



11.

COMMUNICATIONS
GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING – September 24, 2018

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives Communication (a) from Sue Graham-Nutter, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister, Tourism, Culture and Sport dated August 2, 2018 welcoming her to the position of Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, for information;
2. receives Communication (b) from the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to Sue Graham-Nutter, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board dated August 23, 2018 expressing appreciation for Ms. Graham-Nutter's letter of welcome (see Communication (a) above).

August 2, 2018

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
900 Bay Street
Hearst Block, 9th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Jones:

On behalf of the staff and Board of the Toronto Public Library, please accept our congratulations on your appointment as Minister, Tourism, Culture and Sport. We look forward to working with you on advancing public libraries in the future.

By way of introduction, Toronto Public Library is the largest public library system in Canada with a network of 100 branches across Toronto consisting of 81 neighbourhood branches, 17 district branches and two research and reference facilities. The Library's collections include over ten million items in more than 40 languages, and the Library's website, tpl.ca, offers 24/7 access to a broad selection of electronic resources and librarian expertise.

The Toronto Public Library serves residents and communities in ways no other institution can. We empower Torontonians to thrive in the digital age and global knowledge economy through expanded access to technology, lifelong learning and diverse cultural and leisure experiences, online, in our branches and in the community. The foundations for lifelong success in the 21st century are increasingly dependent on access to online services and networks. No other public institution has the mandate and reach, physical and technical infrastructure, talent and community presence to support digital inclusion and literacy for all.

The Virtual Reference Library (VRL) is a popular resource made possible in part by annual financial support from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport. Developed and managed with resources from the Toronto Public Library, the VRL provides free access to digital material of historical importance to Ontario and Canada.

The VRL is a unique and vast digital collection of high-quality images, including Ontario photos, postcards, maps, fire insurance plans, and views of towns and cities over time, culled from the Library's collection and dating back to the 1880s. The site also offers universal access to extensive Canadian literary programming and librarian expertise relevant to Ontarians. It provides librarians with resources and content relevant to their daily work and their local communities to supplement their own local history collection. All content and resources are available on the Library's website 24/7.

Library Board

Chair

Sue Graham-Nutter

Cameron Bryant
Councillor Paul Ainslie
Councillor Mary Fragedakis

Dianne LeBreton
Ross Parry
Daniel Rotsztain
Archana Shah
Eva Svec

Vice Chair

Strahan McCarten

City Librarian
Vickery Bowles

Earlier this year, Toronto Public Library successfully completed a two-year project, funded by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, designed to support public libraries across Ontario in their provision of technology services. The outcome of the project is the **Bridge Technology Services Assessment Toolkit** – a software-based solution for gathering and analyzing data – for libraries to easily assess the need for technology services in their communities, measure the outcomes they deliver, and benchmark those outcomes against other libraries across the province. TPL has reviewed initial findings from the project with Ministry staff, and you will be receiving a full report in early September.

The year 2018 is the third of the Library's four-year strategic plan *Expanding Access, Increasing Opportunity, Building Connections*. There has been substantial progress made over the past three years with the following six strategic priorities:

- Advancing our digital platforms
- Breaking down barriers to access and driving inclusion
- Expanding access to technology and training
- Establishing TPL as Toronto's centre for lifelong and self-directed learning
- Creating community connections through cultural experiences
- Transforming for 21st century service excellence.

The strategic plan is critical to ensure that we continue to deliver library services that reflect and meet the changing needs of Toronto residents. Successful implementation of the plan is transforming service delivery, building support and usage, and achieving the vision of making Toronto's residents and communities more connected and more successful.

I would welcome an opportunity to meet with you at your convenience and have requested library staff to contact your office in the near future to arrange a meeting.

The Toronto Public Library Board is pleased to count the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport as one of our partners.

Sincerely,



Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

/nrm

c: The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

**Ministry of Tourism,
Culture and Sport**

Minister

9th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1
Tel: 416 326-9326

**Ministère du Tourisme,
de la Culture et du Sport**

Ministre

9^e étage, édifice Hearst
900, rue Bay
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2E1
Tél. : 416 326-9326

TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY
City Librarian's Office

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August 23, 2018

Ms. Sue Graham-Nutter
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

Dear Ms. Graham-Nutter:

Thank you for your letter congratulating me on my appointment as Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. I am looking forward to serving in this new role and to be leading such a diverse and dynamic portfolio. I will make sure that I uphold our government's plan to work for the people of Ontario, to make life better and to help our communities thrive.

I understand the important role that arts and culture play in this province. The culture sector, including public libraries, makes significant contributions to our economy and supports almost 270,000 jobs.

I recognize that the success of this sector rests on the hard work and positive contributions of our public libraries, their staff, and organizations like the Toronto Public Library Board. I look forward to working with you and our ministry's many other partners and stakeholders in the coming weeks and months. If you would like to meet with me to discuss the priorities of Ontario's public libraries, please contact my scheduler in the fall regarding my availability at 416-314-1400.

Thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Best wishes,



Sylvia Jones
Minister