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## **BRIEFING NOTE – Poverty Reduction Initiatives at Toronto Public Library**

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Toronto Public Library has developed two initiatives for the City's poverty reduction strategy in 2015, the Library Access – Fines Forgiveness program and Youth Hubs.

### **What is the Library Access - Fine Forgiveness program?**

Library Access - Fine Forgiveness is a program to reinstate full library services and borrowing for children and youth at library branches in poverty areas by forgiving outstanding fines starting second quarter 2015, making summer reading programs, collections and after school programs fully accessible to the target audience.

Children and youth registered at the 31 library branches and bookmobile stops delivering services to the Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy (TSNS) 2020 neighbourhood improvement areas, whose library privileges are suspended, will be contacted and offered a forgiveness coupon so that full privileges are restored upon presentation of the coupon at the TSNS branch (Attachments 1 and 2). The program will be implemented in two phases. First, in spring 2015 the library will reach out to these children and teens to reinstate their privileges and invite them to join the summer reading club and participate in summer programs at their local branch. Second, in the fall as the school year gets underway, the Library will reach out again to children and teens registered at the TSNS branches with suspended cards, to reinstate their privileges and invite them back to the library. After school programs, reading support programs, collections, computer access and study spaces will be promoted. This campaign can be readily implemented and the outcomes will be tracked by branch. This program will support library access for children and teens and provide useful information in developing further initiatives to remove barriers for children and youth. Options to extend this program to the 13 branches and bookmobile stops located in transitioning neighbourhood improvement identified by the city and library in 2005 and 2006 are under review (Attachment 3).

## **Why is Fine Forgiveness a key initiative for children and youth in priority areas?**

Families in priority areas are concerned about the cost of library fines. Some families do not allow children to have library cards and borrow materials. For children and youth who do have library cards, once fines accumulate and borrowing privileges are suspended, they cannot pay the fines with the result that they are no longer able to borrow materials and take full advantage of library programs and services. More children and youth with blocked library cards are located in these areas than other areas of the city.

## **What are Youth Hubs?**

Youth Hubs provide much needed community space in poverty areas with large numbers of youth in library branches. The Hubs provide space where youth can connect and learn in a safe and welcoming environment. The Hubs will be open during the school year after school and in the summer months and staffed by on site library coordinators and volunteers from the community. The Hubs will focus on providing homework assistance, programs to help youth develop social and leadership skills, a nutritious snack, and a welcoming environment where youth can engage in fun and meaningful activities under the guidance of caring adults.

Two hubs will be introduced in the fall of 2015 at York Woods and Cedarbrae branches. Two additional hubs are proposed for 2016 at Maria A. Shchuka and Fairview branches (Attachment 4).

