

Nancy Marshall

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 06, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Nancy Marshall
Subject: proposed agenda item for the TPL Board's October 2015 meeting

Re: proposed agenda item for the TPL Board's October 2015 meeting

Nancy Marshall, TPL Board Secretary

Please consider a short presentation to the TPL Board at its October 2015 meeting on how a Women's History Month helps address the TPL's Strategic Plan Objectives and Research Theme #1: Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction.

An outline of this information related to this item is as follows.

Thank you.

John Wilson [REDACTED]

HOW A TPL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH helps address the TPL's Strategic Plan Objectives, including Research Theme #1: Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction.

Motion (Feb. 17, 2015 BOD Meeting): requests staff to explore the feasibility of celebrating Women's History Month and provide a summary of current programming related to women, and report back at the end of the Third Quarter. Moved by Mary Fragedakis and Seconded by Lindsay Colley. Passed Unanimously

Target date: 3rd Quarter 2015 TPL Board meeting

Note: TPL has history months for Blacks, Asian and Aboriginals and many other libraries, especially American, have Women's History Months.

TPL's 2015 Strategic Plan supports a Women's History Month. | Values 2. Diversity | Goal 9: Promote and provide pathways to Toronto's culture through resources, services and programming.

Research Theme #1: Income Inequality and Poverty Reduction: "Income inequality is a serious issue that threatens the health and well-being of children and families across Toronto. One in four children and one in five adults live in poverty in Toronto. Among recent immigrants to Toronto, the poverty rate is a staggering 46%."

Supporting women and providing them with examples of successful women throughout history helps both women and their families. And, there is no better way for the TPL to lead than by providing these examples. A TPL Women's History Month will enable other organizations to link with the TPL.

Muhammad Yunus social entrepreneur, banker, economist and civil society leader was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for founding the Grameen Bank and pioneering microcredit and microfinance. More than 94% of Grameen loans have gone to women, who suffer disproportionately from poverty and who are more likely than men to devote their earnings to their families. The Grameen microfinance model inspired similar efforts in about 100 developing countries, including the United States. Many microcredit projects retain Grameen's emphasis of lending to women.

Resources for a Women's History Month can be redirected from other programmes with few, if any, new resources required (e.g., book displays, author talks, films, presentations and the like that are related to women and their history or altered to make the material more specific to women and/or their history).

Select an appropriate month: Although any month can be used, if it is plausible, it would help to select either March (International Women's Day – March 8 | Women's History Month in the USA) or October (Women's History Month in Canada – based on the "Persons Case" of 1929)

Note: It is better to start small in 2016 than it is to ignore women for another year. The TPL Foundation can search for sponsors for succeeding years. It is likely that several large Canadian organizations will support a TPL Women's History Month as a way of attracting women employees.

Q&A