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**COMMUNICATIONS
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – April 30, 2012

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- 1) approves the attached communication (Attachment a) concerning the termination of the Community Access Program (CAP) to the federal Minister of Industry.

Background Information:

In April 2012, Industry Canada announced that it will not be renewing funding for the Community Access Program (CAP), scheduled to end March 31, 2012. The CAP funding in its early years was instrumental in extending public Internet access to communities across Canada. In the most recent years, CAP funding helped sustain public Internet access. Toronto Public Library has received a total of \$2.9 million during the life of the program and currently receives \$44,200 annually in funding from CAP for public Internet access in 17 branches. The elimination of funding will remove a revenue source in 2013.

HISTORY OF CAP GRANTS TO TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

- In 2000, Urban CAP (Urban Community Access Program) funding provided \$1.683 million for expanding public Internet access in branches, upgrading the Internet network to high-speed service, providing Internet training, developing Internet content (TPL web site, SmallBizXpress gateway) and promoting the Library's Internet services.
- In 2001, the Sustainability Program for Internet Access provided \$495,000 for 99 Library locations. The funding helped sustain the following programs and services: free high-speed access to the Internet, free Internet workshops and training, continued development of the Library's web site and the SmallBizXpress gateway.

- In 2003, the Sustainability Program for Internet Access 3 (SPIA3) provided \$392,000 for 98 Library locations. The funding helped sustain and increase high-speed access to the Internet and supported on-going Internet training in Library branches.
- In 2005 - 2006 the CAP program provided \$69,000 for 17 branch locations. The funding helped sustain and increase high-speed access to the Internet.
- In 2006 - 2007 the CAP program provided \$42,768 for 17 branch locations. The funding helped sustain and increase high speed access to the Internet.
- Since 2008 the CAP program provided \$44,200 annually for 17 branch locations. The funding helped sustain and increase high-speed access to the Internet.