

Request for Study on the Economic Impacts and Benefits of Toronto Public Library

Date:	November 29, 2012
To:	Toronto Public Library Board
From:	Board Chair

SUMMARY

In a communication to the Toronto Public Library Board dated November 7, 2012 (Attachment 1), Councillor Paul Ainslie, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board is recommending that the Board request that the Library undertake a study of the economic impacts and benefits of Toronto Public Library and the role of public libraries in economic development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board Chair recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. requests that the City Librarian undertake a study on the economic impacts and benefits of Toronto Public Library and the role of public libraries in economic development.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In June, 2012 staff designated \$24,000 in available Foundation funds for the purpose of undertaking an assessment of the economic value of TPL resources and services to the community.

The Director, Finance & Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

COMMENTS

A study on the economic impact of Toronto Public Library could be undertaken, and through the Foundation, funds have been identified to support such an endeavour. Staff will be investigating working in collaboration with a suitable post-secondary institution (e.g. faculty of library and information science, business or economics) to develop and

conduct the research. The intention is to complete this study in 2013; however, if the Library partners with a university, the timing may depend on the university calendar and the availability of research partners.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Attachment 1: Communication to the Toronto Public Library Board from Councillor Paul Ainslie dated November 7, 2012 regarding a study of the economic impact of Toronto Public Library.