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April 17, 2012

Ms. Joanne Havelock, Chair
Friends of the Regina Public Library
2042 Garnet Street
REGINA SK S4T 2Z6

Dear Ms. Havelock:

Further to the Friends of the Regina Public Library (FRPL) presentation to Regina Public Library Board (the Board) on March 27, 2012, the Board has asked that I provide a response to the questions posed, insofar as it is possible at this time. As I have indicated in earlier conversations with you, the project is still in development and some of the questions you ask are still under review and investigation by the Library.

I have taken the bulleted list from your letter as the questions to be answered, but if there are others I have missed, please let me know.

- detailed reasons for needing an upgrade to Central Branch. *The Central Library is in need of significant maintenance including replacement of the roof and the curtain wall. It has had no major renovation or upgrades in its 50 year history and all systems, except the chiller, are original to the building. The building no longer meets code, including accessibility standards. The Central Library was built for a city population of about 100,000 residents – it is now double that and in planning for the next few decades, will grow even more. As such, the Central Library can no longer meet the needs of this growing city. The vision for public libraries in the 1960s was substantially different from that of the 21st century and while books, and the space they occupy, remain a staple for public libraries, they have added along the way new mandates for technology, digital collections (both physical and virtual), and the requirements of serving the community as one of the last truly public spaces. The Central Library is approximately half of the size it needs to be to continue to serve Regina into the future.*

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- a cost analysis of the upgrades needed to Central Branch. *This is part of the work being done now in preparation for the Board's public consultation and will be available at that time.*
- the space needs for current and future essential library services. *As noted above, the Central Library is approximately half of the size it needs to be to meet future needs. This is a part of the work being done now in preparation for the Board's public consultation and further details will be available at that time.*
- the range of funding possibilities (in addition to public private partnerships). *Significant capital investment for any public sector entity can be funded with existing resources or through debt financing. This holds true regardless of the model used, whether through public private partnership or traditional public sector procurement. The Library Board has committed to a fundraising campaign to reduce the amount of initial capital. More information will be available when the work is completed for the public consultation.*
- the application process leading to the choice of a developer. *There is no single answer to this as it is too early in the process. Whether through a public private partnership or a more traditional public sector model, the Board has used and will continue to use public processes that could include RFQs, RFPs and/or tendering.*
- more details about the proposal submitted to the P3 Canada fund. *RPL submitted an application to P3 Canada and continues to work through the process. The fund could provide a grant of up to 25% of the project's eligible costs. The P3 Canada fund supports a variety of different public private partnership models but in all cases, the public entity maintains ownership of the asset (in RPL's case, that's the library building).*
- public discussion about the heritage value of the Masonic Temple and the Central Library Building. *The public discussion about the heritage value of the Masonic Temple and Central Library is a part of the City's jurisdiction and process and does not need to be duplicated by the Library. After the Library's public consultation and later confirmation of a plan, the necessary application will be made to the City to initiate the heritage review process.*

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- the design options that have been considered for adaptive reuse of these heritage buildings. *Work on adaptive reuse of the buildings is not yet complete but will be a part of the Library Board's public consultation.*

Thank you for your interest in the future of Regina Public Library. Should the FRPL have additional questions, please do not hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Barber".

Jeff Barber
Library Director and CEO

cc: Darlene Hincks Joehnck, Board Chair, Regina Public Library