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To: Toronto Public Library Board – January 17, 2005
From: City Librarian
Subject: **Toronto Public Library Board – Location of Meetings**

Purpose:

To establish a permanent location for meetings of the Toronto Public Library Board.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Not applicable.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board determine a permanent location for Library Board meetings.

Background:

The location of Library Board meetings was first discussed by the newly amalgamated Toronto Public Library Board in September 1999 with the recommendation by Councillor Joe Mihevc that the meetings of the Library Board be moved from the Toronto Reference Library to Toronto City Hall on a six-month trial basis. The motion was defeated by a vote of eight to one. At the same meeting, the Toronto Reference Library at 789 Yonge Street was approved as the permanent location for meetings of the Library Board by a vote of eight to one. In February 2001, with the appointment of several new councillor representatives, the matter was raised again. Once again, the recommendation was defeated.

In June 2001, the following Notice of Motion was presented to the Board concerning the location of Toronto Public Library Board meetings for consideration at the September 2001 Board meeting:

Whereas the Toronto Public Library Board has had difficulty in attaining a quorum for meetings due in part to the conflicting priorities of the Councillor members of the Board; and

Whereas Agencies, Boards and Commissions of the City are using space available at City Hall for public meetings;

Now therefore be it resolved that the location of meetings of the Toronto Public Library Board be moved to Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West.

At the September 2001 Board meeting the motion was carried. The first meeting of the Library Board at City Hall was held in October 2001.

In December 2002, the following Notice of Motion was presented to the Board to reconsider the location of Toronto Public Library Board meetings:

Whereas suitable meeting room space is unavailable to the Toronto Public Library Board in 2003 at City Hall;

Now therefore be it resolved that consideration be given at the January 27, 2003 meeting to relocating Board meetings to Library Headquarters at 789 Yonge Street.

At the January 27, 2003 Board meeting, the decision was made to continue to meet at City Hall with the assistance of the City of Toronto CAO's office to secure more suitable meeting room space. In December 2003, it was agreed that the Board would meet at the Toronto Reference Library until a decision concerning the location of Library Board meetings could be made by the full 2004 – 2006 Council-appointed Board.

Since January 2004, Library Board meetings have been held at Library Headquarters at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street.

Comments:

With the appointment of citizen representation to the Board by Council in December 2004, the full 2004 – 2006 Toronto Public Library Board is in place. A decision concerning the permanent location of Library Board meetings is required at this time.

Since the decision to hold meetings of the Library Board at City Hall, the composition of the Board has been changed from 15 members consisting of eight citizen representatives and seven councillor representatives to 13 members consisting of eight citizen representatives and five councillor representatives.

Conclusion:

Once approved, the location of Library Board meetings will be publicized for interested parties.

Contact:

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Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.