

Nancy Marshall - Proposed Cuts to TPL

From: Kathryn Bennett <kjbennett@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 10:40 AM
Subject: Proposed Cuts to TPL
CC: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>

Greetings,

I am writing to express my extreme opposition to the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library budget. We have the best library system in North America and these cuts would make a mockery of the system that exists today.

We boast about our multi-lingual city: part of what makes Toronto a great city is that our library collections reflect the diverse community. Adding user fees, whether for the loan of dvd's or holds which are not picked up will only reduce the number of library patrons. As a child, going to the Bookmobile with my Mother was a joy and helped to nurture, not only a life-long love of reading, but a love of libraries and those who work in libraries. What short-sighted and mean-spirited proposals. It is appalling that such a suggestion is even being considered. A reduction in the collection budgets will undermine the present and future of our library and our city.

I am Toronto-born and bred and, for the first time in my life, am embarrassed to be a citizen this city. Please have the courage to stand up to City Hall and not allow this bullying to continue. We have a wonderful library system and it is the responsibility of the Library Board to protect it.

Thank-you.

Yours truly,

Kathryn Bennett
77 Glenburn Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
M4B 2X7

Nancy Marshall - RE: Toronto Public Library

From: Annefrances <4annefrances@sympatico.ca>
To: Nancy Marshall <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 11:14 AM
Subject: RE: Toronto Public Library
CC: Adam Vaughan <Councillor_Vaughan@toronto.ca>, Mayor Ford <Mayor_ford@toronto.ca>

Dear TPL,

I understand that there may be budget cuts to the TPL, and that these may be necessary measures, however I am particularly concerned that they are to affect Literacy Programs at the Library. This is very disconcerting as it means that those who need these programs most, and who have the least means or opportunity are going to be very negatively impacted by this.

This will also impact on our entire community.

The children's reading program is an investment in our future, and nothing can replace the value of getting young children to read. The act of reading stimulates both visual and auditory senses, and mental processing. It is critical to the development of young minds, and the library program provides this as well as a much needed social environment for these young people.

The Literacy program is essential, as there are no opportunities for low level literacy learners in our communities. Existing programs are above capacity already.

It concerns me that these measures are being considered. In effect, this action is stating that only those who meet certain criteria deserve an education. Way back in time this was in effect the social model, but we developed as a society, that is why we have public libraries.

I hope that there may be alternative means found to keep our Libraries viable.

I hope that the TPL had examined it's structure of operation, to see if there may not be some areas that could be more efficiently run. Are there perhaps some user fees on some items that would allow for the continuation of these extremely important, nay, vital services?

I trust that our public officials and our public library can find some means of cutting costs, without cutting our future,

Annefrances Morris

From: Meredith MacFarquhar <meredith.macfarquhar@rogers.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 12/12/2011 11:46 AM
Subject: cuts to adult literacy

Dear Nancy,
Unfortunately, I cannot be at the meeting on Monday. Here is a letter I sent to councillors Ainslie, Davis, Robinson, Palacio and Doucette.

Dear Councillor Ainslie,

I am deeply distressed to learn that cuts to adult literacy are being considered. If I am correct, the announcement that cuts would go to council on Monday was made on Friday. If this is true, this is very sleazy politics. I expect more of my elected officials and therefore hope I am wrong about this.

More to the point, as a former principal of an adult school in the Toronto District School Board, I know the importance of literacy programs not just for parents but for the children of those parents and for our country. Parents need to be literate to get decent jobs. They need decent jobs that pay sufficient wages to support their families. There is a direct correlation between student success in school and poverty. Anything we can do to eliminate child poverty contributes to the educational level of our students. The spin off for Canada is obvious. A more educated population leads to our success as a nation in the global economy.

On a purely pragmatic level, (without considering the cost in human terms to those who are barely literate or illiterate), cuts that make people less employable make no sense. I sincerely hope that council will reconsider its focus on cutting services such as libraries that are essential to the welfare of individuals, our communities and the country at large.

Sincerely,

Meredith MacFarquhar

From: <nirani@rogers.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
CC: <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <counci...>
Date: 12/12/2011 12:39 PM
Subject: Adult Literacy Programme

Dear Councillor Ainslie,

I am writing to you in your capacity as President of the Library Board.

I am aware of the Board's decision for the cancellation of the Adult Literacy Programme and am very unhappy and troubled about this decision! An informed citizenry is vital for a democratic nation such as Canada.

I have requested Ms. Nancy Marshall for permission to address the Board regarding this decision and am awaiting her response.

My letter of concern to my Ward 13 City Councillor, Ms Sarah Doucette is forwarded for your reference.

