Winnipeg Public Library Board Annual Report 2014

To:	**The Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services**
From	**Bill Zuk, Chair Winnipeg Public Library Board**
Report Date:	**January 19, 2015**

REASON FOR REPORT:

As mandated in the City of Winnipeg By-Law No. 119 / 2004, the Winnipeg Public Library Board's duties include reporting from time to time to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services regarding the Board's activities.

As the Chair of the Winnipeg Public Library Board, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Mayor and Council of the City of Winnipeg for their vision and continued commitment in supporting the work of our Library. Over the last few years, the city's capital and operating budgets have been instrumental in providing for an increase in the materials budget and in undertaking the Library Facility Redevelopment Strategy that will result in the replacement and renewal of modern, safe and accessible libraries able to accommodate the dynamic needs of library users. This progressive initiative is a milestone achievement that serves to bring our library system into the 21st Century.

Key Issues:

The Winnipeg Public Library Board is focused on implementing the direction set out in its Strategic Plan for 2011-2014:

1. Engage citizens and raise awareness of the value of the Library in the broader community context

2. Secure permanent increases to materials budget and provincial budget allocation

3. Conduct research on library issues and trends to help improve library service

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

1. ENGAGE CITIZENS AND RAISE AWARENESS OF THE VALUE OF THE LIBRARY IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY CONTEXT

Winnipeg Public Library Board Community Outreach Committee

Jack Montgomery Writers Award

In 2014, the Community Outreach Committee of the Winnipeg Public Library Board through its Jack Montgomery Community Outreach Award, named after author and former board member Jack Montgomery, provided support for writing workshops and author readings. Community organizations and library branches across the system were able to access funds for new and/or further developed writing programming for all ages.

The recipients of the 2014 Jack Montgomery Community Outreach Awards were:

- **Manitoba Writers' Guild Adult Writing Facilitation Program, working with the Millennium Library.** Beginning in November 2014, the group began working with emergent authors to develop their first novel and also have a workshop with the library's 2014/15 Writer-in-Residence to discuss 'Where Do We Go From Here?" – a plan for bringing their completed novel on to publication. The program is scheduled for completion in June 2015.

- **Professional Writers' Association of Canada (Manitoba Chapter) "Crowdfunding" Program for writers, working with the Millennium Library**. In a one-day workshop, on November 29, 2014, two authors, popular young adult writer Arthur Slade from Saskatoon and local writer Doreen Pendracs who have initiated crowdfunding programs for their own works, successfully provided the background and resources to assist local writers in implementing a crowdfunding effort.

Language and Literacy Funds

In 2014, the Community Outreach Committee of the Winnipeg Public Library Board through its Language and Literacy Funds assisted community groups in Winnipeg in developing projects in partnership with Winnipeg Public Library branches. The goal in stimulating literacy also resulted in increased Winnipeg Public Library usage.

The recipients of the 2014 Language and Literacy funds were:

- **The Frontier College Summer Literacy Camp, working with the West Kildonan Library**. The Summer Literacy Camp was designed to engage youth from low-socio-economic areas in a wide variety of educational activities. The program based at the West Kildonan Library, featured activities ranging from creative expression, critical thinking, informal learning, physical activity to community interaction.

- **The Chancellor School Literacy Project, working with the Pembina Trail Library**. A group of at-risk students were focused on a year-long program with emphasis on improving their language and literacy skills. Providing these students with books that are fun but also challenging was made available through special collections both at the school and at the Pembina Trail Library.

Books2Eat

The Winnipeg Public Library Board held its fourth annual Books2Eat event to celebrate books and food as part of a world-wide festival that takes place every year on, or around, April 1. The goal of the event was to attract the community to the Library to see the Library in another way, and to return again as regular users.

The 2014 Books2Eat event on April 5, 2014 at the Millennium Library, included expert speakers' sessions, a cake decorating presentation, a children's craft activity and the Edible Book competition. The challenge was for participants to use culinary arts to recreate book-themed edible items. Over 300 people participated in the event. Local celebrity judges awarded book prizes. The fifth annual Books2Eat event with another exciting schedule of events is set for April 25, 2015.

Library Advisory Committees

As mandated in the City's Library By-law, the Winnipeg Public Library Board is responsible for the five Library Advisory Committees (LACs), whose role is to advise the Board on Library service within their local communities. LACs bring forward ideas or issues affecting local libraries in their areas and help raise awareness of what libraries are doing in their communities and seek feedback from patrons.

The Board provided an orientation for new board and LAC members on March 1, 2014 at the Henderson Library for all Board and LAC members. The orientation included a review of the roles played by the Winnipeg Public Library Board and LACs, an overview of the library system, a question and answer session and sharing session.

