
**COMMUNICATIONS
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – February 25, 2019

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives Communication (a) from Sue Graham-Nutter, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board to Hachette, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster and Harper Collins publishers dated February 15, 2019 regarding the Canadian Urban Libraries Council econtentforlibraries.org advocacy campaign, for information.

February 15, 2019

Ms. Kristin Cochrane
CEO
Penguin Random House Canada
320 Front St. W., Suite 1400
Toronto, ON M5V 3B6

Dear Ms. Cochrane:

I am writing this letter as the Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board, which, at its January 21, 2019 meeting adopted the following resolutions:

That the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. *endorses and supports the econtentforlibraries.org advocacy campaign; and*
2. *directs the Chair to write a letter of support to Hachette, Macmillan, Penguin Random House, Simon & Schuster and Harper Collins publishers.*

The Canadian Urban Libraries Council launched this campaign to ask the public to advocate for better access for libraries to eaudiobooks from the Big Five publishers. Many titles are unavailable as rights have been purchased by Audible.ca, while others are available in U.S. but not Canadian libraries as Canadian rights have not been negotiated. This runs counter to libraries' mission to provide equal access to information for all and to the American Publishers Association's aim to promote fair and open markets.

In addition, it sought to bring to the public's attention the excessively high and unsustainable prices libraries must pay for both ebooks and eaudiobooks, as well as the restrictive purchasing models in place. The campaign received extensive positive attention in both traditional and social media.

Our real intent was to get your attention and to convince you to come together with libraries to develop a mutually beneficial pricing and purchasing model. Libraries and publishers are allies, part of the same reading ecosystem. Libraries promote authors, both established and new, through readings, book clubs and readers' advisory. It serves neither of our interests if Libraries can no longer afford to maintain ebook collections.

Libraries are eager to talk and to listen. We encourage you to do the same.

Sincerely,



Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair

Library Board

Chair

Sue Graham-Nutter

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Andrea Geddes Poole

Jennifer Liu
Councillor Gord Perks

Vice Chair

Strahan McCarten

Jonathan Hoss
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Alim Remtulla

City Librarian

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