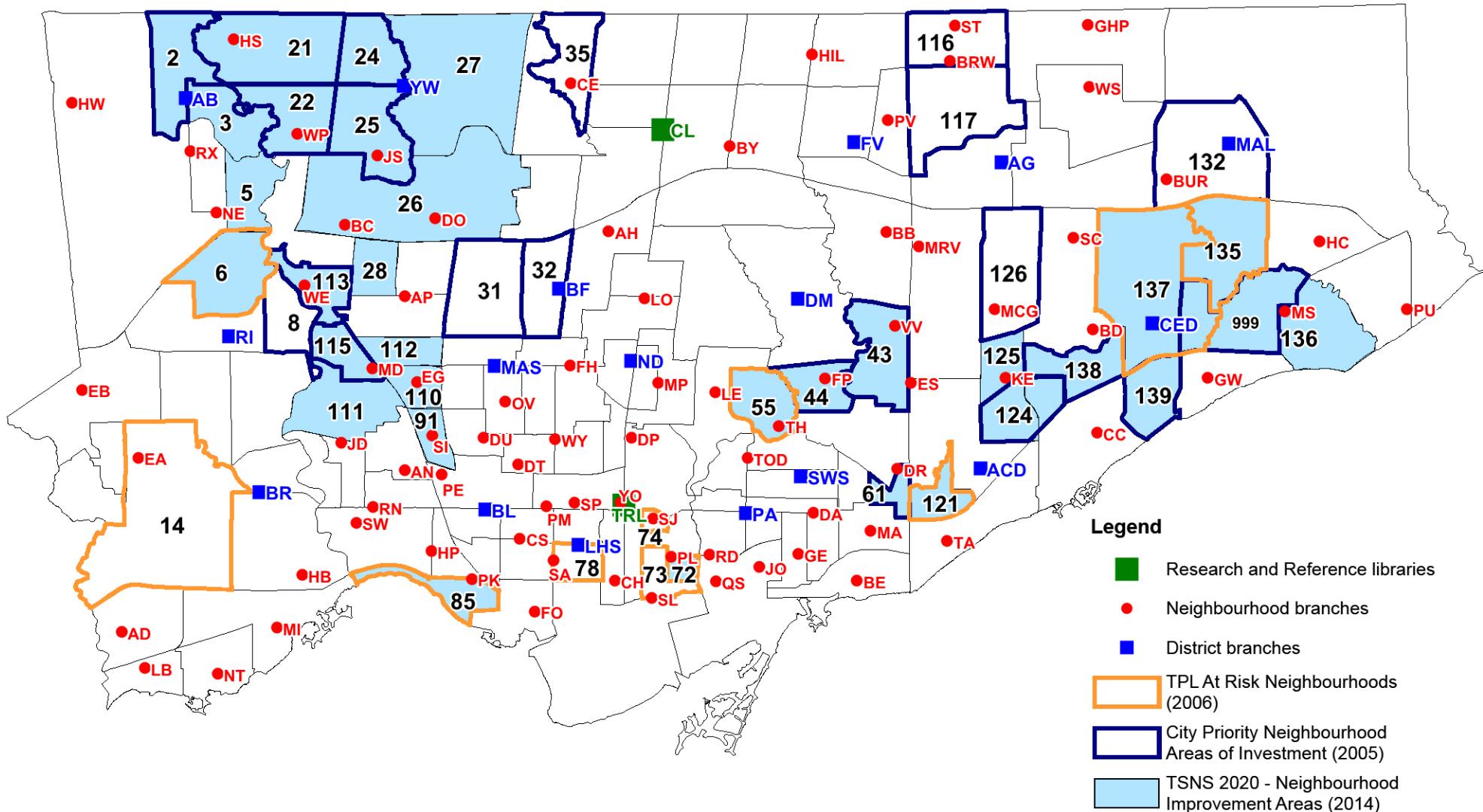
### Attachments:

1. TPL Branches & Neighbourhood Improvement Areas Changes
2. TSNS 2020 Neighbourhood Improvement Areas & Library Branches
3. Transitioning Neighbourhood Improvement Areas & Library Branches
4. Youth Hubs Programs

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## Attachment 1: Toronto Public Library Branches & changes to the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas



2 Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown	27 York University Heights	74 North St. James Town	121 Oakridge
3 Thistletown-Beaumont Heights	28 Rustic	78 Kensington-Chinatown	124 Kennedy Park
5 Elms-Old Rexdale	31 Yorkdale-Glen Park	85 South Parkdale	125 Ionview
6 Kingsview Village-The Westway	32 Englemount-Lawrence	91 Weston-Pellam Park	126 Dorset Park
8 Humber Heights-Westmount	35 Westminster-Branson	110 Keelesdale-Eglinton West	132 Malvern
14 Islington-City Centre West	43 Victoria Village	111 Rockcliffe-Smythe	135 Morningside
21 Humber Summit	44 Flemington Park	112 Beechborough-Greenbrook	136 West Hill
22 Humbermede	55 Thorncliffe Park	113 Weston	137 Woburn
24 Black Creek	61 Taylor-Massey (Crescent Town)	115 Mount Dennis	138 Eglinton East
25 Glenfield-Jane Heights	72 Regent Park	116 Steeles	139 Scarborough Village
26 Downsview-Roding-CFB	73 Moss Park	117 L'Amoreaux	999 Kingston Galloway



**Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiative- Library Access/ Fine Forgiveness Program  
Neighbourhood Improvement Areas & Library Branches**

