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Budget compromise means nine Toronto libraries will still have access to security guards despite cuts

York Guardian
By David Nickle

Cuts to security guards looking after Toronto Public Library branches will be less dramatic than originally put forward by the Toronto Public Library Board.

The board had been proposing to cut \$660,000 from the budget for security guards, resulting in a 40 per cent reduction in security services at branches across the city. The cuts were part of a plan that brought the library's budget increase down to just two per cent — lower than the 2.3 per cent that the city had been asking for in setting the 2015 budget.

The move would have meant that four district libraries and numerous community branches would have been without security guards — a move that drew criticism from the union representing library workers.

On Jan. 26, the city's budget committee heard that staff at the library and the city had reached a compromise and the reduction to the budget was reduced to just \$200,000.

The new move means that nine community branches will no longer have full-time security, but will still have access to the service when needed.

"These are nine branches where there isn't as much need for security guards," said Toronto's Chief Librarian Vickery Bowles.

"We have \$100,000 in the budget that we've requested that allows us to deploy security guards as needed. These branches will get security guards but they won't be regularly scheduled."

The affected branches are Fort York, Eatonville, St. Jamestown, Centennial, Dawes Road, Downsview, Jane-Dundas, Jane-Sheppard and Oakwood Village.

<http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/5278463-budget-compromise-means-nine-toronto-libraries-will-still-have-access-to-security-guards-despite-cut/>