Yours truly,

Niloofer Irani
Cell: 416-543-1781

Sent from my BlackBerry device on the Rogers Wireless Network

-----Original Message-----

From: nirani@rogers.com
Date: Mon, 12 Dec 2011 17:08:34
To: <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>
Reply-To: nirani@rogers.com
Subject: Adult Literacy Programme

Dear Councillor Doucette,

It is with grave concern that I learn the Library Board is considering cancellation of the Adult Literacy Programme.

I was a volunteer some time ago with the Peel Literacy Guild and know firsthand the changes made to a life from being able to read!

As a resident in your riding, I urge you and the other board members to revisit this decision and to not deny our fellow citizens the achievement of being literate members of our society.

Yours sincerely,

Niloofer Irani
Cell: 416-543-1781

Sent from my BlackBerry device on the Rogers Wireless Network

Nancy Marshall - Against the Closure of Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program

From: Aly Velji <alyv@avandcompany.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 1:12 PM
Subject: Against the Closure of Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program

sending on behalf of a learner in the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library who wishes for his/her name to be kept confidential for privacy reasons:

Dear Nancy Marshall,

I am a learner in the Adult Literacy Program. When I started the program, I don't know how to read and write. After several tutorial sessions with my tutor, I learn how to write my name, address, days of the week and months of the year. I also learned how to read food labels, medicines, and recipes, and street signs. Closing the Adult Literacy Program is no good because many learners, like me, will forget what they learned and a lot of people will no longer have the opportunity to learn how to read and write.

So, please keep the program open! Stop the budget cut.

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program - Proposed Program Cut

From: Maureen Willis <mdwillis@rogers.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.caand>
Date: December 12, 2011 2:25 PM
Subject: [Possible Spam] Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program - Proposed Program Cut
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Councillor Ainslie,

I have just learned of the proposed elimination of the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library. I understand the proposed program cut is to be voted on tonight. I am a volunteer tutor in this program and I cannot stress enough how important the program is. It is a very well-subscribed program providing essential help to adults in Toronto who require better literacy and numeracy skills. In the ten months I have been working in the program, I have noticed a distinct improvement in my learner's ability to read, write and do arithmetic.

The program aids learners to become more productive, tax-paying members of society. It allows learners to become smarter and safer consumers (in their grocery store and pharmacy purchases) aids them to do their banking, helps them to be independent and better informed, and greatly improves their quality of life. Literate adults provide an excellent example to their young children.

By improving literacy and numeracy, we help to break the cycle of poverty that occurs through a lack of education. The Adult Literacy Program provided through the Toronto Public Library uses volunteer tutors. We work for **free**. It would be very short-sighted to cut this relatively low-cost program when one considers the added costs that may be incurred to help those who are jobless because of illiteracy.

Please do not eliminate the Adult Literacy Program offered through the Toronto Public Library.

Maureen Willis

Nancy Marshall - Tonight's Board Meeting: Adult Literacy Program

From: Rahim Kachra <rkachra@ucalgary.ca>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 2:47 PM
Subject: Tonight's Board Meeting: Adult Literacy Program
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Attachments: Adult Literacy Dec 12.pdf

Councillor Ainslie,

Please find my thoughts regarding the proposed cuts to the Adult Literacy Program attached in both this email and as an attachment. I would be happy to discuss any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rahim Kachra B.Sc.H., M.D.

Given Canada's high ranking on the United Nations' Human Development Index, there is a perception that we can now ease off the gas pedal and maintain mediocrity. I challenge this stance and rather feel this is Canada's opportunity to continue to excel and improve on avenues that have been sub-optimal. Adult literacy is one such area, where we have arguably let down members of our society. Forty percent (9 million) Canadians fall below the high school completion standard for literacy. Of those, a third are below middle school level, while 15% cannot even interpret printed materials. (Adult Literacy and Life Skills (ALL) Survey, Statistics Canada and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2005). Within Ontario, 48% of citizens score below a middle school equivalency of literacy, ranking 8th in the country among all provinces and territories (http://www.ccl-cca.ca/cciflash/proseliteracy/map_canada_e.html). Within Toronto, a staggering 11.5 million citizens fall below this line, a proportion that simply cannot be overlooked.

From the International Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey (IALSS) 2003 data, we know the negative effects of low literacy proficiency at the individual and population levels in employment, economic, health, and community spheres. People with lower proficiencies have lower rates of employment. With an unemployment rate of 7.4% in Ontario, one can argue that an improvement in literacy may translate into an improvement in employment rates province-wide.

