



# Acceptable Internet Use

Policy Type: **Operational**

Policy Number: **OP-06**

Approval date: **June 12, 2018**

## 1. Purpose

Internet access is provided at the North Perth Public Library in keeping with the Library's mission to engage and fulfill the educational, recreational, and technological needs of North Perth. The Library provides free access to public internet computers as well as a wireless internet connection as an extension of information services.

## 2. Access

- 2.1 Access to the Internet is offered in accordance with the North Perth Public Library Board's policy ***FN-03 Intellectual Freedom***. The Library does not restrict access to information on any public computer with the use of filtering software. While our intention is to uphold the tenets of intellectual freedom by offering unfiltered access to the content of the internet, customers should be aware that some websites may be blocked by software intended to protect our network from external threats such as viruses, malicious programs, and intrusion attempts.
- 2.2 Computers are available free of charge to all library cardholders. Visitors to North Perth may ask staff for a temporary guest pass.
- 2.3 Wireless access is available via users' personal devices.
- 2.4 The Library reserves the right to set time limits for use of public computers or adjust computer scheduling as necessary.
- 2.5 The Library's wireless network is not secure; the Library cannot guarantee the safety of traffic across its wireless network. The Library does not assume any responsibility for the configuration, security or files on personal devices resulting from connection to the Library's network.
- 2.6 The Library will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by, or the potential repercussions of a third party using, personal/banking/credit card information that has been entered via the public network.

## 3. Reliability and Appropriateness of Information on the Internet

- 3.1 The Library does not monitor, and has no control over, the information accessed through the Internet and cannot be held responsible for its content. Not all Internet sources provide

current, accurate, complete, or age appropriate information. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity, legality, and security of any sites they access.

#### **4. Privacy and Confidentiality**

- 4.1 Use of the Library's computers is incorporated in ***OP-04 Confidentiality and the Protection of Privacy***.
- 4.2 Internet workstations are situated in public areas, and content being viewed by users may be seen by other people. Users are expected to use the Internet in accordance with this environment.

#### **5. Use by Children**

- 5.1 As per ***OP-07 Unattended Children***, children 10 years of age and younger must be accompanied by an adult while in the Library.
- 5.2 The Board accepts no responsibility for enforcing restrictions which a parent or guardian places on a child's use of the Internet. Parents will assume responsibility for deciding which resources and type of network access are appropriate for their children.
- 5.3 The Board will ensure that children and youth have access to the Internet in keeping with ***FN-03 Intellectual Freedom*** and the Ontario Library Association's ***Position on Children's Rights in the Library (Appendix B)***.

#### **6. Acceptable Use**

- 6.1 To ensure equitable access to the public network and efficient use of resources, the Board sets rules for public network access and reserves the right to modify these whenever appropriate.
- 6.2 Users who deliberately violate the rules may have their library privileges suspended, as per ***OP-05 Code of Conduct***.
- 6.3 Users must respect the laws of Canada when using the public network.
- 6.4 Use of the public network for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to seek access to unauthorized areas is prohibited. Examples of such illegal activities include, but are not limited to, harassment or stalking, libel, illegal commerce or solicitation, hacking or tampering with other computer systems, viewing child pornography or explicit content, sedition, and the incitement of hate.
- 6.5 Illegal use will be reported to the police. Data relevant to suspected unauthorized or illegal use will be retained and acted upon as per ***"MFIPPA" s. 32 (g)***.
- 6.6 Users of the public network may not violate or circumvent copyright and other intellectual property rights.

#### **7. Compliance**

- 7.1 Accepting the User Agreement on a Library computer signifies an understanding of, and willingness to comply with, this policy.

7.2 Library staff are entrusted with the obligation to ensure that this policy is followed. Staff will advise users of appropriate conduct as required. Should violation of this policy occur, staff has the authority to block access to Internet and/or Library services as per ***OP-05 Code of Conduct***.