

10.



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Communications Report

Date: June 22, 2026

To: Toronto Public Library Board

From: City Librarian and CEO

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1. receives Communication (a), from Serda Evren, Toronto Public Library Board member to the Civic Appointments Committee, dated June 8, 2026, advising of her resignation from the Toronto Public Library Board, for information.
2. receives communication (b), a letter to the Toronto Public Library Board, from John D. Elvidge, City Clerk, dated June 19, 2026, for information.
3. receives Communication (c), an email from CitizenGO to the Toronto Public Library Board, representing multiple signatories, dated June 18, 2026, for information.
4. receives Communication (d), form email letters to the Toronto Public Library Board, from numerous individuals, dated June 19, 2026, for information.

SIGNATURE

Moe Hosseini-Ara
City Librarian and CEO

**a.**

TPL Board Seat: Resignation Note

From SE [REDACTED]
Date Mon 6/8/2026 11:51 AM
To Appoint <appoint@toronto.ca>
Cc Alim Remtulla [REDACTED]; Sara Tavakolian <saratavakolian@tpl.ca>

CAUTION: This email has originated from outside of TPL. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe.

Dear Civic Appointments Committee,

I am writing to formally resign my seat on the Toronto Public Library Board, effective immediately.

While my term was set to conclude in November, I have concluded that it would not be in the best interest of the Board for me to continue holding a seat I am not able to fill with the full engagement it deserves. My capacity to participate meaningfully has been significantly constrained by the demands of a new senior role, and I also sit on the Board of North York General Hospital, which carries its own obligations. Continuing under these circumstances would not serve the Board or the communities it represents.

It has been a privilege to serve on the TPL Board. The Library's work, its reach across our city, and the dedication of those who lead it are genuinely remarkable. I leave with great respect for the institution and gratitude for the opportunity to have contributed, however briefly.

I wish you and the Board every success in the important work ahead. Please let me know what further action is required of me.

Thank you,
Serda Evren
Chief, Corporate Communications and External Affairs
North York General Hospital

City Clerk's Office
John D. Elvidge, City Clerk

Public Appointments Secretariat
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
12th Floor, West Tower
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

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June 19, 2026

To: Board of Management of the Toronto Public Library

Re: Resignation from the Board

Dear Members of the Board of Management of the Toronto Public Library,

The City Clerk's Office received notice on June 8, 2026, that Serda Evren has resigned from the board. The resignation was made effective the day the City Clerk's Office received the notice.

Per conversation with the TPL Board Chair and Library Board Officer, a process to recruit applicants for this vacancy will begin in Fall 2026, following the municipal election in October 2026.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact the Public Appointments Secretariat at appoint@toronto.ca or 416-397-0088.

All the best,

Original signed by Robyn Summers, Manager, Public Appointments Secretariat

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

cc.

Public Appointments Secretariat, Toronto Public Library Board file
Sara Tavakolian, Library Board Officer, City Librarian's Office, Toronto Public Library
Alim Remtulla, Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board of Directors



C.

Protect Children: Remove Pride and Gender Events from Our Libraries

From CitizenGO <actions@citizengo.email>

Date Thu 6/18/2026 7:16 AM

To Sara Tavakolian <saratavakolian@tpl.ca>

CAUTION: This email has originated from outside of TPL. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe.

Dear Toronto Public Library Board Chair Alim Remtulla, Vice Jonathan Hoss, Sakariya Ahmed, Deputy Mayors Paul Ainslie and Amber Morley, Tamara Balan, Serda Evren, Ben Liu, Amina Mohamed, and Soo Wong,

I trust the library to keep my children safe. **That trust is being broken.**

Your own catalogue lists 41 drag and Pride events for toddlers aged 0 to 5, 29 for children aged 6 to 12, and 20 for teens. Drag Bingo, Drag Story Time, and a makeup workshop for 13-year-olds, these are listed for children in your publicly funded spaces.