From an economic perspective, Toronto is well above the national average poverty rate based on the Canadian Government's low income cutoff method of calculation. The national average rate is 11.8% compared to the City of Toronto's discouraging

rate of 19.4% (http://www.toronto.ca/demographics/pdf/pollutionwatch_toronto_fact_sheet.pdf). IALSS reports that lower literacy proficiency is directly correlated with lower yearly earnings, and that literacy is the most significant predictor of earnings. Of those Canadians at the low end of literacy, only 66% participate in the labour market, compared to 83% of those Canadians with high levels of literacy.

As a healthcare provider, I see the impacts of low literacy proficiency in my daily practice. IALSS confirms that low literacy levels have been associated with poor physical health, especially among senior citizens over the age of 65, where approximately 50% of seniors in poor physical health also report low literacy levels. This has the potential to lead to adverse drug reactions due to adherence and dosing errors, less patient autonomy, and a greater reliance on the healthcare system.

Finally, Canadians pride themselves on having strong community feelings, and no city does so more than Toronto. Literacy also impacts community involvement - only 50% of Canadians with lower literacy levels are involved in community groups and organizations, compared to 80% in those with higher literacy levels. The strength of a community lies within the strengths of its individual members.

The question that remains is how can we make this work? The Ministry has contributed \$100,000 this year, which is an increase from \$59,000 in 2010. As a side note, I commend their foresight in recognizing the importance of this initiative by increasing the resources directed towards adult literacy. The estimated savings from eliminating the adult literacy program is \$189,000 in 2012. It is unclear to me if this is actually a savings or a loss, when this is predominantly a volunteer driven service, with the equivalence of \$323,400 being contributed by volunteers. The focus shouldn't be on cutting this program, but rather on improving it. In the timeframe of the two landmark studies of IALS in 1994 and ALLS in 2003, Canada's proportion of adults with high literacy rates actually dropped, implying that we are not doing enough.

Ironically, those employed with lower literacy levels have less access to educational programs and initiatives to improve literacy and learning, partly due to financial constraints from both a personal and organizational standpoint. It would be a travesty to cut the adult literacy program, and frankly, would be an embarrassment to the City of Toronto. The research available to us provides a powerful dataset that justifies the existence of this program. At this point, there is absolutely zero evidence that would support the removal of the adult literacy program. This is a decision that is being made too lightly without appropriate supporting evidence. If this matter is to be discussed, it should be done with under the guidance of evidence, current research, and a real cost-to-benefit analysis, unlike what is provided in today's meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rahim Kachra, B.Sc.H., M.D.

Nancy Marshall - Proposed cuts to Toronto Public Library services and programs

From: GBrown [REDACTED]
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 3:01 PM
Subject: Proposed cuts to Toronto Public Library services and programs
CC: <councillor_lindsay_luby@toronto.ca>

** Please note, I respectfully ask that my name and contact information not be published or otherwise made public on any documents distributed to, or accessible by, the public.

Hello,

I wish to express my deep concern about cuts to Toronto Public Library staff, services, collection, and hours of operation. I am a long-time user of the library system (I visit Brentwood, now closed for reconstruction, Albion, and Richview regularly and occasionally Runnymede, Bloor/Gladstone, and the reference library). As well, I am a volunteer with the Adult Literacy Program (and have been for almost 10 years). As a result, I feel more than qualified to speak to the importance of the library system and the services, resources, and access it provides, and the impact of reducing or cutting these.

One of my greatest concerns is the proposed cut to the Adult Literacy Program (and similar children's program). I understand that there are staffing and administrative costs associated with the program, but the service itself is provided by volunteers. I do not see how cutting these volunteer-provided services will have a significant impact on reducing the Library's overall expenses. Moreover, the value of these programs—helping children and adults to improve their literacy and to become functioning, productive, members of our community—is incalculable when weighed against any expected cost 'savings'.

I believe the adult learners with whom I have worked in the literacy program come to the program because it is free, it is an easy and simple first step to take toward addressing their literacy needs, and they can get one-on-one help. The program accommodates their work hours; the tutors I've seen are patient and understanding and do not judge the learners or their literacy skills; and the program coordinators provide needed information, resources, and direction to learners throughout and also when they are ready to move on and further their literacy skills.

From my own observation, I believe for learners the literacy program is an important first step for preparing themselves to enroll in more formal schooling. They do not yet feel comfortable, ready, or prepared to enroll in adult day classes with other learners, and are not able to afford paid private tutoring or classes. I urge you to consider these learners and decide against cutting these and other programs and services of the Toronto Public Library, on which so many depend.

Respectfully,
Gail Brown
[REDACTED]

From: Derek Wong <derekwww@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 12/12/2011 3:03 PM
Subject: TPL Board, Dec 12: My opinion

Dear Ms Nancy Marshall

I would like to voice my opinion on the proposed cuts to the Toronto Public Library, focusing on the "Art Exhibit" program.

