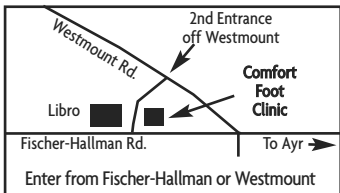


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KITCHENER PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN BRANCH

\$51 million addition and renovation popular option

Laura Johnston

Hundreds of Kitchener residents want a bigger, better library.

At the two week point of collecting feedback from the public regarding three proposals to improve the main branch of the Kitchener Public Library, the popular choice was the option to add 54,000 square feet to the Queen Street building, renovate the existing space, and make the entire facility an energy-efficient building. The estimated cost to fulfill this wish list is \$51 million.

“The preliminary results show significant support for Option 3 - the renovation and addition proposal. The vast majority of respondents favour this option,” said Sonia Lewis, KPL Chief Executive Officer.

“We are more than pleased with the degree of participation so far. We’ve had terrific attendance at the open houses,” she added.

Lewis also noted that a diverse cross-section of the community, including young and old, singles and fami-



Artist's rendering of Queen Street entrance, courtesy Kitchener Public Library. More information and floor plans for each of the three proposed renovation options available at www.kpl.org

lies, came to the public meetings.

“Response has been tremendous, with over half (of the respondents) taking the time to provide additional comments to the survey questions.”

She added that the top three priorities, so far, are to create a welcoming and attractive library space, to provide space for the library collection to grow and to incorporate energy efficiency and a green design.

“So, part of our proposal (to the city) will

be to look at LEED requirements,” she said.

LEED is an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a program encouraging sustainable, green building practices.

“It’s been exciting to hear from the public and receive such helpful feedback. People are genuinely excited about the possibilities,” Lewis said.

Public meetings were held in April to present and discuss the three options for updating the main branch. The pro-

posed plans, complete information, and a walking tour video, are on the library’s website: www.kpl.org. The online survey will be available until May 9.

The library presents its preliminary report to city council next week. This report will summarize costs and options, stakeholder input and the rationale for the project. On May 12, the report will be posted at both the library’s website, www.kpl.org and the city of Kitchener’s site: www.kitchener.ca.

