginners
38. Being Human: Complete First Season
39. Being Human: Season Three
40. Beneath Hill 60
41. Best Food Ever
42. Best of Travel: South Africa
43. Best of World Cruises
44. Bethany's Skinnygirl Workout
45. Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On
46. Better Life, A
47. Beyoncé Live at Roseland: Elements of 4
48. Beyond Limits
49. Bhutto
50. Big C: The Complete First Season, The
51. Big Cats Collection
52. Big Love: The Complete Fifth Season
53. Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son
54. Bill Cunningham: New York
55. Billy Budd
56. Billy's Bootcamp: Cardio Sculpt
57. Birds of the Gods
58. Black Butler: Season One, Part One
59. Black Butler: Season One, Part Two
60. Black Death
61. Black in Latin America
62. Black Moon
63. Blackthorn
64. BLAST! Balloon-Borne Large Aperture Submillimeter Telescope
65. Blow Out
66. Bob Harper: Beginner's Weight Loss Transformation
67. Bob Harper: Totally Ripped Core
68. Bobby Fischer Against the World
69. Bored to Death: The Complete Second Season
70. Borgias: Season One, The
71. Brain Games
72. Breaking Bad: The Complete Third Season
73. Breaking News, Breaking Down
74. Bridesmaids
75. Brilliant Moon: Glimpses of Digo Khyentse Rinpoche
76. British Royal Weddings of the 20th Century
77. Britney Spears Live: The Femme Fatale Tour
78. Buck
79. Burlesque
80. Buster Keaton: The Short Films Collection, 1920-1923
81. Butterfield 8
82. Call Me Fitz: The Complete First Season
83. Calling: Seven Lives, Four Faiths, One Call, The
84. Cameraman: The Life and Work of Jack Cardiff
85. Camille
86. Can We Live Forever? New Technology for a Longer Life
87. Can We Make It to Mars?
88. Captain America: The First Avenger
89. Captains, The
90. Carbon Nation
91. Carlos
92. Carnival of Souls
93. Case Histories

94. *Casino Jack*
95. *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*
96. *Cedar Rapids*
97. *Celtic Crossroads: World Fusion*
98. *Centerville Ghost, The*
99. *Change-Up*
100. *China's Terracotta Warriors*
101. *Christian Traveler, The*
102. *Christopher and His Kind*
103. *Cirque du balles*
104. *Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer*
105. *Client List, The*
106. *Colombiana*
107. *Colony*
108. *Company Man, The*
109. *Con Artist*
110. *Conan O'Brien Can't Stop*
111. *Conan the Barbarian*
112. *Cosmos: A Beginner's Guide, The*
113. *Country Strong*
114. *Cowboys & Aliens*
115. *Crazy Stupid Love*
116. *Cropsey*
117. *Custer's Last Stand*
118. *D. Gray-Man: The Complete Second Season*
119. *Damages: The Complete Third Season*
120. *Dangerous Intimacy: The Untold Story of Mark Twain's Final Years*
121. *Dare to Cook: Chocolate: Holiday Confections with "Chocolate Man" Bill Fredericks*
122. *Dark Days*
123. *Dave Grohl: The Man with the Midas Touch*
124. *David Hoiman's Diary*
125. *Daydream Nation*
126. *Deadliest Earthquakes: Haiti and Chile*
127. *Dear Uncle Adolf: The Germans and Their Führer*
128. *Death Masks*
129. *Debt, The*
130. *Delphi: Center of the World*
131. *Despair*
132. *Devil's Double, The*
133. *Dexter: The Fifth Season*
134. *Diana Rigg at the BBC*
135. *Dickens in America*
136. *Dilemma, The*
137. *Discoveries: Vietnam Historic Treasures*
138. *Dive!*
139. *Doctor Who: Series 6, Part 2*
140. *Downton Abbey*
141. *Dracula: The Vampire and the Voivode*
142. *Drive Angry*
143. *Dylan Dog: Dead of Night*
144. *Eagle, The*
145. *Earth from Above*
146. *Ed Hardy: Tattoo the World*
147. *Effective Communication Skills*
148. *80 Waves*