The library is more than a book depot, it serves an important function to bind us into a community. Seeing art works by local artists while browsing with our fellow neighbours strengthens this sense of community.

The costs to this program is minimal. Local artists donate the art for free. They transport, install, and remove the arts for free. The infrastructure and logistic planning are already there. All it costs, as I understand, is less than one-staff-year to run this program for the whole library network. Is there room for efficiency improvement? Perhaps. But please don't cut this outright as blank walls in my library would make it such a cold place.

Yours truly
Derek Wong

From: Robin Forbes <forbes.robin@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
CC: councillor_mcmahon <councillor_mcmahon@toronto.ca>, councillor_davis <co...>
Date: 12/12/2011 4:02 PM
Subject: Toronto Public Library Budget Discussions

8 Murdock Ave
Toronto, Ont
M4C 1E4
416 944-0678

Please add this email to the correspondence for the public deputation, as I am unable to attend.

I am concerned about the proposed changes to the Toronto Public Library.

To place my letter in context, I have a long involvement with libraries. My family went to the library each Saturday, I worked my way through high school in the Scarborough Public Library, as a page at Taylor Memorial branch, in the summer reading program at Woodside Square, and as a page in the central processing unit for the SPL, barcoding books, entering them into the system and photocopying, cutting and bundling (!!) all the date due slips for the system for a week at a time. Those job skills helped me to work my way through university at the McGill University Engineering Library. My brother worked as a page at Albert Campbell branch, and many of my friends in high school also worked in the library, it was the perfect job for a high school student.

To see the Taylor Memorial branch threatened truly saddens me, I remember when the new building opened in the '80s, and seeing all my neighbours coming in while I was working. I cannot imagine it closed or not meeting the needs of the community.

I have the same fondness with my local branches – Danforth Coxwell, and S. Walter Stewart. From being home on two maternity leaves, plus random sick days with my kids I can tell you those branches are full at all times of the day and evening. To open later in the morning denies the neighbourhood an important amount of programming and exposure to books for the younger kids in the neighbourhood. To close them earlier in the evening means that people who work 9 – 5 cannot get there. I already am very annoyed that the Danforth Coxwell branch closes at 5 on Fridays. To me, a perfect evening outing would be to the library on a Friday night.

If the library were to close earlier, I would definitely be incurring more fees for missing holds – as you are proposing. I can afford that but I am not certain the budget heads of Toronto City Council and the TPL understand the level of urban poverty in the city, and how user fees and increased fees make more and more aspects of city living unattainable.

I had the privilege of attending one of the TPL's kindergarten outreach programs with my son's school, and saw how excited the students were, and how passionate the librarians were about the subject. My son, one year later, still talks about one of the books the librarian read to his class on their trip to the library.

My final point is concern about cutting the collection budget for the entire TPL. As it is, the children's collection at Danforth Coxwell branch is awful, I am hard pressed to find a picture book that doesn't have a Very Important Message. For the adult collection I was trying to find a copy of Dreams and Due Diligence, featured on CBC about Drs. Till and McCulloch about the discovery of stem cells – important Canadian history – and it is not one of your holdings. For the last 2 years I've been checking for a book called Hungry Monkey about feeding children to be adventurous eaters – also not there. Your collection net needs to be widened, not narrowed.

Nancy Marshall - Adult Literacy Program

From: Kathleen Close <kathleenclose@sympatico.ca>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 4:09 PM
Subject: Adult Literacy Program
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Councillor Ainslie,

It is with incredible urgency that I write to you regarding the vote tonight on the future of the Toronto Public Library Adult Literacy Program. I have been a Volunteer Literacy Tutor for over 11 years and I can't begin to convey what the program has meant to the many learners who struggle in their lives with their inability to read, write and perform simple mathematic equations necessary to daily life.

Most of the people I have tutored have been educated IN ONTARIO and yet, in some cases, cannot recite the alphabet when I first meet with them. Over the years I have taught many to read and write, but the program is SO much more than this. It is a significant stepping stone for those struggling with illiteracy to finding meaningful work, for being a role model to their children, and for overcoming a tremendous lack of self-esteem. I have guided students through their driver's licence exams (which allowed for greater ability in looking for work), taught some how to tell time, helped learners write resumes and practice interviewing skills, helped prepare college applications, guided learners through their tax preparations and mortgage applications, and worked with some to write (and pass) their citizenship tests. And so much more!!

As you can see, this is a very robust program AND IT FUNCTIONS PRIMARILY THROUGH THE HELP OF DOZENS OF **VOLUNTEERS!!!** This is a program that is of minimal expense (it is my understanding that there are only a couple of Administrators) but the impact on the many, many learners who benefit from the program would be meaningful.

