

To: Toronto Public Library Board – May 12, 2003

From: City Librarian

Subject: **ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Request for Feedback on Issues Relating to Agencies, Boards and Commissions**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library Board with an update on recent requests from the ABC Ad Hoc Committee for the Library Board to provide feedback on a number of issues relating to ABCs, and to recommend a process to respond to the ABC Ad Committee in light of conflicting schedules.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the Toronto Public Library Board receive for information the *ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Request for Feedback on Issues Relating to Agencies, Boards and Commissions* report; and
- (2) the Library Board Chair, Vice Chair and other interested Board members, in consultation with staff, respond to the ABC Ad Hoc Committee's request for feedback in connection with the *Classification Framework of City of Toronto Special Purpose Bodies, a Strategy for Developing Citizen Nomination Processes for City Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations, Policy on Public Access and Involvement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions* and the *Template for City Directions to ABCs*.

Background:

The ABC Ad Hoc Committee, established in February 2002, has a mandate to:

- ◆ develop a City framework for the governance of ABCs;
- ◆ rationalize existing models and make improvements;
- ◆ develop reporting requirements and accountability mechanisms;
- ◆ review processes for selecting boards; and
- ◆ articulate expectations and relationships to the City.

Library Board members Denzil Minnan-Wong, Jane Pitfield and Kyle Rae are members of the Committee.

After consultation with the CAO's office, the Library Board, at its January 27, 2003 meeting, made a number of recommendations to the ABC Ad Hoc Committee in connection with Library Board's composition. Also on January 27, 2003, the Board made recommendations to the Committee concerning Remuneration and Expenses for Library Board members. The Board's recommendations relating to composition are on the May 8, 2003 agenda of the Policy & Finance Committee and, if approved will be considered by Council at its June 24, 25 and 26 meeting. The Board's recommendations concerning remuneration will be considered by the ABC Ad Hoc Committee at a later date.

Comments:

The ABC Ad Hoc Committee has developed a workplan to deal with the issues relating to ABCs. Staff in the CAO's office met with Library staff recently for preliminary discussions about several of these issues with implications for the Library Board outlined below.

1. Classification of City of Toronto Special Public Bodies

The classification framework for City Special Purpose Bodies will outline the relationship of the City's Special Purpose Bodies, including the Toronto Public Library, to the City including the degree of autonomy, City policies and procedures which apply, and reporting requirements for each class.

2. Strategy for Developing Citizen Nomination Processes for City Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations

Recommendations will be made for new approaches to recruiting and nominating citizens to City Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations. This issue has been dealt with separately for the Library Board as part of its composition recommendations (see Attachment 1).

3. Policy on Public Access and Involvement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

Recommendations will be made regarding public access to the decision-making process of City Agencies, Boards and Commissions. A similar policy is being developed by Library staff for Library Board approval in the near future.

4. ABC Relationship Building Workshop

The Board Chair and City Librarian have been invited by the ABC Ad Hoc Committee to attend a workshop designed to provide additional clarity on the classification framework, articulate mutual expectations and identify the means to work effectively together. The workshop is scheduled for May 14.

5. Template for City Directions to ABCs

City Directions to ABCs are expected to articulate, clarify and document the rules, roles, relationships and responsibilities for all of the City's ABCs. The development of these Directions will also assist the City in updating the Municipal Code with respect to each ABC.

The final draft reports in connection with Items 1, 2, 3 and 5 above will not be available for the Library Board's review until June 2. Responses to the Committee are required by June 9 for approval by the ABC Ad Hoc Committee on June 19. As this timetable is unlikely to synchronize with the Board's meeting schedule, it is recommended that if consultation with the full Board is not possible, the Library Board Chair, Vice Chair and other interested Board members, in consultation with staff, develop a response to the Committee. The response would then be communicated to the Board.

Conclusion:

This report provides the Library Board with the information regarding the ABC Ad Hoc Committee's request for feedback from the Library Board on a number of issues relating to ABCs.

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Not applicable.