To: Toronto Public Library Board – February 19, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **2001 Operating Budget – Budget Advisory Committee Requests**

Purpose:

To provide the Toronto Public Library Board with an update on the 2001 Operating Budget and the related requests from the Budget Advisory Committee.

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Not applicable.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

(1) Receive for information the motions from the Budget Advisory Committee concerning the Board's 2001 Operating Budget Submission; and

(2) Direct staff concerning the Budget Advisory Committee request to contact the Province regarding the practice of charging a fee for library books, specifically in Toronto.

Comments:

The Toronto Public Library presented the 2001 Capital and Operating Budgets to the Budget Advisory Committee of the City of Toronto at its meeting of February 9, 2001. The Budget Advisory Committee has asked the Library, as outlined in Attachment #1, to report to the Budget Advisory Committee on the following:

(1) on requesting the Province to review the practice of charging a fee for library books, specifically in Toronto;
(2) on the feasibility of libraries being opened on Sunday and closing one day during the week; and
(3) providing a summary that identifies the implications of:
    (a) a five percent increase over the 2000 budget contribution from the City;
    (b) a zero percent increase over the 2000 budget contribution from the City;
    (c) a five percent decrease from the 2000 budget contribution from the City.

Requests (2) and (3) are addressed in Agenda Item #18 – *2001 Operating Budget* – for the Board's consideration at its February 19, 2001 meeting.

The Board has also been asked to consider requesting the Province to review the practice of charging a fee for library books. Public libraries are specifically prohibited from charging fees for the borrowing or reserving of any circulating materials by the *Public Libraries Act (Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1990, Chapter P.44)*. The Board may choose to write a letter to the Minister of Culture, Recreation and Citizenship seeking a reconsideration of the legislation or, alternatively, the Board may direct staff to inquire of the Ministry as to their intentions in changing the legislation.

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

The attachment is unavailable electronically. Please contact Nancy Marshall at 416-393-7215 or at nmarshall@tpl.toronto.on.ca if you require a copy.