If there is anything I can do to help maintain (as either a volunteer and a Torontonion) this very important program, please let me know. I do hope, however, that you will vote to keep this program going. It is of tremendous benefit to not only the Learners, but to the City as well.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Close
kathleenclose@sympatico.ca

From: Alisha Walters <arwalters@sympatico.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 12/12/2011 5:47 PM
Subject: Re: Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy Program at Toronto Library Board Meeting 12 December 2011
Attachments: 12 December 2011_Proposed Cuts to Adult Literacy Program.pdf; Part.002

Dear Nancy Marshall,

In anticipation of the Toronto Library Board meeting to be conducted this evening at the Toronto Reference Library, I have attached a letter of impact regarding the proposed cuts to the Adult Literacy Program.

I trust that this letter will be received by the members of the Library Board.

I sincerely thank you for your time in this matter.

Best Wishes,

Alisha Walters

Alisha Walters



12 December 2011

To The Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2G8

Re: Proposed Cut of the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library

Dear Members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

My name is Alisha Walters and I am a volunteer tutor who has worked with the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library in Malvern for over one year. I am a PhD Candidate in English at the University of Toronto, and I volunteer with the Adult Literacy Program, as I believe it to be a vital and unique service, helping hundreds of people in the various communities of Greater Toronto. I was distressed to hear that you, the Board, are considering terminating this essential program.

The fact is that nearly 46 per cent of the Canadian population is functionally illiterate according to a recent study.¹ This is an absolutely staggering percentage that dramatically affects our ability to cope, function, and compete as a nation. Moreover, other recent studies have situated Canada's literacy levels *below* the world average,² and this depressing trend is projected to continue, unless major interventions are made. The Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library is a key service offered to the public that helps to redress this problem.

Cutting the Adult Literacy Program would be extremely detrimental to the communities and people that it presently serves. For one, the Literacy Program is singular, in that it serves a very broad and diverse demographic of people within Toronto. In the year that I have been a volunteer, I have seen adult men and women of every conceivable ethnicity,

¹ This statistic is taken from an article published in 2006. The article gives the Statistic Canada estimates that "42 per cent of Canadians are semi-illiterate. The proportion is even worse for those in middle age. And even when new immigrants are excluded, the numbers remains pretty much the same."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/education/canada-shame.html>

² This Study, released in 2008 by the Canadian Council on Learning, not only states that nearly 48% of the extant Canadian population is functionally illiterate, but, by 2031, 46% of the Canadian population will have literacy skills "*below the internationally accepted standard* of literacy required to cope in a modern society"

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=e16e374c-cf0c-40bc-b131-51b9de7058f0>

class, and age involved in the program. The learners come from all walks of life, as do the volunteer tutors.

Moreover, the Board should note that many of the learners within the Adult Literacy Program are learning to read, or improve their basic literacy skills in order to empower themselves and their local communities. While there are as many reasons for wanting to learn to read as an adult as there are people enrolled in the program, several of the learners in the Adult Literacy Program are acquiring or improving literacy skills in order to improve their chances of gainful employment. These learners know—as we do—that improved reading skills will help them to be active, working members of the community, who contribute to the economy.

The board should also consider that many of the learners in the Adult Literacy Program come from fairly vulnerable pockets of the community. For several of the learners enrolled, the Library is their first and only point of access to literacy. Moreover, the Adult Literacy Program is fairly unique in that it helps several learners with very low levels of literacy. Again, for many of these people, the Library is their primary source of access to a reading program for adults, as other literacy programs tend to service those with slightly more advanced levels of reading and writing comprehension. Also, in relation to what I have just said, the Adult Literacy Program draws people into the Public Library system who would absolutely *not* be a part of it, otherwise.

Finally, I would like to remind the board that the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Library is staffed *entirely* by volunteer tutors. As such, the program is an extremely efficiently run organisation, since the vast majority of funds go directly to the learning materials required of the program itself.

I thank the Board for its time, and sincerely hope that it will not recommend cutting the Adult Literacy Program. I also hope that I have conveyed how much those of us involved in this crucial program believe in its urgent and continued need.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alisha Walters', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alisha Walters

PhD Candidate in English at The University of Toronto

Nancy Marshall - TPL - Literacy Programs

From: Giulio D'Alessandro <giulio.d@sympatico.ca>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 12, 2011 5:51 PM
Subject: TPL - Literacy Programs
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Councillor Ainslie,

I am opposed to any reductions in or the elimination of the TPL's literacy programs. I am a volunteer in the adult literacy program.

