

In **November 1998**, the Toronto Public Library Board reviewed an information item regarding room rental policies that noted that rental revenue stood at \$300,000 annually, and a harmonised fee structure based on mid-range charges from across the system would cost the library \$150,000.

In **September 1999**, the Toronto Public Library Board approved a harmonized room rental policy and fee structure as follows:

Non-profit Use	Rooms & Auditoria	\$20 per hour
	Auditoria (prime)*	\$50 per hour
	Theatres (small)	\$75 per day
	Theatres (FV, YW)	\$125 per day
Commercial Use	Rooms & Auditoria	\$70 per hour
	Auditoria (prime)*	\$100 per hour
	Theatres (small)	\$ 70 per hour
	Theatres (FV, YW)	\$ 70 per hour

* prime locations are TRL, NYCL, L.H.Smith, Northern District

Implementation of the Library Board's approved policy was deferred pending a review of the impact on groups that regularly use the Library's facilities. As a result of the review it was decided that the groups that will be exempt from fees would be defined more closely to ensure that their mandate is consistent with the Library's strategic direction.

1999-2000 A staff committee reviewed recent changes to community funding, City of Toronto initiatives, partnerships, and the potential for additional policies which would enhance the appeal of room rentals to more customers.

The principles of equitability, convenience for the public and the balancing of community support with fiscal responsibility guided the committee's recommendations.

The status of every regular and longstanding user of library rooms was reviewed, by regional management representatives. Categories of groups were reviewed to ensure that cost recovery could be achieved, while ensuring standardised criteria for library-related and non-profit groups.

Taking into account room rental fees currently paid by the majority of non-profit groups and the approved fee structure, the implementation plan was designed to have a minimal impact across the system.

A communication plan with a long lead-time for informing the public, councillors and staff was developed.

A complete review was undertaken compared to the Toronto District School Board and Parks & Recreation. Detailed comparisons of the TDSB rules were included in the October 29, 2001 board package.

At the **October 29, 2001 Board meeting**, the Board directed staff to report back regarding the financial impact of alternative rates for non-profit community groups.

The **November 19, 2001 board package** included alternative fee structures for consideration as follows:

Reducing non-profit room rates per hour from \$20 to \$10

Increasing non-profit theatres rates from \$125 a day to \$150 a day

Altering non-profit room rates per hour from \$20 to \$15

All motions were defeated at the November 19 Board meeting. As a result of the Board currently has in place the approved September 1999 policy, without a Board approved implementation strategy.