



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 13, 2011

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Composition of the London Public Library Board: Amendments to By-law A.-6039-645
Prepared By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Margaret Mitchell
Presented By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Purpose of Report:	For Decision: Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board approve the communiqué to Members of Municipal Council, found in Appendix A, requesting amendments to by-law A.-6039-645, respecting the composition of the London Public Library Board.



January 14, 2011

Mayor J. Fontana
 Councillor W.J. Armstrong
 Councillor J. L. Baechler
 Councillor J.P. Bryant
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 Councillor D. Brown
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Re: By-law No. A.-6039-645 Respecting the Composition of the London Public Library Board

As a next step, following Council's adoption of recommendations in the *Final Report of the Governance Task Force Report* (May 2009), the London Public Library Board requests that:

Municipal Council of the Corporation of the City of London enact the following amendments to the by-law (By-law No. A.-6039-645) respecting the composition of the London Public Library Board, in that

The London Public Library Board shall be composed of nine (9) members to be appointed by the Municipal Council:

- (a) two (2) members of the Municipal Council; and
- (b) seven (7) citizens-at-large.

Furthermore, the London Public Library Board requests that these amendments be made, not only in anticipation of 2014 appointments, but as expeditiously as possible in order to ensure that if vacancies occur during the current term of the Board, they can be managed under the terms of the amended by-law.

Background

The current by-law provides for a nine member Board consisting of three members of Municipal Council, one member from The Thames Valley District School Board, one member from the London District Catholic School Board and four citizens-at-large.

The ***Ontario Municipal Act 2001***, Section 216 "Dissolution and Change of Boards" defines the power of municipal council to change local boards. According to information provided by the Ministry of Culture, the language in s.216 ensures that changes are in concordance with the ***Public Libraries Act***, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 44. Sections 9 and 10, which prescribe the composition of a public library board.

Value of Councilor Representation

City Councilors bring invaluable experience and community links to the Library Board. They ensure that the board is aware of the fiscal and political environment, including opportunities, challenges and fiscal restraints, and that Council understands the value of library service to the citizens of London. It is recognized that Councilors have a heavy workload and demands on their time. Thus, reasonable efforts shall be made to balance Councilor representation while taking into consideration the scheduling of library board meetings and scheduled activities in order to ensure effectiveness of Board operations and efficiency of scheduling.

Therefore, it is specifically recommended that two (2) members of the Municipal Council be appointed as Library Board members.

Value of Broader Citizen Engagement

It is of value to all, that Londoners should be invited and encouraged to participate and be engaged in Library governance in order to ensure that LPL's Vision, Mission and Value Promise reflect and align with the needs and expectations of Londoners, the city of London and communities within London. The City must ensure that participation is accessible to all citizens, including the so-called "person on the street". Furthermore, reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that the Library Board has representation from a broad range of sectors including, for example: education, (e.g. school boards, university, colleges), business, community services, the voluntary sector, arts, heritage and culture, and the community-at-large (that is, people who value and use the library, but have no specific community or organization affiliation).

The composition and membership of a public library board is defined in **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 44. As a result of amendments to the act in 2002, school board representation was no longer required on the public library board. The Thames Valley District School Board and the London District Catholic School Board have been advised of this change.

Therefore, it is recommended that the school board representation be eliminated and the citizens-at-large representation on the Library Board be increased to seven in order to provide broader sector representation.

The London Public Library Board has approved the issuance of this request at its meeting of January 13, 2011. Please contact Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, CEO & Chief Librarian, if further information is required in order to continue the process of by-law development.

Yours truly,

Josh Morgan
Chair, London Public Library Board

CC: C. Saunders, City Clerk