The adult learner with whom I am teamed has asked me, for literacy and privacy reasons, to communicate to you the learner's support for the adult literacy program and opposition to its elimination or reduction. The learner has asked me to communicate to you the following:

1. The learner sought out the program in an effort to improve the quality of the learner's life, by improving work opportunities and fuller participation in life generally;
2. Our world is technology dependent, and this requires good literacy skills. It is difficult for persons without good literacy skills to use technology effectively or at all;
3. The learner asks you and the other members of government to try to imagine what your lives would be like today if you could not read or write;
4. The learner knows of many other adults who are unable to read and write, but who are too embarrassed to seek assistance;
5. TPL's literacy programs send the message that literacy really does matter and that assistance is available for anyone who is prepared to make the effort;
6. Cutting the literacy programs would send a negative message. On the one hand, politicians stress the need for skilled workers and, on the other hand, cut the very programs needed to create a skilled work force; and
7. The learner finds the program really helpful.

Those are my learner's remarks.

The Toronto Public Library is perhaps Toronto's finest public resource. I have visited and made use of many of its branches over the years, and have been impressed by the quality of the branches, its staff, and the number and diverseness of residents who use this resource. The TPL is a feather in the cap of all Torontonians. I am further opposed to cuts to the number of branches, hours of operation or materials acquisition. The Toronto Public Library is already an efficient operation and just too important to Toronto.

Giulio D'Alessandro
94A Alcorn Avenue
Toronto, ON M4V 1E4

416-962-7888

From: Carolyn Murray <carolyn.murray@utoronto.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: 12/12/2011 10:20 PM
Subject: TPL is a vital part of our great city

As a retired librarian - 30 years with the University of Toronto system
- I can vouch for the excellence of the TPL which takes seriously its
mandate to service all types of users and all age groups.

I am a regular, and happy user of many of the branches and many of the
services. Yes, in hard times some cutbacks might be necessary, but DO
NOT gut the system that is one of the best in North America. Especially
in tight financial times the library is a vital resource that gives
people many opportunities to enrich their lives and further their education.

I support my public library!
Carolyn Murray

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] "I'm furious"

From: 9thermidor [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 13, 2011 9:47 AM
Subject: [Possible Spam] "I'm furious"
CC: <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, 'Nancy Marshall' <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>, <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, <councillor_dford@toronto.ca>, <talktoCityManager@toronto.ca>, <adinovo@toronto.ca>

Councillor P. Ainslie
Chair TPL Board
Toronto

Sir:

Re: "I'm furious"

A Globe & Mail article online by Patrick White dated December 13, 2011 titled:

"Toronto library board rejects mayor's demand for 10% budget cut"

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/toronto/toronto-library-board-rejects-mayors-demand-for-10-budget-cut/article2269044/>

quotes you as saying, "I'm fully expecting the city manager to be furious, I think the mayor's going to be furious, I think the budget committee will be furious, I'm furious."

I also add that "I'm furious."

Of course I'm furious for totally different reasons than you, the mayor, the city manager and the budget committee.

I'm furious that budget cuts of 5.9% have been made to the TPL.

I'm furious that a further 4.1% worth of cuts were being demanded.

I'm furious that the whole project of 10% cuts to the TPL and all other departments of the city budget is a complete fraud made for crass political purposes.

I would like to congratulate those on the TPL Board who voted against further cuts last night.

The TPL is a vital city service and its budget should not be cut.

G. Turner
[REDACTED]

From: Tamara Bernstein [REDACTED]
To: Nancy Marshall <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
CC: Councillor Doucette <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca> <info@local4948.or...>
Date: 13/12/2011 12:01 PM
Subject: suggestions for cost-saving at Toronto Public Libraries

To the Board of the Toronto Public Library,

As a passionate supporter of public libraries -- I am a long-term volunteer in the TPL's Leading to Reading program -- I share the widespread concern over possible funding cuts to the Toronto Public Library system. I would like to suggest one easy way to reduce costs: stop allowing food and drink in the libraries! Food and books do not mix -- period! I am shocked and, frankly, disgusted to see people eating (usually greasy food) while handling books in libraries. And if patrons are allowed to eat in libraries, you are sending them the message that it's OK to eat while reading library books at home.

The result of all this can only be higher replacement costs for wrecked books, and hugely elevated fumigation costs to rid the library system of the vermin that will move in. I have not donated to the TPL since the new food and drink policy came into effect, because I am not interested in contributing to such unnecessary costs.

The library should, on the contrary, post signs that remind patrons not to handle food and books at the same time. It is one thing to make the library a welcoming place, but there is something deeply distasteful and disturbing about an "anything goes" attitude.