149. *Elsa's Legacy: The Born Free Story*
150. *Elusive Justice: The Search for Nazi War Criminals*
151. *Engineering Ground Zero*
152. *Entourage: The Complete Seventh Season*
153. *Erasing David*
154. *Essential Pópin*
155. *Everything Must Go*
156. *Exhale: Core Fusion Cardio Pure Intensity*
157. *Experiencing Hubble: Understanding the Greatest Images of the Universe*
158. *Exporting Raymond*
159. *Extraordinary Minds: Featured Guest, Jacques d'Ambroise*
160. *Extraordinary Minds: Featured Guest, Zainab Salbi*
161. *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition: The Workout*
162. *Facing Death*
163. *Faith & Doubt at Ground Zero*
164. *Fambul Tok*
165. *Fast Five*
166. *Finding Life Beyond Earth*
167. *Fire in Babylon*
168. *Firm: Turbocharge Weight Loss*
169. *First-Class Ticket: The Complete Doug Jones Travelogue Collection*
170. *First Person Singular: I.M. Pei*
171. *First Response CARE CPR*
172. *Fly Away*
173. *Foo Fighters: Back and Forth*
174. *For Colored Girls*
175. *Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie*
176. *Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate*
177. *Forks Over Knives*
178. *Four Lions*
179. *Fredernomics*
180. *Freedom Riders*
181. *Friends with Benefits*
182. *Fright Night*
183. *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood: Part 5, Episodes 53-64*
184. *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood: Part 4, Episodes 40-52*
185. *Future, The*
186. *Gashole*
187. *Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould*
188. *Get Fit & Fab*
189. *Get Low*
190. *Gettysburg*
191. *Glee: The Concert Movie*
192. *Globe Trekker: The Netherlands and Amsterdam 2*
193. *Glorious 39*
194. *God Bless Ozzy Osbourne*
195. *Going Postal*
196. *Great Minds of the Eastern Intellectual Tradition*
197. *Greatest Movie Ever Sold, The*
198. *Greely Expedition, The*
199. *Green Hornet, The*
200. *Green Lantern*
201. *Guard, The*
202. *Guy and Madeline on a Park Bench*
203. *Hail the Conquering Hero*
204. *Haiti: Triumph, Sorrow, and the Struggle of a People*
205. *Hall Pass*
206. *Hangover, Part II, The*
207. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1*
208. *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 2*
209. *Heavenly Creatures*
210. *Heifetz Master Classes*
211. *Help, The*
212. *Hempsters: Plant the Seed*
213. *Here We Are in the Years: Neil Young's Music Box*
214. *Hereafter*
215. *Heritage of British Monarchy: A Chronicle of History, Romance and Scandals*
216. *High Cost of Living, The*
217. *Highwater*
218. *Himalayas, The*
219. *Hindenburg, The*
220. *Hiroshima*
221. *Hobo with a Shotgun*
222. *Horrible Bosses*
223. *Host in the Bleak Midwinter*
224. *Hot Coffee: Is Justice Being Served?*
225. *Houdini*
226. *Hour, The*
227. *How Smart Are Animals?*
228. *How the Universe Works*
229. *How to Get Ahead in Advertising*
230. *How to Sell on eBay: Windows 7 Edition, Part 1*

231. *How to Sell on eBay: Windows 7 Edition, Part 2*
232. *Hubble*
233. *Human Experience, The*
234. *Human Planet: The Complete Series*
235. *Human Services Careers*
236. *Hurry Sundown*
237. *I Am Number Four*
238. *I Gong for Self-Healing*
239. *Iceman Murder Mystery*
240. *Idiots & Angels*
241. *Imagine It!*
242. *Immortal Beaver: A Celebration of Aviation History*
243. *In the Shadow of No Towers*
244. *In Their Sleep*
245. *In Treatment: Season Three*
246. *Ingredients: The Local Food Movement Takes Root*
247. *Inside Hana's Suitcase*
248. *Insidious*
249. *Insignificance*
