



To: Toronto Public Library Board – September 24, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Award of Contract - Bookmobile**

Purpose:

To obtain Toronto Public Library Board approval for the award of contract for the purchase of a bookmobile.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The purchase of the bookmobile will be accommodated within the capital budget for 2001, which includes a \$100,000 contribution from the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve that staff enter into contract negotiations with McNabb Bus Sales for the supply of a bookmobile at a price not to exceed \$278,875.

Background:

Toronto Public Library's bookmobile services are provided at 30 stops across the city. Two vehicles are used for this service. One vehicle is a 1984 converted school bus, which now requires replacement.

The Library issued a Request for Proposal to all six Canadian manufacturers and suppliers of bookmobiles. In addition, the Request for Proposal was advertised in the Daily Commercial News. When the tender closed on April 26, 2001, the Library received the following responses:

McNabb Bus Sales	\$278,875.00	28' Thomas Built Bus
Orion Bus Industries	No Bid	
Overland Custom Coach	\$236,568.44	28' ELF

In addition, one response was received from a company which manufactures school and commercial buses, but not bookmobiles:

Pearson Bus Sales Ltd	\$199,020.00	28' Blue Bird school bus
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All the responses were reviewed and evaluated by Toronto Public Library staff based on the specifications contained in the Request for Proposal.

Comments:

The proposal from McNabb Bus Sales is the highest bid and is the only proposal which met all of the requirements of the Request for Proposal.

The proposal from Overland Custom Coach does not meet the requirement in the Request for Proposal to access the ramp for the Toronto Island ferry and would, therefore, be unable to provide existing service on the Toronto Island.

The proposal from Pearson Bus Sales Ltd. does not meet the requirement in the Request for Proposal for the Gross Vehicle Weight not to exceed 11,000 kg. A special license would be required for driving this bookmobile resulting in increased operating costs and loss of flexibility in relief staffing. In addition, Pearson Bus Sales Ltd. has little or no experience with bookmobiles.

Conclusion:

McNabb Bus Sales was the only company who met the requirements as specified in the Library's Request for Proposal. The Library recommends staff enter into contract negotiations with McNabb Bus Sales for the supply of a bookmobile at a cost not to exceed \$278,875.

Contact:

Jane Pyper, Director, Service Planning & Support; Tel: 416-395-5602; Fax: 416-395-5542;  
E-mail: [jpyper@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:jpyper@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

David Clark, Manager, Purchasing & Administration; Tel: 416-393-7033; Fax: 416-393-7115;  
E-mail: [dclark@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:dclark@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

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List of Attachments:

Not applicable.