To: Toronto Public Library Board – February 19, 2001

From: City Librarian

Subject: **Children and Youth Action Committee:**
(a) Action Plan 2001 – Expansion of the Leading to Reading Program
(b) Toronto Youth Cabinet – City of Toronto Operating Budget Recommendations for 2001

Purpose:

To obtain Toronto Public Library Board approval for the City's Children and Youth Action Committee's *Action Plan 2001* (Attachment #1) and the *Toronto Youth Cabinet - City of Toronto Operating Budget Recommendations for 2001* (Attachment #2).

Funding Implications and Impact Statement:

Implementation of the Libraries initiatives as recommended by the Children and Youth Action Committee and the Toronto Youth Council requires funding of $642,000 from the Children and Youth Action Committee budget.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Toronto Public Library Board:

(1) Receive for information the report of the Children and Youth Action Committee – Action Plan 2001 in response to the Toronto Report Card on Children - Update 2000;

(2) Adopt the recommendations of the Children and Youth Action Committee for $300,000 for the expansion of the Leading to Reading Program, of which $150,000 is one-time funding for the Leading to Reading Program collection; and

(3) Adopt the recommendations of the Children and Youth Action Committee for $342,000 for one-time funding for the creation of the *Teen Zone - Online Gateway* as proposed by the Toronto Youth Cabinet and the Children and Youth Action Committee.

Background:

In 2000, the Toronto Public Library Board received $150,000 from Council to expand the summer Leading to Reading program and received $30,000 to work on an expanded edition of Young Voices (the publication with teen submissions). These projects were identified by the

Children and Youth Action Committee (CYAC) through the *Action Plan for the Children's Report Card 1999* and the Youth Violence Initiatives.

In an effort to continue to improve the condition of children and youth across the City of Toronto, the CYAC has produced an Action Plan to coincide with the release of the Children's Report Card 2000. The Report Card and Action Plan were adopted on February 6, 2001 at a special meeting of the Children and Youth Action Committee. The Action Plan identifies further expansion of the Leading to Reading program. An additional $300,000 is being requested to expand the program both during the summer and after school and to expand the Library's collection of literacy materials.

At the CYAC meeting on February 6, the Toronto Youth Cabinet released the document, *Budget Recommendations for 2001*. The document was adopted by the CYAC. Their recommendations identify the projects that are enthusiastically supported by the Toronto Youth Cabinet. Included in their recommendations is the Toronto Public Library initiative *Teen Zone - Online Gateway*. An amount of $342,000 is requested to build this gateway which would provide out-reach among web-based service providers to youth.

The initiatives in the Action Plan and the Budget Recommendations for 2001 have been developed through working groups of Children and Youth Action Committee.

Historically, the recommendations of the Children and Youth Action Committee have been handled separately from the regular budget process.

Comments:

Action Plan 2001 - Expansion of TPL's Leading to Reading Program

The CYAC proposes the following Leading to Reading initiatives:

(1) Expand the program to 350 children at four new locations in high needs areas for a total of 19 locations during the summer of 2001 at a cost of $50,000 in 2001.
(2) Expand the Leading to Reading Programs to 400 children at 23 locations for a total of 30 locations for year-round after school programs at a cost of $100,000 beginning in September 2001.
(3) Invest in collection support for the Leading to Reading program at a cost of $150,000 in 2001.

Additional details regarding the Expansion of the Leading to Reading Program are outlined on pages 12 and 13 in the *Action Plan 2001* report (Attachment #1).

Toronto Youth Cabinet – Recommendations for 2001

The Toronto Youth Cabinet proposes creation of the following new program:

(1) *Teen Zone- - Online Gateway* – a Youth Gateway on the Internet which will serve as an information portal for Toronto Youth.

Additional details regarding the *Teen Zone - Online Gateway* are available in the *Toronto Youth Cabinet – City of Toronto Operating Budget Recommendations for 2001*, page 4 (Attachment #2) and the *TPL Teen Zone - Gateway Fact Sheet* (Attachment #3).

Please also find the following documents attached requesting TPL Board adoption of the Children and Youth Action Committee and Toronto Youth Cabinet recommendations:

(1) February 7, 2001 memo to the TPL Board from the City Clerk, Children and Youth Action Committee regarding the Toronto Report Card on Children Update 2000 and the Action Plan for 2001 in Response to the Toronto Report Card on Children (Attachment #4).

(2) February 7, 2001 memo to the TPL Board from the City Clerk, Children and Youth Action Committee regarding the Toronto Youth Cabinet (Attachment #5).

Contact:

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City Librarian

List of Attachments:

Attachments are unavailable electronically.