250. *Inspector Lewis: Series 4*
251. *Into the Universe with Stephen Hawking*
252. *Irena Sandler: In the Name of Their Mothers*
253. *Israel vs. Israel*
254. *Jackass 3*
255. *Jane Eyre [FUKUNAGA]*
256. *Jane Eyre [WHITE]*
257. *Japan's Killer Quake*
258. *Jerusalem: City Between Religions*
259. *Jews and Baseball: An American Love Story*
260. *Jig*
261. *Jillian Michael's Extreme Shed & Shred*
262. *Joe Madison's War*
263. *Joel Harper's Self-Defence*
264. *John Muir in the New World*
265. *Joke: The Lost Bullet*
266. *Journey of the Bonsetter's Daughter*
267. *Journey to Mecca: In the Footsteps of ibn Battuta*
268. *Jumping the Broom*
269. *Just Go with It*
270. *Justified: The Complete First Season*
271. *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never*
272. *K-19: The Widemaker*
273. *K-On! 1*
274. *K-On! 2*
275. *Kate & Leopold*
276. *Kathryn Budig: Aim True Yoga*
277. *Keeper of the Flame*
278. *Kegs*
279. *Keith Richards: The Human Riff*
280. *Kennedys, The*
281. *Kids Grow Up: Letting Go Is Hard to Do, The*
282. *Kill the Irishman*
283. *Kill/Capture*
284. *Killer Buns and Thighs*
285. *Killer Queens: Five Ruthless British Queens*
286. *Killers, The*
287. *King Speaks, The*
288. *Kiss Me Deadly*
289. *Kissinger*
290. *Koop: The Art of Wanda Koop*
291. *Land Girls*
292. *Land Girls: Series 2*
293. *Lark Rise to Candleford: The Complete Season Four*
294. *Larry Crowne*
295. *Last Exorcism, The*
296. *Last Mountain, The*
297. *Last Night*
298. *Last Play at Shea, The*
299. *Le Cirque: A Table in Heaven*
300. *Legends of Flight*
301. *Les Misérables in Concert: The 25th Anniversary, Live*
302. *Leslie Sansone's Walk Your Way Thin: Walk It Off & Tone It Up*
303. *Leslie Sansone's Walk at Home: Burn Body Fat & Sculpt Your Arms*
304. *Let Me In*
305. *Life in a Day*
306. *Life of Leonardo da Vinci, The*
307. *Light Speed Nutrition: Diet and Health Management*
308. *Light Speed Nutrition: Food Spectrum and Nutrients*
309. *Light Speed Nutrition: Foundations of Human Nutrition*
310. *Limitless*
311. *Lincoln Lawyer: The*
312. *Little Fockers*
313. *Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders*
314. *Looking for Fidel*
315. *Loop Diver: The Journey of a Dance*
316. *Lost in the Amazon*
317. *Love & Other Drugs*
318. *Loving Lampposts: Living Autistic*
319. *Luther 2*
320. *Mad Men: Season Four*
321. *Madagascar: The Land Where Evolution Ran Wild*
322. *Made in Dagenham*
323. *Making Stuff*
324. *Managing Menopause Naturally*
325. *Margin Call*
326. *Married in a Year*
327. *Marvin's Room*
328. *Meaning of Life: Perspectives from the World's Great Intellectual Traditions, The*
329. *Mechanic, The*
330. *Memento*
331. *Memory and the Human Lifespan*
332. *MI-5: Volume 8*
333. *MI-5: Volume 9*
334. *Michael Jackson: The Life of An Icon*
335. *Middle Men*
336. *Midnight in Paris*
337. *Midsomer Murders: Sct 18*
338. *Midsomer Murders: The Dogleg Murders*
339. *Mikado, The*
340. *Miracles of Nature: Extreme Habitats*
341. *Miracles of Nature: Unique Island Destinations*
342. *Miracles of Nature: Unique Travel Destinations*
343. *Missionary: The*
344. *Moby-Dick*
345. *Moguls & Movie Stars: A History of Hollywood*
346. *Monogamy*
347. *Monsters*
348. *Monte Carlo*
349. *Mora*
350. *Morning Glory*
351. *Mr. Nice*
352. *Murdoch Mysteries: Season 3*
353. *My Run: The Terry Hitchcock Story*
354. *My Vietnam, Your Iraq*
355. *Naruto Shippuden*
356. *Nature of Cities, The*
357. *NEDS: Non-Educated Delinquents*
