



To: Toronto Public Library Board – September 24, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **St. James Town Building Project**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library Board with an overview of the planning undertaken to date with respect to the St. James Town Community Centre building project.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Not applicable.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive for information the *St. James Town Building Project* report.

Background:

St. James Town, bounded by Bloor, Wellesley, Parliament, and Sherbourne Streets has long been recognised as a community with special characteristics and needs. A plan entitled *St. James Town 2000: A Community Action Plan* was approved by the former City of Toronto in September 1997. One of its key components is the establishment of a multi-service community facility comprised of a recreation centre, day-care, and library.

Since the approval of the Action Plan, staff of the Library Board have been working with Parks and Recreation, Community and Neighbourhood Services, as well as other interested community groups to develop a plan for the realisation of the St. James Town Community Centre. A 1.77-acre site at the north-east corner of Wellesley and Sherbourne Streets was purchased by the City of Toronto in 1998.

Comments:

Last year the City of Toronto's Economic Development, Culture, and Tourism Department and the Toronto Public Library Board received approval from Council to begin design of the Centre. The building project will be realised through a three-party partnership of the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism Department, Community and Neighbourhood Services Department and the Toronto Public Library Board. The Community Centre project will have a

gross floor area of approximately 50,000 square feet and will consist of a recreation and day-care centre totalling 42,000 square feet and a 7,800 square foot neighbourhood library.

The Building Team, which consists of two representatives from each of the three partners and a Project Coordinator from the Policy and Development Division of Economic Development, Culture, and Tourism, has completed the process of selecting an architect. The Request for Proposal for the provision of architectural services was awarded to the overall highest scoring proponent, MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects Ltd., in joint venture with Zawadzki Armin Stevens Architects Inc., as approved by Toronto City Council, July 24, 2001.

Consultation with the community has been an important part of the partners' preparation for the building project. The Library, through the Building Team, will continue its involvement with the St. James Town Service Agency Committee, the Residents' Working Group and the City's St. James Town Interdepartmental Staff Team, which has overall responsibility for the implementation of St. James Town 2000: A Community Action Plan.

Conclusion:

The St. James Town project is proceeding. An architect was selected in July 2001. The project is scheduled for completion in 2003.

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.