Ward Number	Ward Region	Branches	Tier	Address	Postal Code	Serving Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
35	Scarborough-Southwest	Albert Campbell	District	496 Birchmount Rd	M1K 1N8	Oakridge (#121); Kennedy Park (#124)
1	Etobicoke North	Albion	District	1515 Albion Rd	M9V 1B2	Mount Olive-Silverstone-Jamestown (#2); Thistletown-Beaumont Heights (#3)
12	York South-Weston	Amesbury Park	Neighbourhood	1565 Lawrence Ave W	M6L 1A8	Rustic (#28)
38	Scarborough Centre	Bendale	Neighbourhood	1515 Danforth Rd	M1J 1H5	Woburn (#137); Eglinton East (#138)
7	York West	Black Creek	Neighbourhood	1700 Wilson Ave, Unit 63-64	M3L 1B2	Downsview-Roding-CFB (#26); Rustic (#28)
42	Scarborough-Rouge River	Burrows Hall	Neighbourhood	1081 Progress Ave	M1B 5Z6	Morningside (#135)
43	Scarborough East	Cedarbrae	District	545 Markham Rd	M1H 2A1	Morningside (#135); Woburn (#137); Eglinton East (#138); Scarborough Village (#139)
36	Scarborough Southwest	Cliffcrest	Neighbourhood	3017 Kingston Rd	M1M 1P1	Scarborough Village (#139)
31	Beaches-East York	Dawes Road	Neighbourhood	416 Dawes Rd	M4B 2E8	Taylor- Massey (#61); Oakridge (#121)
9	York Centre	Downsview	Neighbourhood	2793 Keele St	M3M 2G3	Downsview-Roding-CFB (#26)
35	Scarborough Southwest	Eglinton Square	Neighbourhood	1 Eglinton Sq, Unit 126	M1L 2K1	Victoria Village (#43)
12	York South-Weston	Evelyn Gregory	Neighbourhood	120 Trowell Ave	M6M 1L7	Keelesdale-Eglinton West (#110); Beechborough-Greenbrook (#112)
26	Don Valley West	Flemingdon Park	Neighbourhood	29 St. Dennis Dr	M3C 3J3	Flemingdon Park (#44)
7	York West	Humber Summit	Neighbourhood	2990 Islington Ave	M9L 2K6	Humber Summit (#21)
13	Parkdale-High Park	Jane/Dundas	Neighbourhood	620 Jane St	M6S 4A6	Rockcliffe-Smythe (#111)
9	York Centre	Jane/Sheppard	Neighbourhood	1906 Sheppard Ave West	M3L 1Y7	Glenfield-Jane Heights (#25)
37	Scarborough Centre	Kennedy/Eglinton	Neighbourhood	2380 Eglinton Ave E	M1K 2P3	Kennedy Park (#124); Ionview (#125); Eglinton East (#138)
44	Scarborough East	Morningside	Neighbourhood	4279 Lawrence Ave E	M1E 2S8	West Hill (#136)
11	York South-Weston	Mount Dennis	Neighbourhood	1123 Weston Rd	M6N 3S3	Rockcliffe-Smythe (#111) Beechborough-Greenbrook (#112); Mount Dennis (#115)
2	Etobicoke North	Northern Elms	Neighbourhood	123 B Rexdale Blvd, Unit 5	M9W 1P1	Elms-Old Rexdale (#5)
14	Parkdale-High Park	Parkdale	Neighbourhood	1303 Queen St W	M6K 1L6	South Parkdale (#85)



