

Dear Members of the Executive Committee,

My name is Jim Elliott and I am bringing questions regarding this brief but un-informing short presentation by the Board of Directors of the Regina Public Library.

Un-informing in this way.

Much of the information has been known well before February 2015 when the Central Branch library building was assessed. I refer you to the attached report that you may or may not have seen. "Renovations of old library buildings present a difficult challenge", said the report.

This report goes through meticulously the number of problems and needs for work. And yet, the report from the Library Board of Directors today makes no mention of these other than general statements. But glaringly, there is no mention of what they may or may not have done over the preceding 7 years.

They extol in their report to you today the need for \$50 Million dollars to get things done and as the phrase goes, you could drive a Mac truck through that statement. The report I mentioned above said that by 2020, there should have been \$2.36 Million dollars spent. Was it spent? All indications are no. By 2030, they should be spending \$14.2 Million dollars on the building. Has some of this been spent or planned to be spent? And somewhere past 2030, the RPL would need to spend \$28.5 Million dollars to fix the library's remaining asset deficits. One might ask what will they be spending the additional \$21.5 Million dollars on and when?

There was little or no discussion with the public when the February 2015 report came out. There was a public meeting in February 2020, but details of costs were not discussed in any depth. There has been no notice given that any of the calls for renovations and repairs were or are being done. We barely hear any details within the RPL Board meetings. And since everything has gone virtual, the public has not even been able to view the staff presentations while they are shown on the wall of the library board meeting room. Nor can the public view them online, even though the meetings use the Teams program, the public can only attend by teleconference. And there has been no disclosure of what they plan to spend the \$50 Million dollars on in this or any other report or meeting with the public.

Is this building fixable? My answer is absolutely yes and the February 2015 report says how it is to be done and that it should have been started well before today. Is there a need for more services in the downtown branch? Yes, and this could be accomplished through the building of an architecturally consistent four-story administrative expansion of the footprint on the west side of the present building. This could free up significant interior space for additional program service space including support for the Dunlop Art Gallery. It would allow for the original air circulation system to be restored. Previous renovations have interfered with this. It would allow for the additional elevator for both the public and the staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Elliott