

## COMMUNICATION AND COUNSEL

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**Subject:** Update on New Central Library Functional Building Program

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**Prepared for:** Ottawa Public Library Board

**Meeting of:** April 16, 2007

**Date:** April 4, 2007

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### Background

1. Representatives from the Resource Planning Group - Mark Mehrer, Principal, and Andrew Brown, Project Manager – will be in attendance on April 16, 2007 to make a formal presentation to the Board. Topics to be covered for presentation to, and discussion with, the Board include: overview of the Resource Planning Group's scope of work for the Ottawa Public Library and City of Ottawa, functional building rationale for a new central library, and global trends in central library buildings and development.
2. The OPL Board's *Libraries for Ottawa: Facilities Strategy* was approved in February 2006. The strategy describes the OPL Board's vision to invest in the future of our city's library services and meet the needs of library users in our dynamic, growing city. *Libraries for Ottawa* identifies the renovation and renewal of community and district branches and the building of a new central library to ensure a strong foundation for the system. The building or expansion of branch facilities in growth areas of the city will be funded primarily through development charges.
3. The OPL Board's 2006 submission to the City of Ottawa's Long Range Financial Plan 3 (LRFP) (2007-2016), included a high-level financial road map for the development and renewal of library facilities and identified the year 2011 as the recommended start to build a new central library as part of the *Libraries for Ottawa* strategy. The new central library is included in the LRFP3 as an unfunded project.
4. In September 2006, the Board approved awarding of a contract for the new central library functional building program in the amount of \$264,984.10 (including GST) to the Resource Planning Group, Inc. The Resource Planning Group (RPG) is a Vancouver and Toronto based company that specializes in the development of functional building programs for large libraries. This includes the Vancouver Public Library, and the major renovation of the Winnipeg Public Library, the Salt Lake City Public Library, the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Seattle Public Library. Central libraries for which they have completed functional building programs have won awards from the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association.

A functional building program is the main tool for communicating the criteria for the building and its design to a design team. It is not a building design. It will reflect what the public has

indicated it wants in a new central library. It must be based on an understanding of the activities and functions in the proposed central library and the functional criteria that must be addressed during subsequent stages of schematic design and design development. The functional building program provides Library and City Management, the Library Board, Council and various stakeholder groups with a reference manual from which they can discuss and evaluate future design schemes.

4. After the contract was awarded, work on the building program project began in October 2006. The first major phase of the project, development of Project Parameters, will be completed by early May.
5. The City of Ottawa Central Archives currently leases space in the former Ottawa City Hall. The lease for the space ends on December 31, 2010 so the Archives have been actively engaged in a relocation study. On February 23, 2007, Council approved the following motion:

That the Community and Protective Services Committee recommend that Council approve the following substitute recommendation:

WHEREAS the [Archives Relocation] Steering Committee has conducted significant research and consultation related to the Relocation of the Central Archives; and

WHEREAS the Ottawa Public Library is currently completing a functional program plan and assessing potential site options for the replacement of the Main Library; and

WHEREAS there may be opportunities to create synergies with the Ottawa Public Library and to identify savings in a co-located Library and Archives plan; and

WHEREAS there may be additional site options that could be considered; and

WHEREAS Funds are available to complete the Archives functional program plan in capital project number 903471;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Cultural Services staff in conjunction with the Archives Steering Committee be directed to work with the Ottawa Public Library consultants to develop the Archives functional program plan, identify any opportunities for cost savings and consider site co-location opportunities and report back to Committee within six months in order to consider the implications as part of the 2008 budget process.

CARRIED, as amended

6. In response to this motion, the Resource Planning Group is finalizing a contract with the City of Ottawa to complete the Archives functional building program project. This will be done through Supply Management as an Addendum to the OPL contract. A third contract site selection services is being finalized, also as an Addendum to the OPL contract.
7. On March 29, 2007, the Resource Planning Group met formally with the New Central Library Board Committee. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the building program project and interfaces with the Archives building program project and joint site selection processes.
8. Representatives from the Resource Planning Group - Mark Mehrer, Principal, and Andrew Brown, Project Manager – will be in attendance on April 16, 2007 to make a formal presentation to the Board. Topics to be covered for presentation to, and discussion with, the Board include: overview of the Resource Planning Group's scope of work for the Ottawa

Public Library and City of Ottawa, functional building rationale for a new central library, and global trends in central library buildings and development. The latter item will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation.