



Toronto Public Library Workers Union Fact Sheet

- Toronto's first free public library opened in March, 1884. It is now the busiest urban library system in the world. 1.25 million people are registered Toronto Public Library cardholders. In 2010, there were 165,000 new registrations – a 4 percent increase over 2009.
- The Toronto Public Library Staff Association was founded in 1910, with just under 30 members. The association evolved into a union which is now Toronto Public Library Workers Union Local 4948. TPLWU represents 2,400 members and is affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees.
- Most TPL workers are women and most work part-time. Many part-time workers would like to work full-time but there are very few openings for full-time positions.
- TPL Librarians are highly trained professionals and all have at least one advanced university degree, typically a Master's degree. Public Service Assistants typically have a university degree or college diploma in an information science discipline.
- There are dozens of job classifications in the TPL. The three most populous classifications and their current hourly pay rates are:
 - Pages: There are 699 Pages who perform various front line library tasks. All are part-time workers. Current hourly rate varies from \$11.33 to \$14.95.
 - Public Service Assistants: There are 533 PSAs who assist patrons in many ways. 50 per cent work part-time. The current top PSA wage rate is \$26.63.
 - Librarians: There are 242 Librarians. The current top Librarian wage rate is \$39.01, which is comparable to a college instructor.
- Since Toronto city amalgamation in 1998, Toronto Public Library materials circulation has increased by 24 per cent. During that same time, staffing levels have decreased by 9 per cent. In 2010, there were 18 million visits to TPL's 99 branches – an average of 7,500 visits per TPL employee.
- The Library's 2010 operating budget was \$170 million. That amounts to under 19 cents per day per resident.