On an unrelated subject: I would also like to see more actual books in libraries. It is wonderful that people can order any book they want through the online catalogue, but some of the greatest reading adventures, and the highest levels of scholarship, involve chance, serendipity, intuition, even destiny -- whatever you want to call it: the unexpected discovery of the right book at the right time. Electronic catalogues only show us what we ask them to.

Finally: I would like to say that in these tough times, I have mixed feelings about the considerable collection of DVD's in the TPL. In a way I think it's great, but DVD's, unlike books, can be rented very inexpensively.

Respectfully yours,
Tamara Bernstein
[REDACTED]

NB: MY CONTACT INFORMATION IS NOT TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.

Nancy Marshall - Thank you for rejecting the 10% cuts!

From: rosanne renzetti <rosirenz@gmail.com>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 13, 2011 2:42 PM
Subject: Thank you for rejecting the 10% cuts!

On behalf of myself and my family, we appreciate that on December 12, the board rejected additional cuts that affect the hours and services of libraries. In harsh economic times, libraries are an essential service!

Rosanne

Nancy Marshall - Fw: Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program - Proposed Program Cut

From: Maureen Willis <mdwillis@rogers.com>
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: December 15, 2011 10:28 AM
Subject: Fw: Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program - Proposed Program Cut
CC: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Councillor Ainslie,

Due to an incorrect email address, my original message (see below) was returned to me. Since a final decision on the proposed program cuts to the Toronto Public Library's budget is yet to be made, I am re-sending my message.

I wish to add two points:

1. The Adult Literacy Program accounts for about **0.10%** of the Toronto Public Library's total expenditures for 2010.
2. In the Toronto Public Library's mission statement, copied below, please note the specific reference to the fact that library services "support literacy...".

Program Mission

Toronto Public Library Mission Statement

Toronto Public Library (TPL) preserves and promotes universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, experience, information and ideas in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Library services and programming support literacy, learning and research, reading, recreation, employment and culture.

Please see my original message below:

----- Original Message -----

From: Maureen Willis
To: councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca and
Cc: nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 2:25 PM
Subject: Toronto Public Library - Adult Literacy Program - Proposed Program Cut

Councillor Ainslie,

I have just learned of the proposed elimination of the Adult Literacy Program at the Toronto Public Library. I understand the proposed program cut is to be voted on tonight. I am a volunteer tutor in this program and I cannot stress enough how important the program is. It is a very well-subscribed program providing essential help to adults in Toronto who require better literacy and numeracy skills. In the ten months I have been working in the program, I have noticed a distinct improvement in my learner's ability to read, write and do arithmetic.

The program aids learners to become more productive, tax-paying members of society. It allows learners to become smarter and safer consumers (in their grocery store and pharmacy purchases) aids them to do their banking, helps them to be self-sufficient and better informed, and greatly improves their quality of life. Literate adults provide an excellent example to their young children.

By improving literacy and numeracy, we help to break the cycle of poverty that occurs through a lack of education. The Adult Literacy Program provided through the Toronto Public Library uses volunteer tutors. We work for **free**. It would be very short-sighted to cut this relatively low-cost program when one considers the added costs that may be incurred to help those who are jobless because of illiteracy.

Please do not eliminate the Adult Literacy Program offered through the Toronto Public Library.

Maureen Willis
22 Silverthorne Bush Drive
Toronto ON M9C 2X5

Nancy Marshall - 2012 Operating Budget

From: "Taylor, Shari (TCU)" <Shari.Taylor@ontario.ca>
To: <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>
Date: December 16, 2011 10:53 AM
Subject: 2012 Operating Budget

Dear members of the Toronto Library Board,

Despite being a strong supporter of Toronto's public library system, I am very disappointed that the Board has not managed to find a reasonable way to find 10% in savings. If I recall correctly, the Board was also unwilling to find the requested 5% in cuts last year.

I would urge the board members to reconsider and come up with a workable solution rather than having Council simply impose cuts.

Thank you,
Shari Taylor

City Librarian - the next City's Council's meeting regarding the Library

From: e b <eb12345ca@yahoo.ca>
To: "councillor_matlow@toronto.ca" <councillor_matlow@toronto.ca>
Date: January 9, 2012 12:13 PM
Subject: the next City's Council's meeting regarding the Library
CC: "aathana@toronto.ca" <aathana@toronto.ca>, "councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca" <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>, "citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca" <citylibrarian@torontopubliclibrary.ca>, Maureen O'Reilly [OurPublicLibrary.to] <action@ourpubliclibrary.to>

Councillor Josh Matlow
100 Queen Street West, Suite B26
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Phone: 416-392-7906
Fax: 416-392-0124

Councillor Matlow,

I live in your Ward. I understand that the final vote on the library's budget is scheduled for City Council's next meeting on January 17 - 19.

