

> From: Arlene Thompson  
> Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2024 7:02 PM  
> To: Budget <[Budget@london.ca](mailto:Budget@london.ca)>  
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns Re: 2024 budget

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> Dear Budget Committee,

> I am writing to express my concerns with the Budget released by the Mayor.

> There are many demands on a limited budget and it is impossible to meet all requests.

> I totally understand why a rate hike is necessary.

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> However, while I am very supportive of the Police department and recognize that they are performing a challenging job in the City, I do not see why they are getting such a big increase and others are being cut. Also, Neighbourhood Decision Making is getting an increase. The projects that have been funded are nice but do not benefit a majority of Londoners. I do see the Neighbourhood Decision Making as a frill.

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> London Public Library should not be faced with a decrease in their budget. London Public Library operates with a very lean budget. The Library is one of the only places in the community that someone can enter without paying a fee or explaining why they are there. The Library meets an essential need for people who need access to WiFi or the computers because the person is unable to afford to pay for monthly internet service at home. If you are homeless, the Library's computers offer a way to connect with family and friends. If the Library is forced to close locations and limit hours of opening, the people who can least afford it are the ones who will be impacted.

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> London Public Library requires funds to maintain and repair the 16 buildings. With the limited funds available, the buildings are not being maintained as they should be. If infrastructure is not maintained on a regular basis, eventually the taxpayer is faced with a higher bill when issues become severe and there is no recourse but to address the problems.

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> We can be proud of the service that the staff are able to offer while being understaffed. London Public Library is not asking for a huge increase and possibly it is not possible to give an increase but they should not be faced with a cut to their already extremely tight budget, especially when this is multi-year budget.

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> Thank you for reading the concerns of a citizen,

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> Arlene Thompson

> Sent from my iPad