



To: Toronto Public Library Board – February 19, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **TPL Board Meetings – Location**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library Board with information concerning the possibility of relocating Library Board Meetings to Toronto City Hall.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Not applicable.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive for information the *TPL Board Meetings – Location* report.

Comments:

At the January 8, 2001 TPL Board meeting, staff were requested to investigate the possibility of relocating Board meetings to Toronto City Hall. This issue was discussed in September 1999, and the Board approved the Toronto Reference Library as the permanent location for meetings of the Board in a vote of eight to one.

Meeting rooms are available at no cost to the Library at City Hall (100 Queen Street West) to accommodate the Board and staff along with space for members of the public. Additionally, adequate parking is also available underneath City Hall at a price comparable to the Yonge/Bloor area.

The advantage to holding meetings at City Hall for the Board's Council members (seven) whose offices are located there is obvious; however, the Board's Citizen representatives (eight) travel from all parts of the City to attend the meetings, and the City Hall location may not be as convenient for them. It should be noted as well that the use of meeting rooms at City Hall is subject to last minute cancellations for Council needs.

The importance of meetings of the Toronto Public Library Board in a library facility cannot be underestimated. As an independent Board, meetings held in a library underscore the distinctive nature of TPL's relationship with the City. For library users, a library is a comfortable and

familiar environment in which to attend meetings. Since renovating the Board Room at the Toronto Reference Library in the fall of 1998, the presence of the public and staff attending meetings on a voluntary basis has been significantly higher, making excellent use of the increased public seating area

The location of the Toronto Reference Library at the crossroads of the City and at the centre of its transportation system is an ideal location for Board members, staff, public and the media. The City Hall location on the Yonge/University subway lines is only slightly less convenient to reach than 789 Yonge Street. However, there does not appear to be any one strong argument to relocate the Board meetings from an already highly accessible location.

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.