

To: Toronto Public Library Board – September 18, 2006

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Technical Partnerships between the City of Toronto and Banda Aceh (Indonesia) and Batticaloa (Sri Lanka).**

Purpose:

To recommend Library involvement in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) – Technical Partnerships between the City of Toronto and Banda Aceh (Indonesia) and Batticaloa (Sri Lanka).

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

The direct costs associated with outbound and inbound technical exchange missions are covered by Federation of Canadian Municipalities International Centre for Municipal Development.

The Library's contribution to the partnerships will be in-kind through the participation of TPL staff in the inbound and outbound missions. It is estimated that the Library will make an estimated in-kind contribution of up to \$32,000 in staff time to the technical partnership in 2007.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board approve the Library's involvement in the City of Toronto's technical assistance program for Tsunami relief in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka.

Background:

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has been co-ordinating a municipal response to the Tsunami. The City of Toronto's contribution to this relief effort has been the provision of technical assistance to the various missions to the areas affected by the Tsunami. The Municipal Council of Batticaloa in Sri Lanka has been selected as one of the local governments to receive assistance from this program.

One of the areas of focus for assistance that has been identified has been the improvement of library services and information management in Batticaloa's Main Library and Children's Library.

The City of Toronto contacted the Toronto Public Library and requested that it make staff available to be involved in technical assistance missions to Sri Lanka to focus on library services and programs.

Comments:

The City of Toronto has outlined its proposed involvement in the FCM's Tsunami relief program in a report to the Policy and Finance Committee of September 18, 2006 (see Appendix 1). This program includes the improvement of library services for adults and children.

It is envisaged that Library staff will be given the opportunity to volunteer for the mission to Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. Senior management staff at the Library has expressed their support for the technical partnership.

Conclusion:

This report seeks Toronto Public Library Board approval for Library involvement in the City of Toronto's technical assistance program for Tsunami relief in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, under the auspices of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and as set out in the report to Policy and Finance Committee, September 1, 2006 (Attachment 1).

Contact:

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Josephine Bryant  
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: Policy and Finance Committee report dated September 1, 2006