Please support the Toronto Public Library system by **voting against all cuts to this cherish great library's budget.** Strong libraries make great cities.

Cutting anything (programs, staff, resources, etc.) associated with this GREAT library system will only hurt us in the long run.

Your support of the Toronto Public Library is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Esther Balevi
1919 - 44 Jackes Avenue
Toronto, ON

Nancy Marshall - French football, libraries and the real boondoggle

From: Michael Black <michaelblack@sympatico.ca>
To: Mayor Ford <mayor_ford@toronto.ca>
Date: January 9, 2012 12:25 AM
Subject: French football, libraries and the real boondoggle

I strongly urge you to vote against cutting the budget of the Toronto Public Library a full 10 per cent. The services of the library are primarily educational. A ten-percent decimation would have a terrible effect on library services precisely because they are delivered in such an efficient manner. However, in comparison to the budget of the Toronto District School Board, these monies are "pocket change".

To illustrate the efficiencies of the TPL compared to the TDSB, let me cite a few examples.

1. **LANGUAGE**. Many people comment on the library's constructive role in helping immigrants learn English. I wish to focus on native-born Canadians. We live in a bilingual country. The ability to speak both official languages makes us better citizens. Most Torontonians who were born in Canada nevertheless cannot speak French properly. This despite years of instruction in French at school. In the Netherlands, they know how to teach foreign languages. Almost all Dutch speak fluent English as a result of the sound education they received. In Ontario, the teaching of French is based on unsound pedagogy. To be blunt, taxpayers are wasting tens of millions of dollars on **incompetent** instruction. When I graduated from high school, my French accent was so bad that I could not make myself understood when I visited Quebec or France. Since then, my French has vastly improved. Why? Because of the TPL's movie collection. Librarians have assembled a French-language video collection that puts those in video stores to shame. I would borrow great, classic French movies that were subtitled. Now, French speakers have no problem understanding me when I talk in the other official language. Thank the TPL for this.
2. **HEALTH**. The TPL goes out of its way to acquire many copies of all of the important books, periodicals and videos dealing with nutrition, exercise and other areas that impact on Torontonians' health. The effect of these acquisitions -- which cost money -- is the improvement of the health of the citizenry, ultimately reducing the burden on our health system. OHIP's budget dwarfs that of the TPL. Even though OHIP fall within the provincial sphere, that's still a taxpayer saving. Now let's see how The TDSB handles health. Classroom treatment of subjects like nutrition is minimal, and the science is outdated. School physical education programmes emphasize team sports rather than individual fitness. Because of misguided school policies, many students are not in proper physical condition. Even more disturbing, as a result of violent sports such as football, our youth are being injured, often suffering ill effects for the rest of their lives. That's a real drain on OHIP. In short, the school system's supposed 'health' programmes are a boondoggle -- while TPL expenditures on sound health education are properly targetted and efficient.

Decimating the TPL is a classic case of being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

Yours truly,

Michael Black

Nancy Marshall - [Possible Spam] more library open hours NOT more cops

From: 9thermidor [REDACTED]
To: <councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca>
Date: January 10, 2012 9:53 AM
Subject: [Possible Spam] more library open hours NOT more cops
CC: <councillor_davis@toronto.ca>, <councillor_layton@toronto.ca>, <councillor_delgrande@toronto.ca>, <councillor_doucette@toronto.ca>, <councillor_palacio@toronto.ca>, <councillor_robinson@toronto.ca>, 'NancyMarshall' <nmarshall@torontopubliclibrary.ca>

Councillor Ainslie
City Hall
Toronto

Sir:

Re: 10% cut to TPL

"I've heard comments made that, you know, not every department's made the 10 per cent target. But I'll tell you, even as chair of the Toronto Public Library board, if I had to look at a choice between police officers and libraries having longer hours, I think most people would say to you they would rather have more police on the street," Ainslie told reporters.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/article/1112725--toronto-budget-committee-votes-to-chop-library-but-save-two-pools-in-ford-allies-wards?bn=1>

"I don't think libraries are an A-1 top priority for a lot of people," he said. "Libraries are important for society, but I think they are in the general mix of having a stable community."

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/toronto/budget-bartering-saves-two-pools-but-libraries-still-face-10-per-cent-cut/article2296573/>

Given the opposition that has been demonstrated by residents to the proposed cuts to the TPL and given that the TPL board showed some integrity and refused to cut the 10% demanded by the mayor only an arrogant and out of touch person would make such a foolish statement. For such a comment to be made by the chair of the TPL board is, to say the least, astounding.

It's obvious that you are totally unsuited for the position of chair of the TPL board. Of course that's likely why the mayor put you there.

G. Turner
[REDACTED]