

2009 Operating Budget – Update

Date:	March 23, 2009
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	City Librarian

SUMMARY

At its meeting of February 9, 2009, the Toronto Public Library Board approved a City-recommended 2009 operating budget which represents a 4.0 percent increase, and also requested the City to fund \$250,000 of unfunded sick leave costs from its employee benefits reserves.

At its meeting on February 26, 2009, Budget Committee considered the Board's request for sick leave funding; however, the Budget Committee's recommended Library budget remains at a 4.0 percent increase. Budget Committee is recommending that the Budget Committee Chair and Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer meet with the representatives of the Library Board, after the 2009 operating budget is approved, to address the issue of sustainable funding for library materials, sick leave costs and the Library Board's plan to increase open hours, for the 2010 budget.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Board-approved 2009 operating budget of \$162.015 million net (\$175.774 million gross) represents a \$6.225 million or 4.0 percent net increase, and meets the City-recommended budget target.

These amounts do not include the 2009 COLA to wages which are budgeted at the City corporate level in a year of collective bargaining.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this Financial Impact Statement and is in agreement with it.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of February 9, 2009, the Board passed the following motion regarding the 2009 operating budget:

Approves the City Manager recommended 2009 operating budget target of \$162.015 million net (\$175.774 million gross) or a 4 percent net increase, and requests the City to fund \$250,000 of the unfunded sick leave cost, which is part of the \$500,000 unallocated budget reduction, from its employee benefits reserves, to provide budget relief which will be redirected to library materials.

The Board report on the approved 2009 operating budget can be found at:
<http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pdfs/board/09feb09/10.pdf>.

COMMENTS

At its meeting on February 26, 2009 Budget Committee considered the Board's request for sick leave funding. The Budget Committee's recommended Library budget remains at a 4.0 percent increase, however, the Budget Committee is also recommending the following:

Council request the Budget Committee Chair and Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to meet with the representatives of the Library Board, after the Operating Budget is approved, to address the issue of sustainable funding for library materials, sick leave costs and the Library Board's plan to increase open hours, for the 2010 budget.

The operating budget will now be considered at Executive Committee on March 24, with final Council approval on March 31 or April 1.

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SIGNATURE

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