The performers you have booked are not neutral: Messy Margaret has publicly stated his goal is to ensure children at these events know they can grow up queer and become drag queens, and Fay and Fluffy's own published mission explicitly targets what they call "gender variant children." You are not hosting literacy programming; you are funding ideological access to toddlers.

My taxes fund these spaces, and I expect them to remain neutral and age-appropriate. A two-year-old cannot weigh adult identity messaging, and parents deserve a say before these events are booked and promoted to their children.

I am calling on each of you to remove all Pride, rainbow, drag, and gender identity events aimed at children and teens.

Protect childhood innocence.

Respect parental rights.

Honour the trust families place in you.

Please act now, before another storytime is booked.

Sincerely,





Objection to TPL Hosting Event Featuring Speakers Associated with Extremist Rhetoric

From [REDACTED]

Date Fri 6/19/2026 8:33 AM

To Will Scott <wscott@tpl.ca>; Adrienne Clarke <aclarke@tpl.ca>; Martha Darby <mdarby@tpl.ca>; Liza Fernandes <lfernandes@tpl.ca>; Natalie Hope <nhope@tpl.ca>; Christine Osbourne <cosbourne@tpl.ca>; Angela Seelal <aseelal@tpl.ca>; Marina Shepaksov <mshepaksov@tpl.ca>; Anna Stainsby <astainsby@tpl.ca>; Kyla Tymchen <ktymchen@tpl.ca>; [REDACTED]; Sara Tavakolian <saratavakolian@tpl.ca>; councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>; appoint@toronto.ca <appoint@toronto.ca>; [REDACTED]; Philippa Williamson <pwilliamson@tpl.ca>; Heather Mathis <hmathis@tpl.ca>; Susan Martin <smartin@tpl.ca>; City Librarian <citylibrarian@tpl.ca>; councillor_morley@toronto.ca <councillor_morley@toronto.ca>; Pam Ryan <PRyan@tpl.ca>; Linda Hazzan <lhazzan@tpl.ca>; Steve Till Rogers <stillrogers@tpl.ca>; Shawn Mitchell <smitchell@tpl.ca>; Brian Daly <bdaly@tpl.ca>; Colin Olford <colford@tpl.ca>; Ling Lam <llam@tpl.ca>; Nancy Duncan <nduncan@tpl.ca>; Sioban Linnen <slinnen@tpl.ca>; TPL Foundation Customer Service <foundation@tpl.ca>; Branch Operations <branchoperations@tpl.ca>; councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca <councillor_pasternak@toronto.ca>; councillor_colle8@toronto.ca <councillor_colle8@toronto.ca>; councillor_bradford@toronto.ca <councillor_bradford@toronto.ca>; Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca <Councillor_Saxe@toronto.ca>

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Dear Toronto Public Library Foundation and Board

I am deeply concerned about the upcoming Toronto Public Library's June 20, 2026 event, "Read Between the Lines: Narratives, Power and Resistance." It is outrageous that this event has been booked at TPL.

As a publicly funded institution, the Toronto Public Library has a responsibility to serve all Torontonians, including members of Toronto's Jewish community. While libraries should encourage discussion and learning on difficult issues, they should not provide a platform for individuals who have publicly expressed support for or justification of terrorism, promoted hostility toward Zionist Jews and non-Jews, or engaged in antisemitic rhetoric. One could argue that hosting events such as this is part of a broader effort to erase Jews from public life in Canada.

I am particularly troubled to learn that Dr. Sabreena Ghaffar-Siddiqui is among the featured speakers. Following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attacks, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were murdered and hundreds were taken hostage, she publicly characterized the attacks as "resistance" and "decolonization" and urged people not to view them as terrorism. She has also denied or dismissed reports of Hamas atrocities (including murder, torture, sexual mutilation, immolation, and hostage-taking) and has made sweeping statements about Zionists and Israel that are far outside the bounds of normative criticism of government policy.

The majority of Canadian Jews identify as Zionists (94 percent), understanding Zionism as support for Jewish self-determination in their ancestral homeland. Statements claiming there are "no progressive

