

ST. CATHARINES PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**POLICY**

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| Section: General Number: G10 | Subject: Internet Use | Motion#: 1999-28 2020-96 |
| Policy Level: Library Board | Author: Manager, IT and Public Service Managers | Review: 4 years |
| Approval Date: 1999-04-15 | Last Review: 2020-11-19 | Next Review: 2024 |
| Notes: Approved at the Board Meeting of April 15, 1999. Rescinded and replaced approved at the Board Meeting of November 19, 2020. | | |

POLICY STATEMENT**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for open and equitable internet access for all community members in accordance with the Library's mission statement.

Scope

This policy applies to all customers, regardless of age, with or without an active library card, who access the internet through the Library's on-site computers or through its wireless internet access.

Definitions

Adults: For the purposes of this policy, adults are defined as customers 12 years and older.

Children: For the purposes of this policy, children are defined as customers 11 years and younger.

Devices: Devices are broadly defined as any computer, laptop, tablet, mobile or smartphone, or any other technological device which permits access to the internet wirelessly or otherwise.

Internet access: Defined as access to the internet through the use of Library computers and devices, as well as through the use of the Library's wireless network via customers' own personal and mobile technology devices.

Equitable Access to Information

The St. Catharines Public Library provides open and equitable access to the internet to meet the information needs of its community and promote digital literacy. Access is provided in accordance with the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Ontario Library Association Intellectual Rights of the Individual.

The Library cautions that information obtained online is not always credible, accurate, nor in keeping with community standards. The Library does not monitor online information for its reliability, authority or age appropriateness. Users should be aware that the internet is not a secure medium and that the Library assumes no responsibility for the security and privacy of online transactions.

With the exception of designated children's internet computers, access is not filtered, although specific websites may be blocked due to their inappropriateness in a public environment. The determination of appropriateness is wholly at the discretion of Library staff.

Separate internet access is provided for patrons age 11 and under (children) and those ages 12 and over (adults). As with all other library resources and services, children and young adults have access to all materials, and responsibility for monitoring access to the internet rests solely with parents and/or legal guardians.

Responsibilities and Prohibitions

All customers are expected to comply with the Library's internet use guidelines and to use the internet in a responsible manner, including but not limited to the following:

- Customers are responsible for complying with all provisions of the Library's Rules of Conduct.
- Customers are responsible for their own privacy and security and are encouraged to take all precautions to safeguard their personal information when using the Library's internet access.
- Customers are prohibited from displaying content that can be reasonably foreseen to offend others or violate community standards.
- Customers are prohibited from engaging in any illegal activity, as well as accessing internet sites that violate any provision of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C., 1985 c. C-46, *the Copyright Act*, R.S.C., 1985 c. C-42, or any other intellectual property right, or any other federal, provincial statute, or municipal by-law. These violations include pornography and hateful or obscene messages. Library staff has the authority to end an internet session when such material displays on the screen.
- Customers are prohibited from engaging in any activity that violates the privacy rights of another person(s) or organization(s).
- Violation of the policies and guidelines that govern the use of the Library's internet resources may result in suspension or loss of privilege to use these resources. Illegal activity involving the Library's internet resources may be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.

Implementation

The policy shall be implemented by the C.E.O.

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