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To: Toronto Public Library Board – January 16, 2006

From: City Librarian

Subject: **National Summit on Libraries and Literacy – Moving Forward**

Purpose:

To inform the Toronto Public Library Board of the objectives of the *National Summit on Libraries and Literacy - Moving Forward* and of Toronto Public Library support for the Summit.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

There is no net cost to the Library; Toronto Public Library is providing an in-kind contribution for project administration.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive the *National Summit on Libraries and Literacy – Moving Forward* report for information.

Background:

The *National Summit on Libraries and Literacy - Moving Forward* will take place on June 14, 2006, one day prior to the Canadian Library Association Conference, in Ottawa. The Summit is hosted by the Canadian Library Association (CLA) and the CLA Action for Literacy Interest Group.

The Summit will bring together representatives of library and literacy organizations from across the country to:

- identify strategies that will increase information sharing among libraries that are interested in/involved in adult literacy work and thereby help to develop a national network of those libraries;
- create awareness, support and plans at the national level for initiatives that increase library/literacy collaboration;
- identify how to connect public libraries with existing national adult basic education initiatives;
- inform participants of innovative examples of library/literacy collaboration and partnership occurring at the local, provincial and regional level.

Approximately 90 participants from libraries, provincial and national library organizations, provincial and national literacy organizations, and government are expected to attend the Summit.

CLA has received a grant of \$50,484 from the National Literacy Secretariat to facilitate holding the Summit. The total budget for the Summit is approximately \$120,000. Toronto Public Library has contributed \$15,400 as an in-kind contribution for costs associated with project administration, essentially for staff time associated with carrying out Steering Committee responsibilities. In addition, in-kind or cash contributions have been received from Vancouver Public Library, AlphaPlus Centre, Canadian Urban Libraries Council, Libraries and Archives Canada, National Adult Literacy Database, and Canada Post Corporation.

The Summit Steering Committee is comprised of: from Toronto Public Library: Greg Kelner, Acting Manager, North York Central Library; Dawna Rowson, Manager City-Wide Services; Brenda Livingston, Literacy Services Specialist; from Vancouver Public Library: Thomas Quigley, Acting Head of Acquisitions; from AlphaPlus Centre: Mary Reynolds, Project Coordinator, Linking Literacy and Libraries Phase III.

Greg Kelner and Thomas Quigley are co-convenors of the Action for Literacy Interest Group.

Comments:

Toronto Public Library supports literacy, reading and learning through a wide range of programs and community partnerships. The Adult Literacy Services Department provides free one-on-one tutoring in basic reading, writing, and math for English-speaking adults at nine library branches. The department regularly partners with community literacy programs to deliver workshops on literacy resources for tutors and to provide basic training for learners and tutors on a range of skills and services such as the Internet, creative writing, and the library catalogue. Staff is active on adult literacy boards and committees such as Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy and Community Literacy of Ontario. As well, sixteen community literacy programs are provided with deposit collections of literacy resources and fifty-three library branches have collections of adult literacy materials. The Library also supports family literacy by providing training to parents and caregivers on sharing books and language with young children at parenting centers throughout the City. The community has benefited enormously from the Library's involvement in literacy.

Toronto Public Library views the Summit as another opportunity to support adult literacy and strongly believes that the Summit will have significant benefits.

Conclusion:

The *National Summit on Libraries and Literacy - Moving Forward* is a major initiative that will advance collaboration between libraries and adult literacy organizations at the national level, and will strengthen the role of libraries in adult literacy throughout the country. Toronto Public Library supports the initiative, and is providing an in-kind contribution.

Contact:

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List of Attachments:

Not applicable.