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**From:** Susanna Hubbard Krimmer  
**To:** bill armstrong; bud polhill; Gloria Leckie; Janet Denton; Joe Fontan...  
**CC:** [REDACTED] Heather Heathcote; White, Jan; Wilkinson, Margaret  
**Date:** 11/30/2011 10:03 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Ontario Works move

Dear Dean and Janet Denton:

This email is to acknowledge your email regarding the proposed location of Ontario Works at the East London Branch Library and to provide you with some information that I hope will help. Thank you for sharing your concerns about the need to ensure that your library is a safe and welcoming place for all people in the community.

The Library works hard to build synergistic relationships with other services agencies in our community in order to: develop and build a vibrant community made up of active neighbourhoods and strong social networks using the layers of resources already present in the community; and provide relevant library services that are integral to the fabric of a vibrant community. The community improves as the library becomes an active, contributing player; and the library improves because it is more relevant to the community.

The Ontario Works participants that this site would serve are people mainly residing in the Argyle planning district as well as some residing in the East London, Hamilton Road and Crumlin districts. The benefits and synergies gained from being located in such proximity to the East London Library branch are numerous for the residents of the community, including the seamlessness with which Ontario Works staff could make referrals to the many valuable resources and services available through the library.

We have had a very positive experience in the South London Community Centre and Jalna Branch Library facility, where Ontario Works services are housed in the same community facility as the Jalna Branch Library. There have been great benefits as Ontario Works participants have been able to gain access to employment and literacy related services and resources. At the same time, the presence of Ontario Works in the South London Community Centre & Jalna Branch Library facility has not resulted in the types of issues you are concerned about.

The proposed co-location of Ontario Works at the East London community facility also provides the opportunity for significant synergies with the Strengthening Neighbourhoods Initiative: Argyle Strategy. We will be working closely with the Neighbourhood and Children's Services Division of the City of London to coordinate our respective strategies to ensure as well as to benefit from joint community engagement efforts. We have used the same strategy in the Kipps Lane area of London with great success. Again, this has been very positive for both the community and London Public Library. We have had great participation and response from people in the community who use the Beacock Branch Library (and, in fact, we have had people come to the library who did not formerly use our services). The result has been a growth in the use of the library.

The Library Board recently affirmed its foundational principle that: London Public Library endeavours to provide a welcoming and safe environment for the enjoyment of the community and staff, so that all may enjoy the benefits of the Library. This principle applies to any partnerships where we and our partners are co-located. We understand your concerns and I hope that the information I have provided gives you reassurance that we will work hard to ensure a positive experience for people using the East London Branch Library.

Again, thanks for your email to express your concerns. Josh Morgan, Gloria Leckie and I will share your correspondence with the Library Board.

Regards, Susanna

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>>> Janet Denton [REDACTED] 11/29/2011 5:26 PM >>>  
Dear Mayor, Councillors, Library Staff and Board,

Greetings from "East of Adelaide"

Please do your utmost to prevent Ontario Works from being placed at our library/community centre on Dundas East. Many of us over here are completely opposed to this proposal. We feel it would impede use of the library and community centre, even if it were to be placed in the former YMCA half of the building.

The problem is not the unemployed who need Ontario Works. The problem is the other people who will be attracted to the site (as they are downtown). Please don't ruin one of the few perks we have. We don't want to have to deal with drug pushers and panhandlers in order to use the library.

It should also be noted by you that there is a child day-care facility in the building. There are also many elderly as well as young people who would probably stop using the library out of fear for their safety. Then, I suppose, if library patronage drops, you might be looking at its closure.

I am sure that Bill Armstrong and Bud Polhill, at least, are aware of other vacant buildings along or near Dundas East that could be used for Ontario Works. In fact, there is a government (I think) job search office in the strip mall at Clark and Trafalgar for example, that might incorporate Ontario Works.

Thanks for your attention,

Dean and Janet Denton  
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