358. *Never Apologize: A Personal Visit with Lindsay Anderson*
359. *New Sudan, The*
360. *News in Review: February 2011*
361. *News in Review: March 2011*
362. *News in Review: April 2011*
363. *News in Review: May 2011*
364. *News in Review: September 2011*
365. *News in Review: October 2011*
366. *News in Review: November 2011*
367. *Next Three Days, The*
368. *Night Flight*

369. *Night of the Generals, The*
370. *9500 Liberty*
371. *No Strings Attached*
372. *No Tomorrow*
373. *No Woman, No Cry*
374. *NORML Life: The American Marijuana Revolution, A*
375. *Nothing Personal*
376. *Oliver Sherman*
377. *One Day*
378. *101 Games and Activities That Teach Leadership and Teamwork: Vol. 1, Trust and Innovation Games*
379. *101 Games and Activities That Teach Leadership and Teamwork: Vol. 2, Cooperation and Communication Games*
380. *101 Games and Activities That Teach Leadership and Teamwork: Vol. 3, Initiative, Tenacity and Goal-Setting Games*
381. *101 Games and Activities That Teach Leadership and Teamwork: Vol. 4, Adaptability, Affinity and Reflection Games*
382. *One-Week Job*
383. *Oprah: The Past, Present, and Future*
384. *Optimizing Brain Fitness*
385. *Orgasmi Inc.*
386. *Our Idiot Brother*
387. *Page Eight*
388. *Page One: Inside the New York Times*
389. *Panorama Finals 2011*
390. *Paul*
391. *Pearl Jam Twenty*
392. *Pee-Wee Herman Show on Broadway, The*
393. *People vs. George Lucas, The*
394. *Yes, ladies and gentlemen, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*
395. *Planet Evolution*
396. *Plastic Planet*
397. *Pompeti: Back from the Dead*
398. *Power Surge*
399. *Power Workout*
400. *Prehistoric: Predators of the Past*
401. *Price of Sex*
402. *Priest*
403. *Priest of Love*
404. *Prohibition*
405. *Prom*
406. *Public Speaking*
407. *Questions for Crazy Horse: Hypothetical Conversations with the Strange Warrior of the Ogalla Lakota*
408. *Quickfix Rx with Jill Miller: Kneehab: Improve Knee Health and Prevent Injury*
409. *Rabbit Hole*
410. *Radiohead: Life on Demand*
411. *Rebirth*
412. *Red Like the Sky*
413. *Red Riding Hood*
414. *Red State*
415. *Rejoice & Shout*
416. *Remembering 9/11: A Day That United the World*
417. *Reminiscing in Tempo*
418. *Remote-Control War: The Future of Unmanned Combat*
419. *Resident, The*
420. *Return of the Ghost Ship*
421. *Revolution in Cairo*
422. *Ricky Gervais Show: The Complete First Season, The*
423. *Ripped in 30*
424. *Rise of Humans: Great Scientific Debates, The*
425. *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*
426. *Rite, The*
427. *River Why, The*
428. *Rodney Yee's Daily Yoga*
429. *Romantic Englishwoman, The*
430. *Roommate, The*
431. *Royal Wedding of a Lifetime, The*
432. *Royal Wedding William & Catherine, The*
433. *Rubber*
434. *Russell Peters: The Green Card Tour*
435. *Salmón: Running the Gauntlet*
436. *Samantha Brown's Asia*
437. *Samurai*
438. *Sanctum*
439. *Sarah's Key*
440. *Saving the Ocean: Shark Reef and the Sacred Island*
441. *Science Now: How Does the Brain Work?*
442. *Scream 4*
443. *Sculpt & Burn Body Blitz*
444. *Season of the Witch*
445. *Secret Access: The Vatican*
446. *Secrets Beneath the Ice*
447. *Secrets of Christianity*
448. *Secrets of the Dead: Slave Ship Mutiny*
449. *Secrets of the Dead: World's Biggest Bomb*
450. *Secrets of the Divine: The Altarpiece of Ciudad Rodrigo*
451. *Shaman & Ayahuasca, The*
452. *Shameless: The Complete First Season*
453. *Shipping News, The*
454. *Shock Doctrine, The*
455. *Six Feet Under: The Complete First Season*
