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December 16, 2005

Ms. Josephine Bryant
City Librarian
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8



Dear Ms. Bryant:

Re: Naming of the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection at the Parkdale Library

I am writing on behalf of the membership of Tropicana Community Services in support of naming the Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection at the Parkdale Library after its founder, Dr. Rita Cox – former Head of the Parkdale Branch Library.

For the past twenty-five years, Tropicana Community Services has provided a range of services for all youth and the Caribbean and Black communities in east Toronto. Our services include counseling, youth development and mentoring, education and employment services and day care. This collection has been a major resource for our education department and we often refer clients to access the wide range of Black and Caribbean literature. The collection and the library programming conceived and supported by Dr. Cox has enabled young literary artists of African and Caribbean descent to develop and showcase their talents and abilities. In addition, the very comprehensive collection has been responsible for raising consciousness of Caribbean literature within the wider literary community. Even though a number of public libraries now have sections on Black/Caribbean literature, the Parkdale Library is still a place to go – "a must see".

Our community continues to benefit from collections like these and by ensuring that the uniqueness of each collection is preserved, we pay tribute to a person who was far-sighted and innovative to see the need and ensuing benefits. We at Tropicana urge you to pay tribute to the collection and its founder – The Rita Cox Black and Caribbean Heritage Collection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Shelton".

Sharon Shelton
Executive Director



UNITED WAY
Member Agency