



To: Toronto Public Library Board – November 15, 2004

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Programming Policy**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library with a policy to guide the development and delivery of library programs for the public.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Not applicable.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve the *Programming Policy*.

Background:

The Library provides a number of services that require the support of a system-wide policy to ensure consistency and equity, and to provide guidance for staff and the community. The *Programming Policy* continues ongoing policy development activities in the Library.

In 2003 over 19,000 programs were held at TPL with more than 455,000 participants. Children, seniors, newcomers and adults continue to respond in increasing numbers to programs from pre-school story times and computer instruction, book clubs and English as a Second Language.

Staff have reviewed the policies that were in place in some predecessor library systems (Toronto, East York, Scarborough) to ensure that their principles, particularly those related to systematic planning and promoting the use of the Library through programs, continue to be represented.

Other departments such as Parks and Recreation were also consulted in the development of the Library's policy.

Comments:

Library programs are an intrinsic part of public library service and extend the Library's cultural, informational and recreational roles at both the local and city-wide level.

The *Programming Policy* serves as the basis for the development, delivery and evaluation of programs. It ensures that the same principles and conditions for programs and working cooperatively with community groups are followed system-wide. The policy emphasizes the role of programs in promoting the Library as a community resource, in addressing the cultural and leisure-rated interests of the community and of extending the information found in library collections. Finally, the policy provides focus for library programs on literacy, learning, reading and culture and encourages public participation in civic life.

Conclusion:

Approval of the policy will ensure that TPL's library programming success is further supported by a well-planned, consistently monitored approach, and that programs are equally accessible to all members of the community.

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List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Programming Policy