

April 12, 2019

Ms. Florence Stratton  
[Florence.Stratton@uregina.ca](mailto:Florence.Stratton@uregina.ca)

Dear Ms. Stratton:

**RE: Delegation Submission of January 22, 2019**

Thank you for your interest in RPL and for bringing your comments and questions to the attention of the Board of Directors.

As noted in the pre-amble to the policy, the purpose of the *Submissions & Delegations Policy* is to promote open and respectful dialogue with the public. Its intention is to ensure that Regilians have an opportunity to participate in the important conversations that shape the Library and its future. The RPL Board welcomes and encourages input and constructive suggestions that are relevant to its mandate and mission. You have raised a number of questions about Library processes, as well as our Submissions and Delegations policy, and I would like to reply to them in this letter.

*City Council allows a delegation to consist of more than one person. Why would RPL Board not do the same?*

I am sure you can appreciate that the logistics of the RPL Board are quite different from those of City Council. Limiting the delegation to one spokesperson allows Board members to focus on the presenter. Oftentimes, presenters come forward in pairs, which is for the most part acceptable. Whether the Board meets at Central Library, or in one of the programming rooms at a Branch, presentation space can be quite limited. The policy states, “. . . a request may be submitted to the Chair should additional presenters be necessary”. Advance notice also provides organizers of the meeting with much needed information in preparing the room for a Board meeting.

*What constitutes a “temperate and respectful” brief?*

The RPL Board does not expect a presenter to downplay or omit issues or concerns they have. In fact, they welcome individuals or groups that care enough to come forward and point out perceived oversights or offer feedback and suggestions. We are not, however, prepared to allow individuals to verbally and deliberately embarrass or humiliate the Board, Library staff, or members of the public. Whether in words or in-person, as a Board, we will choose a spirited discussion over a mean-spirited rant. And it is with respect that we assume you and your colleagues share our sentiments.

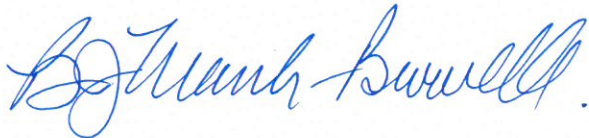
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*Will an impartial body, such as the City Clerk's office, get to decide what is "temperate and respectful"? Or will it be left to the "opinion" of the Secretary and Chair?*

At the January Board meeting, Mayor Fougere clarified a number of points from your submission and the Board trusts that those clarifications on City of Regina process have been helpful. For the Library's part, the RPL Board is confident in their collective abilities and sound judgment to decide what is "temperate and respectful". They are also confident in the character and the fairness of the Chair and Secretary and their ability to make the preliminary assessments required under the policy.

The RPL Board of Directors is built on a framework of integrity and professionalism. Our collective role is to ensure that the Regina is well-served by its community Library now and in the future. Please be assured that your voice has been heard and that thoughtful dialogue and ideas about the Regina Public Library will always be taken seriously by this Board and by Library Administration.

Respectfully and sincerely,



Barbara March-Burwell  
Vice-Chair  
Regina Public Library Board