

To: ABC Ad Hoc Committee

From: Gillian Mason
Chair
Toronto Public Library Board

Date: July 14, 2003

Subject: **ABC Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of July 15, 2003 – Reports for Consideration**

The Toronto Public Library Board has reviewed the reports for consideration at the July 15th meeting of the ABC Ad Hoc Committee, and offers the following comments for consideration:

Development of City Directives to the Boards of City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions

The recommendation that City staff work with the Library to develop an individualized City Directive specific to the Library Board is preferred as it will allow the specific needs of the Board to be addressed. It is important to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the Board in providing oversight and policy direction are delineated and protected in the City Directives document. In the case of the Library Board, the powers and duties of the Board as outlined in the *Public Libraries Act* should be reflected in the Directive.

Public Access and Involvement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions – Recommended Policy

When a draft policy was reviewed earlier by Library staff it was noted that the policy, while commendable in its intent, was too prescriptive. This is particularly true given that the Library Board operates under legislation including the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and *Public Libraries Act* which covers the principles outlined in the policy.

The provision in the policy that City Agencies, Boards and Commissions may prepare their own policies consistent with the City policy is the preferred alternative for the Library Board. Public consultation and privacy policies are currently under development by Library staff and will be brought to the Library Board for approval at a future meeting. The development of separate policies is also beneficial from the Library Board's perspective as it differentiates between public access and public involvement.

Policy on Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations

In January 2003, the Library Board recommended to the ABC Ad Hoc Committee that citizen appointees of the Library Board be reimbursed a reasonable estimate of expenses incurred in performance of their duties. This recommendation is reflected in the proposed policy which states "receipts must be provided, except where the Board has a policy that determines a reasonable estimate of actual expenses that would be incurred".

ABC Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report and Future Strategy

Under the definition of a Special Purpose Body, the Library clearly can be defined as a Service Board. However, the classification of the Toronto Public Library Foundation Board as a Foundation over which Council has direct responsibility is incorrect. The Foundation is an entity independent of the Toronto Public Library Board and the City of Toronto. Any matters concerning the Foundation Board should be directed to Mr. Rick Goldsmith, Chair, Toronto Public Library Foundation Board.

The ABC Ad Hoc Committee's efforts in developing a framework for the City's ABC's as well as your consideration of the Toronto Public Library Board's comments are appreciated.