

CUPE 932

Proudly representing the workers of Hamilton Public Library 932.cupe.ca | 932cupe@gmail.com

Wednesday April 21, 2021

Dear Nick van Velzen, Paul Takala and Members of the Hamilton Public Library Board,

As President of Local 932 representing Hamilton Public Library workers, I urge you to consider reverting to Takeout for the duration of the current provincial Stay-at-Home order. I applaud HPL's leadership in allowing internet and computer access, but with respect, please reduce service.

While library services provided by Local 932 Members are essential to our community's health and well-being, the safety of workers in these spaces and the community members who visit them must be paramount.

Hamilton is currently in a state of crises with COVID-19 and variants, hospital ICUs at capacity, the recent implementation of field hospitals to cover overflow and vaccination shortages. Information from the scientific community indicates indoor activity can accelerate contagion.

While the province is reluctant to legislate the closure of libraries at this time we can take the lead and make the difficult decision to limit service, for the protection of our Staff, Members and community. Reducing services now will help halt the spread of COVID so that we can reopen safely sooner.

With thanks for your consideration, Mandy Bullard