Ward Number	Ward Region	Branches	Tier	Address	Postal Code	Serving Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
28	Toronto Centre-Rosedale	Parliament Street	Neighbourhood	269 Gerrard St E	M5A 2G6	Regent Park (#72)
2	Etobicoke North	Rexdale	Neighbourhood	2243 Kipling Ave	M9W 4L5	Thistletown-Beaumont Heights (#3); Elms-Old Rexdale (#5)
4	Etobicoke Centre	Richview	District	1806 Islington Ave	M9P 3N3	Kingsview Village-The Westway (#6)
38	Scarborough Centre	Scarborough Civic Centre	Neighbourhood	150 Borough Dr	M1P 4N6	Woburn (#137)
17	Davenport	St. Clair/Silverthorn	Neighbourhood	1748 St. Clair Ave W	M6N 1J3	Weston-Pellam Park (#91)
26	Don Valley West	Thorncliffe	Neighbourhood	48 Thorncliffe Park Dr	M4H 1J7	Thorncliffe Park (#55)
34	Don Valley East	Victoria Village	Neighbourhood	184 Sloane Ave	M4A 2C4	Victoria Village (#43)
11	York South-Weston	Weston	Neighbourhood	2 King St	M9N 1K9	Weston (#113)
7	York West	Woodview Park	Neighbourhood	16 Bradstock Rd	M9M 1M8	Humbermede (#22)
8	York West	York Woods	District	1785 Finch Ave W	M3N 1M6	24 Black Creek (#24); Glenfield-Jane Heights (#25); York University Heights (#27)



**Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiative- Library Access/ Fine Forgiveness Program  
Neighbourhood Improvement Areas & Library Branches**

Ward Number	Ward Region	Branches	Tier	Address	Postal Code	Serving Neighbourhood Improvement Areas
40	Scarborough-Agincourt	Agincourt	District	155 Bonis Ave	M1T 3W6	L'Amoureaux (#117); Steeles (#116)
15	Eglinton-Lawrence	Barbara Frum	District	20 Covington Rd	M6A 3C1	Englemount-Lawrence (#32); Yorkdale-Glen Park (#31)
39	Scarborough-Agincourt	Bridlewood	Neighbourhood	2900 Warden Ave, Bridlewood Mall	M1W 2S8	Steeles (#116); L'Amoureaux (#117)
10	York Centre	Centennial	Neighbourhood	578 Finch Ave W	M2R 1N7	Westminister-Branson (#35)
5	Etobicoke-Lakeshore	Eatonville	Neighbourhood	430 Burnhamthorpe Rd	M9B 2B1	Islington-City Centre West (#14)
20	Trinity-Spadina	Lillian H. Smith	District	239 College St	M5T 1R5	Kensington-Chinatown (#78)
42	Scarborough-Rouge River	Malvern	District	30 Sewells Rd	M1B 3G5	Malvern (#132)
15	Eglinton-Lawrence	Maria A. Shchuka	District	1745 Eglinton Ave W	M6E 2H4	Keelesdale-Eglinton West (#110); Weston-Pellam Park (#91)
37	Scarborough Centre	McGregor Park	Neighbourhood	2219 Lawrence Ave E	M1P 2P5	Dorset Park (#126)
20	Trinity-Spadina	Sanderson	Neighbourhood	327 Bathurst St	M5T 1J1	Kensington-Chinatown (#78)
28	Toronto Centre-Rosedale	St. James Town	Neighbourhood	495 Sherbourne St	M4X 1K7	North St. Jamestown (#74)
39	Scarborough-Agincourt	Steeles	Neighbourhood	375 Bamburgh Circle, Bamburgh Gardens Shopping Plaza	M1W 3Y1	Steeles (#116); L'Amoureaux (#117)
29	Toronto-Danforth	S. Walter Stewart	District	170 Memorial Park Ave	M4J 2K5	Crescent Town (#61)



**Poverty Reduction Strategy Initiative - Youth Hubs Program**  
**Neighbourhoods Served & Library Branches**

Youth Hub locations provide geographic access across the city.

Ward Number	Ward Region	Branches	Tier	Address	Postal Code	Serving Neighbourhoods
43	Scarborough East	Cedarbrae	District	545 Markham Rd	M1H 2A1	Scarborough Village (#139); Eglinton East (#138); Morningside (#135)
8	York West	York Woods	District	1785 Finch Ave W	M3N 1M6	York University Heights (#27); Black Creek (#24); Glenfield-Jane Heights (#25)
33	Don Valley East	Fairview	District	35 Fairview Mall Dr	M2J 4S4	Don Valley Village (#47)
15	Eglinton-Lawrence	Maria A. Schuka	District	1745 Eglinton Ave W	M6E 2H4	Oakwood-Vaughan (#107)