



Some backlash was inevitable, but things might have gone differently if the review had steered clear of the library system. This was the issue that, ultimately, galvanized the public and council against the mayor. And it was all Doug Ford's fault.

On the third week of the core-service-review reports, KPMG presented its findings on the library system to the executive committee. Page 76 left the public paying for blood: "The Library Services could be reduced by reducing the number of branches [there were about one hundred] and/or constraining the hours of service." Doug Ford threw gasoline on the inferno. "I've got more libraries in my area than I have Tim Hortons," he said, referring to the ubiquitous coffee shops. Beloved Canadian author Margaret Atwood poked back on Twitter: "Twin Fordmayor seems to think those who eat Timbits [doughnuts], like me, don't read, can't count, & are stupid eh?" Atwood rallied her 220,000-plus Twitter followers to patronize their local library, then hold book club meetings at their local Tim Hortons. Rather than ignore the jab, the mayor's brother doubled down, saying he would close a library in his ward "in a heartbeat." And as far as Atwood was concerned, said Doug, "I don't even know her. If she walked by me, I wouldn't have a clue who she is." His advice to Atwood? "Go run in the next election and get democratically elected. And we'd be more than happy to sit down and listen to Margaret Atwood."

It was the first time Karen Stintz split publicly with the Fords. In a letter to her constituents, she announced, "I value the Toronto Public Library and can assure my constituents that these are not the type of cuts that I will support." Speaker Frances Nunziata was next, saying that if anything libraries should be better equipped to deliver city services. On July 28, the executive