



To: Toronto Public Library Board – January 8, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Maria A. Shchuka and Leaside Libraries – Pre-Approval of 2001
Capital Projects**

Purpose:

To request Toronto Public Library Board approval to submit the Maria A. Shchuka and Leaside capital projects to the City's Policy and Finance Committee for pre-approval.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Maria A. Shchuka and Leaside Libraries are part of the capital budget submissions for 2001. Both projects are submitted with changes in scope because of escalating construction costs. For the Maria A. Shchuka Library, this represents an increase of \$2.3 million to the previously estimated budget of \$5.0 million. For the Leaside Library, the increase is \$600,000 to the already approved 2000 capital funding of \$2.6 million. These changes have been incorporated in our proposed 2001-2005 Capital Budget and 10-Year Plan. The City's Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and concurs with the financial impact statement.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Toronto Public Library Board approve the submissions for the Maria A. Shchuka and Leaside Library business cases for pre-approval; and that
- (2) Staff convey this information to the Policy and Finance Committee for their meeting of January 18, 2001.

Background:

As outlined in the appended business cases, early approval is required to:

- avoid further escalation in construction costs;
- provide an early start in the tendering of contracts to take advantage of a more favourable construction schedule;
- complete the projects within the capital budget timeframe.

The proposed Maria A. Shchuka reconstruction formed part of the former York Public Library Board's capital plan. It remained a priority and was included in Toronto Public Library Board's 1999 capital budget submission. The reconstruction is being planned in conjunction with the City's Let's Build initiative and two community agencies working with youth, COSTI and the For Youth Initiative. The proposed construction schedule is integral to these agencies' plans over the next two years.

The Leaside Library reconstruction project has undergone an extensive community consultation process. The project schedule is well known in the community with three public consultation meetings and local media coverage in addition to approval at East York Community Council, City Council, the East York Committee of Adjustment and the Ontario Municipal Board. Delaying the construction schedule to Spring 2001 will also have a negative impact on the residential neighbourhood immediately surrounding the Leaside Library.

Conclusion:

Delaying these local building projects will result in the possibility of cost over-runs and will have a serious impact on community and partnership expectations. Library Board approval will allow staff to proceed though the City's pre-approval process.

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List of Attachments:

2001-2005 Capital Program & 5-Year Plan Sub-Project Business Case / Financial Summary