



To: Toronto Public Library Board – April 8, 2002

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Metnet Federation Centrex Contract with Bell Canada**

Purpose:

To obtain Toronto Public Library (TPL) Board approval to extend Toronto Public Library's portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada for a two-year period.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

TPL currently uses approximately 1,400 Bell Telephone Centrex lines at \$22.85 per line per month, for an annual fee of \$383,880 which is provided for in the operating budget.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve a two-year extension of Toronto Public Library's portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada, for the period January 14, 2002 to January 13, 2004.

Background:

The City of Toronto and many of its Agencies, Boards and Commissions (ABCs) are joined together in a Centrex users federation. This federation is identified as the Metnet Federation. TPL is a member of the Metnet Federation.

One of the main goals of the Metnet Federation is to achieve economical telephone line fee charges. Due to the large quantity of telephone lines required within the Metnet Federation, Bell Canada is able to dedicate required equipment solely for Metnet Federation users. The dedication of equipment to Metnet users provides Bell with efficiencies within their operation, and consequently provides the Metnet Federation with lower line fee charges.

If the contract were not extended for a two-year period, the monthly line rate would increase to \$36.10 for a total annual fee \$606, 480. This would be a total fee increase of \$445, 200 for the two-year period if the contract is not extended.

Comments:

On January 14, 2002, the five-year Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada expired. The City of Toronto has chosen to exercise a Canadian Radio Telecommunications Television Commission (CRTC) option to extend the current contract for a two-year period. During this period, the City will be reviewing future options for the provision of carrier service, and will inform the ABCs of all developments. Bell Canada has agreed to provide Metnet Federation rates to TPL for the period January 14, 2002 to January 13, 2004, subject to Board approval.

Conclusion:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve a two-year extension of TPL's portion of the Metnet Federation Centrex contract with Bell Canada, for the period January 14, 2002 to January 13, 2004. TPL staff will continue to work within the Metnet Federation to review future options for the provision of carrier services.

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.