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To: Toronto Public Library Board – January 19, 2004

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Bell Canada – Ratification of Contract**

Purpose:

To obtain Toronto Public Library Board ratification of the Toronto Public Library's (TPL) portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada for a five-year period, ending January 14, 2009.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

All dollar amounts in this report include applicable taxes less the Municipal Goods and Services Tax rebate.

The TPL currently uses 1573 Bell Telephone Centrex lines at \$23.76 per line per month and 24 Micro Access lines at \$81.16 per line per month for a total annual fee of \$499,990.16, which is covered in the operating budget. The rates have been negotiated by the City of Toronto and TPL is entitled to these rates as part of the Metnet Federation. There are no increases to the rates currently being charged.

The total cost for the five-year term is \$2,499,950.80 and will be covered in the annual operating budget for this period.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Toronto Public Library Board ratify the Toronto Public Library's portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada for a five year period; and
- (2) the appropriate Library staff be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Background:

The City of Toronto and many of its Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs) are joined together in a Centrex users federation. This federation is identified as the Metnet Federation. The TPL is a member of the Metnet Federation.

One of the main goals of the Metnet Federation is to achieve economical line fee charges. Due to the great quantity of telephone lines required within the Metnet Federation, Bell Canada is able to dedicate required equipment solely for Metnet Federation users. The dedication of equipment to Metnet Federation users provides Bell with efficiencies within their operation, and consequently provides the Metnet Federation with lower line fee charges.

On April 8, 2002, the Board approved a two-year extension to the TPL's Centrex contract with Bell Canada, which expired on January 14, 2004. The extension was granted to allow the City of Toronto time to review options for the provision of carrier service. The City of Toronto issued an RFP during 2003, and awarded the contract to Bell Canada. The agreement at the City was signed on January 14, 2004.

Comments:

As part of the Metnet Federation, the TPL was not able to sign an agreement with Bell Canada until the City of Toronto had completed their negotiation of the rates and had signed their agreement with Bell Canada. In order for the TPL to receive the preferential rates that were negotiated by the City, Bell Canada required an agreement to be signed prior to the expiry of the current contract, on January 14, 2004. The additional costs to TPL of not securing the City's rates would be in excess of \$290,000 per year or \$1,450,000 for the five-year term. Due to the urgency of signing the agreement prior to the expiry date, the agreement was signed by the City Librarian, "subject to ratification by the Library Board, at their meeting on January 19, 2004."

Conclusion:

The agreement with Bell Canada for Centrex service for a five-year term ending January 14, 2009 be ratified by the Board.

Contact:

Larry Hughsam, Director, Finance and Treasurer; Tel: 416-397-5946; Fax: 416-393-7115;  
E-mail: [lhughsam@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:lhughsam@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

Bruce Barnett, Senior Manager, Facilities; Tel: 416-395-5881; Fax: 416-395-5916;  
E-mail: [bbarnett@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:bbarnett@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

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Josephine Bryant  
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.