456. *Skin*
457. *Skins: Volume 4*
458. *Small Act, A*
459. *Small Town Murder Songs*
460. *Smartest Machine on Earth: Can a Computer Win on Jeopardy?, The*
461. *Smiley's People*
462. *Social Network, The*
463. *Something Borrowed*
464. *Something Wild*
465. *Somewhere*
466. *Sons of Anarchy: Season Three*
467. *Soul Surfer*
468. *Source Code*
469. *South Riding*
470. *Spartacus: Gods of the Arena*
471. *Special A: Complete Collection*
472. *Speed of Life*
473. *Spill, The*
474. *Start Walking at Home: 1 & 2 Mile*
475. *Stitch Heaven Salutes Barbara G. Walker*
476. *Stonewall Uprising*
477. *Storming Juno*
478. *Straw Dogs*
479. *Streetcar Named Desire, A*
480. *Striking Truth*
481. *Submarine*
482. *Submarine: Hidden Hunter*
483. *Such Good Friends*
484. *Sucker Punch*
485. *Sugar Ray Leonard & Laila Ali: Lightweight & Heavyweight Workouts*
486. *Summer Wars*
487. *Super*
488. *Super 8*
489. *Survivors of the Firestorm*
490. *Susan Sontag's Promised Lands*
491. *Switch, The*
492. *Sympathy for Delicious*
493. *Tabloid*
494. *Take Me Home Tonight*
495. *Takers*
496. *Tale of Two Cities: The Circuit City Story*

497. *Tempest, The*
 498. *Teotihuacan, City of the Gods*
 499. *Textuality*
 500. *These Amazing Shadows: The Movies That Make America*
 501. *Third Reich, The*
 502. *Third Wave, The*
 503. *30 Minutes or Less*
 504. *Thor*
 505. *Through the Wormhole*
 506. *Through the Wormhole: Season Two*
 507. *Top Secret America*
 508. *Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls. The*
 509. *Topsy-Turvy*
 510. *Transcendent Man*
 511. *Transformers: Dark of the Moon*
 512. *Travel with Kids: Jamaica*
 513. *Travel with Kids: Scotland*
 514. *Tree of Life, The*
 515. *Tree, The*
 516. *Triangle Fire*
 517. *Tron Legacy*
 518. *True Blood: The Complete Third Season*
 519. *Tyler Perry's Madae's Big Happy Family*
 520. *UFOs and Aliens*
 521. *Ultimate Guide: Dolphins, The*
 522. *Ultimate Wave Tahiti, The*
 523. *Uncle Bob*
 524. *United States of Tara: The Third Season*
 525. *Unknown*
 526. *Unknown War: War and the Epic Battles of the Russian Front, The*
 527. *Unloved, The*
 528. *Untold Secrets of the Civil War, The*
 529. *Upstairs Downstairs: Series One*
 530. *Upstairs, Downstairs*
 531. *Venom: Nature's Killer*
 532. *Vidal Sassoon: The Movie*
 533. *Vietnam in HD*
 534. *Waiting City, The*
 535. *Waiting for Hockney*
 536. *Waiting for "Superman"*
 537. *Waking the Dead: The Complete Season Five*
 538. *Wallenberg: A Hero's Story*
 539. *War of 1812, The*
 540. *Warehouse 13: Season Two*
 541. *Warrior*
 542. *Wars of the Roses: A Bloody Crown, The*
 543. *Wartorn 1861–2010*
 544. *Waste Land*

545. *Water for Elephants*
 546. *Way Back, The*
 547. *When I Rise*
 548. *When Rome Ruled*
 549. *Where Did We Come From?*
 550. *White Water; Black Gold*
 551. *Whitechapel: The Ripper Returns*
 552. *Who Really Discovered America?*
 553. *Wikisecrets*
 554. *Wild Target*
 555. *Wildest Dream: Conquest of Everest, The*
 556. *Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up?*
 557. *William & Kate: Planning a Royal Wedding*
 558. *William S. Burroughs: A Man Within*
 559. *Win Win*
 560. *Windmill Movie*
 561. *Wishful Drinking*
 562. *Witchcraft: Myths and Legends*
 563. *Wonders of the Universe*
 564. *Worst in Show*
 565. *Wrong Side of the Bus*
 566. *X-Men: First Class*
 567. *You Again*
 568. *You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger*
 569. *Your Highness*
 570. *Zookeeper*