

September 30, 2020

Guelph, ON

Guelph City Council
Guelph, ON

RE: new library delay – comments from taxpayer

Dear City Council:

First, thanks for your tremendous work on behalf of us all. The pandemic has reminded us that we live in a great country, but as citizens we need to pay attention to multiple competing priorities to figure out how to best further develop for the upcoming generations. The need and benefit of amenities such as parks, trails, recreation centres, garbage collection, transit, libraries, schools and public health are all affected by your decisions and paid for with our local tax dollars. Therefore, I am sure you have many people advocating for certain types of development. In good times, most of us, including me, do not pay much attention. In the emerging difficult times ahead, however, we need more assurance from our politicians that our money is being well spent.

We have been reminded by the pandemic that services that positively support both sound bodies and minds are still very important, and we will still need to pay for these with a vibrant economy. I am advocating today for a balanced, problem-solving approach to development of these amenities. This approach will resonate with most fair-minded taxpayers.

As you contemplate trying to “build back better”, does a new rec centre make sense at this time, relative to delaying the new library yet again? Should either or both projects be re-considered? Below is a clip from the Mercury-Tribune online news taken this morning that reminds us that these projects are actually linked, because they are both paid for by us, the taxpayers. I would not presume to tell council what to do; but please explain how you are going to proceed and provide the rationale.

Good luck with your deliberations.



Paula Brauer, PhD, RD

COUNCIL Sep 25, 2020

**Proposed Guelph library revisions
bring budget down to \$62M**

COUNCIL Sep 24, 2020

**Expected cost of south Guelph rec
centre goes up \$12M**