In 2014, the Assiniboia, City Centre, Riel, East Kildonan-Transcona, and Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Library Advisory Committees met several times during the year and participated in various events to help raise the profile of the library and suggest improvements at the local branch level.

The Assiniboia LAC held a very successful LEGO-themed event at the St. James Library that not only highlighted the community-based activities of the Winnipeg Public Library, but also served as an introduction to the work of the local LAC.

Winnipeg Public Library History Project

Winnipeg Public Library Board (WPLB) has hired Eve Dutton, an author and interpreter for Parks Canada who has been involved in similar historical research related to the Forks National Park and Lower Fort Garry site to help write a history of Winnipeg Public Library.

In 2014 Ms. Dutton completed the first draft of chapters of the final Library History Book manuscript, continuing her work with a final draft scheduled for February 2015. The anticipated completion of her manuscript and the publication of the book is intended to coincide with the 2015 centenary of the two Carnegie libraries in Winnipeg: the St. John's and Cornish branches.

Winnipeg Public Library Board Strategic Plan

With the completion of the Winnipeg Public Library Board's Strategic Plan 2011–2014 occurring in 2014, on September 13, 2014, facilitated by the Big Sky Planning and Concepts team, 10 members of the Manitoba Public Library Board came together for a strategic planning session at the St. Boniface Library to set direction for the next four years.

After receiving the results of the planning session, a Strategic Plan 2015–2018, identified the following goals:

1. The Board will ensure that their recommendations are in accordance with the duties stated in the City of Winnipeg By-law.
2. The Board will increase and strengthen its advocacy role.
3. The Board will conduct a critical review of its role and the work it should accomplish.
4. The Board will raise its profile with the community and city officials.

2. SECURE PERMANENT INCREASES TO MATERIALS BUDGET AND PROVINCIAL BUDGET ALLOCATION

City's 2014 Operating Budget

Over the last few years, the Winnipeg Public Library Board through a series of presentations to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services as well as to the Executive Policy Committee of the City of Winnipeg has addressed the need for an increase in the library's materials budget. On November 25, 2013, at a public announcement at the Millennium Library, Mayor Sam Katz announced a proposed increase of $300,000 for library materials as part of the 2014 Preliminary Operating Budget.

Meeting with the Province to review the provincial funding formula

In 2015, members of the Winnipeg Public Library Board will again be seeking a meeting with the Hon. Ron Lemieux, the new Minister of Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Province of Manitoba. The meeting will focus on the Board's interest in seeing support of a change in the provincial funding formula for Winnipeg Public Library. The Board will emphasize the value of the public library system to all citizens, especially in light of Manitoba's changing demographics and the advances in technology that put a further demand on existing library resources.

3. CONDUCT RESEARCH ON LIBRARY ISSUES AND TRENDS TO IMPROVE LIBRARY SERVICE

Professional Development

At the Ontario Library Association Conference, January 29–February 2, 2014 in Toronto, board members Gordon Crook and Bob Foster represented the Winnipeg Public Library Board. This conference is the largest of its kind in Canada and provided the board with the latest information on issues and trends that are impacting the public library system.

4. BOARD'S OPERATING GRANT

The Winnipeg Public Library Board would like to give notice to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services of the 2015 grant request of $79,315 to support the ongoing work of the Library Board.

5. OTHER WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD ACTIVITIES

- Participated in *On the Same Page* programming and attended the AGM for *BookMates* along with other literacy-focused events.
- Participated in the *Winnipeg Public Library Foundation* and Manitoba Library Trustees Annual General Meetings.
- Attended the Charleswood Library Public Open House meeting to discuss the redevelopment of the branch library.
- Attended the re-opening of the Fort Garry Library.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In closing, the Winnipeg Public Library Board wishes to acknowledge and thank:

- Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services for their ongoing commitment to Winnipeg Public Library;
- Councillors Harvey Smith and Paula Havixbeck for their participation, advice and support of public library services during their terms on the Board
- Manager of Library Services Rick Walker and the dedicated WPL staff for their service excellence and innovation;
- Annabel Perez for her assistance in the role of Administrative Assistant to the Board;
- Winnipeg Library Foundation Chair Sandy Hyman and Executive Director Carole Marshall for their leadership of the Winnipeg Library Foundation;
- Former Board members, for their contributions;
- All Library Advisory Committee members for their community library support.

Prepared by:

Bill Zuk, 2014 Chair, Winnipeg Public Library Board

Appendix A:

Winnipeg Public Library Board, Draft Financial Statements, January 2015