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To: Toronto Public Library Board – March 24, 2003

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Ontario Library Boards' Association**

Purpose:

To seek the Toronto Public Library Board's direction in matters pertaining to the Ontario Library Boards' Association (OLBA).

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The cost of the Toronto Public Library Board's participation in the OLBA teleconferencing workshops is \$158.40 to be accommodated within the 2003 Operating Budget.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

- (1) express support to the Ontario Library Boards' Association for block membership in the Ontario Library Association recommending that the Toronto Public Library be used as a pilot site for the initiative; and
- (2) express support, in principle, for the Ontario Library Boards' Association's advocacy programme.

Background:

The Ontario Library Boards' Association (formerly the Ontario Library Trustees' Association) is an association of the Ontario Library Association serving the over 1,200 trustees who are members of public library boards in Ontario. The Toronto Public Library Board's representative to the OLBA is Meyer Brownstone. As reported to the Board at the February 17 meeting in a communication from Mr. Brownstone to Gillian Mason, two OLBA issues, outlined below, have been identified as requiring the TPL Board's direction.

Comments:

OLA Block Membership

Block membership is an idea initiated by the OLBA with endorsement from the Ontario Public Library Association. While the specifics of block membership have not been determined, one of the concepts is that in exchange for guaranteeing a certain level of participation from their workforce, the TPL Board would receive a discounted rate of membership that could be made available to individual staff. This approach has worked successfully with school boards and has increased membership from 800 to 1400. If the Board were interested in pursuing this, Toronto Public Library could be offered as a pilot site.

Advocacy Program

At the political action/liaison level, an advocacy program directed at all levels of government is another strategic initiative identified by the OLBA. Although the specific issues are not identified, the Board may wish to participate in the OLBA advocacy programme. Specific advocacy issues would be brought back to the Library Board for consideration.

Redefining Library Boards for Dynamic Communities Teleconference

Interested Board members may wish to attend a series of workshops in a teleconference format with a focus on libraries as agencies of community development organized by the OLBA. The workshops to be facilitated by Ken Haycock, Senior Partner in Ken Haycock and Associates are scheduled as follows:

Part 1 – A Library Board’s Visioning Process – Monday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. – Toronto Reference Library – 789 Yonge Street – Board Room.

Part 2 – Boards Look Outward into the Community – Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. – Toronto Reference Library – 789 Yonge Street – Board Room.

Part 3 – Tracking Library Board Success – Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. – Toronto Reference Library – 789 Yonge Street – Board Room.

Conclusion:

The Toronto Public Library Board’s direction concerning the proposed block membership and advocacy programs will be communicated to the Ontario Library Boards’ Association.

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.