TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

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To: Toronto Public Library Board – September 15, 2003

From: City Librarian

Subject: **ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Update**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library Board with an update on the activities of the ABC Ad Hoc Committee since May 2003.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

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

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board receive for information the *ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Update* report.

Background:

At the May 12, 2003 Toronto Public Library Board meeting, the Board received the *ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Request for Feedback on Issues Relating to Agencies, Boards and Commissions* report (Attachment 1) for information. The Board was advised that a series of reports were forthcoming from the ABC Ad Hoc Committee with possible implications for the Board, and that the Board would have an opportunity to comment on the reports. It was agreed that when the final reports were received for review, Gillian Mason, Bill Booth, and Meyer Brownstone, in consultation with staff, would respond to the Committee's request for feedback concerning a variety of issues. The reports were initially delayed, but were received in early July.

Comments:

A response was prepared (Attachment 2) to a number of issues identified in the reports. The response was submitted to the ABC Ad Hoc Committee for consideration at their July 15, 2003 meeting. The Committee received the Library Board's comments for information. All of the reports were approved by the Committee with no changes to the recommendations. The reports are expected to go to Policy and Finance Committee for consideration in September and to Council for final approval later in September.

Outlined below are the issues raised by the Board and their status after consideration by the ABC Ad Hoc Committee:

- Development of City Directives to the Boards of City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions

  The ABC Ad Hoc Committee report reflects the recommendation that individualized directives be developed for all Agencies, Boards and Commissions. This is the preferred alternative identified by the Library Board to ensure that the roles and responsibilities of the Board in providing oversight and policy direction are delineated and protected in the Directive.

- Public Access and Involvement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards and Commissions – Recommended Policy

  The provision in the policy that the Library may prepare a policy consistent with the City policy is the preferred alternative for the Board. Public consultation and privacy policies are currently under development by Library staff. The development of separate policies is also beneficial from the Library Board's perspective as it differentiates between the public's right to access information and public involvement.

- Policy on Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement for City of Toronto Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Corporations

  In January 2003, the Library Board recommended to the ABC Ad Hoc Committee that citizen appointees of the Library Board be reimbursed a reasonable estimate of expenses incurred in performance of their duties. This recommendation is reflected in the proposed policy.

- ABC Ad Hoc Committee Progress Report and Future Strategy

  The definition of Foundation Boards as Special Purpose Bodies over which Council has direct responsibility was identified by the Library Board as incorrect. While no change has been made to the report, the Library has been advised verbally by the City that Foundation Boards will not be defined as Special Purpose Bodies, thereby addressing the Library Board's concerns that the Foundation Board remain an entity independent of the Library Board and the City of Toronto.

Conclusion:

Council's decision concerning the recommendations of the ABC Ad Hoc Committee's will be provided to the Library Board as soon as available.

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Josephine Bryant
City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Attachment 1: ABC Ad Hoc Committee – Request for Feedback on Issues Relating to Agencies, Boards and Commissions – May 12, 2003 report to TPL Board
Attachment 2: ABC Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of July 15, 2003 – Reports for Consideration – July 14, 2003 correspondence to ABC Ad Hoc Committee from Gillian Mason, Chair, Toronto Public Library Board