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To: Toronto Public Library Board – June 14, 2004

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award – Revised Process**

Purpose:

To seek Toronto Public Library Board approval for the establishment of a \$2,500 prize and a revised process for the selection of the recipient of the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The \$2,500 cost of the prize for the Award recipient can be accommodated in the annual operating budget.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- (1) approve the revised process for selection of the *Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award* recipient as detailed in Attachment 1;
- (2) approve the establishment of a \$2,500 prize for the Award recipient; and
- (3) determine its representative for the Nomination Committee to select the 2005 Award recipient.

Background:

The Toronto Public Library Board approved the creation of an annual award, Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award, in 2001. The following rationale, prize and criteria were approved by the Board at the April 30, 2001 meeting:

Award Criteria

The Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award will be given based on an outstanding contribution to the enjoyment of reading. A body of work will be considered. The recipient will not be limited to authors and illustrators, but could include publishers, organizations and

individuals. The recipient will be honoured for his/her work helping Torontonians discover the joy of reading.

The Prize

The Award will be created and paid for by a corporate sponsor in exchange for recognition.

Rationale

The Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award will:

- raise the profile of the Toronto Public Library
- raise the profile of literacy
- raise the profile of Canadian literature

Paulette Bourgeois and Brenda Clark were the first award recipients. Kenneth Oppel won in 2002 and TVO won in 2003. Dennis Lee is the 2004 recipient.

Comments:

The establishment of a nomination committee with clearly defined selection criteria is needed to sustain the Award and the promotion of the Award on an ongoing basis.

The Recipient Selection Process outlined in Attachment 1, is more comprehensive and includes the creation of a nomination committee.

A crystal prize was commissioned in 2001 and has been given to recipients since that time. The Library has three crystal prizes in stock for future recipients. The addition of a \$2,500 monetary prize will make the Award more attractive to recipients.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the Board approve the revised process for selection of the Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award recipient as detailed in Attachment 1, approve the establishment of a \$2,500 prize for the Award recipient, and determine its representative for the Nominating Committee to select the 2005 Award recipient. This will sustain the Award and the promotion of the Award, on an ongoing basis.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Toronto Public Library Celebrates Reading Award Recipient Selection Process