

## **Downsview Branch – Closure for Minor Renovation**

<b>Date:</b>	September 23, 2019
<b>To:</b>	Toronto Public Library Board
<b>From:</b>	City Librarian

### **SUMMARY**

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Downsview branch closed temporarily on September 3, 2019 for work on the main entryway stairs and accessibility ramp. In order to complete the required work to reconstruct the ramp, and main front entry stairs, as well as completing work on the foundation of the library branch to prevent future water penetration, a closure of approximately two months is required.

Board approval is required for closures of four or more weeks.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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**The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:**

1. approves the closure of the Downsview branch for approximately two months.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There is no financial impact beyond what has already been approved in the budget.

The Director of Finance has reviewed this Financial Impact Statement and agrees with it.

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN**

This work is in alignment with Strategic Plan Priority 2: Breaking down barriers to access and driving inclusion through enhancing access to facilities and physical spaces by continuing multi-year renovation initiatives.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Downsview branch minor renovation is part of the Library's approved capital multi-branch projects budget.

## **COMMENTS**

The Downsview branch closed on September 3, 2019 to start repairs on the exterior main entrance stairs and accessible ramp on the west side of the building. Work on the foundations on the south and east sides of the building also needs to be completed to address leaks that are causing damage to the interior of the branch. The work will be disruptive, and due to the location of the work, the main entrance will be closed and the branch will also not have enough fire exits in operation to allow for occupancy of the building.

In order to get started on and to complete this exterior work while the weather remains good, the branch was closed in early September. The work is expected to be completed by late October, weather permitting. Since the policy on branch closures authorizes the City Librarian to close a branch for up to four weeks without Board approval, staff moved to close the Downsview branch as soon as feasible. Given the library closed on September 3, 2019 and a closure of more than four weeks is required, Board approval is needed to continue the temporary closure.

The Downsview branch is a busy neighbourhood branch, serving a current population of approximately 45,150 (2016 census data). In addition to providing a full suite of neighbourhood library services, Downsview hosts a Youth Hub, and also houses one of the Music Instrument Lending libraries as well as a Digital Innovation Hub.

### **Plan for Alternate Service**

For the duration of the closure the following alternate service plans will be in effect:

- Direct users to pick up holds and use nearby branches in close proximity with easy TTC access, including Jane/Sheppard and Black Creek branches
- Relocate the Musical Instrument Lending library service to the Jane/Sheppard branch
- Increase programming at Jane/Sheppard branch
- Relocate Digital Design Technician to the Albion branch to continue to conduct programming for the area
- Relocate the Youth Hub to a nearby church hall in order to continue this popular service

- Continue to provide outreach services such as Kindergarten Outreach, visits to schools, child care centres, after school programs, parent/child programs, and outreach to clients of community agencies
- Continue engagement with community groups and agencies to identify ongoing service needs and planning for services to be delivered once the branch reopens
- Continue to participate in key community events
- Utilize social media throughout the closure to promote library services and keep users updated on the progress of construction

The local Councillor has been informed of the closure and alternate service plan.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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City Librarian