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## STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

### Communications Report

**Date:** April 20, 2026  
**To:** Toronto Public Library Board  
**From:** City Librarian

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives Communication (a), an email pertaining to the relocation of the St. Lawrence branch, from Diane Prime, resident, dated April 1, 2026, for information.

### SIGNATURE

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Moe Hosseini-Ara  
City Librarian



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**Submission to TPL Board – St. Lawrence Branch Relocation**

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**From** Diane Prime [REDACTED]  
**Date** Wed 4/1/2026 10:45 PM  
**To** Sara Tavakolian <saratavakolian@tpl.ca>

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To the Toronto Public Library Board,

My name is Diane Prime. I am a local resident of the St. Lawrence neighbourhood and a frequent user of the Toronto Public Library and its wide range of services. Like many Torontonians, I have carried my library card since childhood. As an adult, I visit my local branch in person about once a week.

When I moved to the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, the first thing I did was check the location of the local library. Although it is a small branch, it has always provided all the essentials, and the care and dedication of the staff are exceptional.

When my children were born, I was deeply grateful for the children's room and storytime programs. When my daughter began learning to read, the branch became an essential place for accessing the costly educational materials she was speeding through.

When I learned that the revitalization of the St. Lawrence Market area included a plan to relocate the library to the South Market site, I was very excited. My family, friends, and neighbours shared that enthusiasm. The prospect of a larger, modern library with expanded space and resources felt like a meaningful and welcome improvement.

I understand that the original timeline for construction and completion at the South Market site was approximately 2025–2027, and that feasibility challenges contributed to the decision to pivot toward acquiring the WE building. However, the community is now facing an extended timeline, with completion projected for late 2028, effectively resulting in a delay in access to an improved facility.

While the St. Lawrence branch is deeply valued, it does have limitations. On rainy days, the building has experienced flooding, particularly in the children's area, which makes it difficult to reliably bring young children to the library. The branch has also had to close due to flooding in the past, temporarily removing a safe indoor space for members of the community, including unhoused individuals who rely on it.

Another ongoing concern is unsafe needle litter outside the branch. Library staff, adjacent EarlyON staff, and local co-operative housing residents have made commendable efforts to address cleanup and ensure proper sharps disposal, reflecting our strong sense of community despite insufficient city support.

Our little branch is surrounded by three elementary schools, co-operative housing along the Esplanade, and several senior residences. The proposed new location at Queen and Parliament is nearly a kilometre away from our branch. Additionally, there is already an existing branch on Parliament Street. Removing the St. Lawrence branch and relocating creates a barrier to access and a vacuum of service to our community.

This relocation project has led me to reconsider whether my family can remain in a neighbourhood where access to such a central community resource is reduced. For many residents, this feels like a severance or termination of service from a neighborhood our branch is named after St. Lawrence.

If this relocation proceeds, I respectfully ask the Board to consider maintaining local library service in the St. Lawrence neighbourhood, either through a continued branch presence, or through supplemental services such as pop-up programming, holds pickup lockers, or return points, to ensure continued equitable access for residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diane Prime