City Centre Library Advisory Committee

251 Donald Street
Winnipeg Manitoba Canada
R3C 3P5

Tel: 204.986.8028
Fax: 204.942-5671
Email: wpllibraryboard@winnipeg.ca

March 14, 2024

Executive Policy Committee
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Support of 2024 Preliminary Budget (2024-2027 Multi-year Budget)

We, the undersigned members of the City Centre Library Advisory Committee (CC LAC), are in full support of the preliminary budget from February 7, 2024, outlining significant increases in Winnipeg Public Library (WPL) funding. Increased investment will substantially augment and harmonize the hours of operation across the city and increase both collections and programming for library patrons. The WPL is a tremendous community resource and is well deserving of the additional fiscal support. We thank the City and its Committees for these funds and their commitment to better serving the Winnipeg community.

In the long run, we remain committed to parity in library services with comparator cities across Canada. Nevertheless, we recognize and appreciate the new budget as an important step in a difficult fiscal climate. Although neither item was specifically referred to in the 2024 Preliminary Budget, we are hoping that this final budget will also accommodate the Standing Policy Committee on Community Services' request from October 31, 2023, for additional technology and administrative support. The impact of closing the Millennium Library on Sundays should also be reviewed in future budgets, particularly in light of its potential impact on students and families. Lastly, we wished to encourage the city to continue funding Community Connections after 2024; it is an invaluable resource to many Winnipeggers, especially the most vulnerable.

Though we anticipate that there will be calls to further increase the WPL budget towards the long-term goal of parity with other Canadian cities, we are certainly heartened by the increases in the most recent budget for 2024, during what we recognize to be a difficult fiscal situation.

Sincerely,

City Centre Library Advisory Committee members

David Chadwick, Chair, LAC
David Chadwick

Arielle Villarin
Arielle Villarin

Celia Rodd
Celia J. Rodd

Waraidzo Chiyoka
Waraidzo Chiyoka

Virinder Gill
Virinder Gill

cc: Assistant, Winnipeg Public Library Board
Winnipeg Public Library Board
Karin Borland, Manager of Library Services
Rémi Fontaine, WPL Administrative Liaison