

**INTERNET USE POLICY**

**Intent**

The purpose of this policy is to provide the framework for public access to the Internet.

The Brock Township Public Library offers Internet access to all patrons in accordance with our mission statement that the Library is committed to providing “barrier free access to resources and services.” The Library considers Internet resources an extension of our materials collection, and as such, is viewed as a core library service.

The Internet is an unregulated, world-wide medium, which provides access to ideas, information, and images that range in scope from excellent, reliable and authoritative to controversial, offensive, inappropriate or inaccurate. Accordingly, users are advised to evaluate the validity of the information found on the Internet as they would any other information resource. The Library does not assume responsibility for the accuracy, currency or appropriateness of material on the Internet or for damages direct or indirect, arising from its connections to the Internet. Further, the Library is not responsible for any fee incurred by use of the Internet, nor can we guarantee security and confidentiality of any transaction, particularly e-commerce transactions.

**Regulations**

1. Patrons must have a valid Brock Township Public Library card in order to access the Internet or other computer applications. Visitors will be provided with a Visitor’s card to facilitate access. Visitors are defined as seasonal residents or those who utilize the library on an infrequent basis.
2. Patrons with outstanding fines or charges in excess of \$30 and/or 10 or more items overdue will not be permitted to access the Internet until their account balance is paid in full and/or all outstanding material is returned.
3. Children are entitled to access all information and facilities in the library. As with all other library material, children’s access to the Internet is the responsibility of parents or guardians, who are expected to monitor and supervise their children’s use of the Internet and are responsible for the Internet information accessed by their children.
4. All children’s computers are filtered. Filtering software is intended to block access to sexually explicit and hate-literature sites, and while they reduce the chances of exposure to inappropriate sites, the software is imperfect and is not meant to replace the need for parental guidance.
5. Because the Internet access computers are situated in a public area, which must be shared by users of all ages, backgrounds and sensibilities, users are asked to consider this when accessing potentially controversial information and images.
6. Library users are subject to federal, provincial and municipal legislation regulating Internet use, including the provisions of the Criminal Code regulating obscenity, child pornography, sedition and



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the incitement of hate. Use of the Library's Internet service for illegal purposes is prohibited. Library staff has the authority to end an Internet session when such material is displayed on the monitor.

7. Users are expected to treat Library computers with respect and take care to ensure that all persons enjoy equitable access. Users are not permitted to alter, tamper with or damage the Library's computer equipment or software configuration. This includes, but is not limited to: attempting unauthorized entry into the Library's network or external networks; internal propagation of computer viruses and violation of vendor software license agreements.
8. Internet access is offered in 30-minute sessions, on a first-come, first-serve basis. Sessions may be extended, if no one is waiting, at the discretion of Library staff.
9. Due to the nature of the service, the Library does not assume responsibility for the availability of a reliable connection.
10. Black ink printouts are available at a cost of \$0.20 per page. Where the service is available, colour printouts are \$0.50 per page.
11. The Library is not responsible for Infringement of Copyright Law by Internet users.
12. The Library offers free wireless access in our Beaverton and Cannington branches. Wireless users are subject to the same terms and conditions prescribed by this Internet Use Policy.
13. Users must agree to the terms and conditions laid out in this Internet Use Policy and demonstrate this by clicking on the on-line version of the Policy, after which they will advance to the Library's log-in screen. If users decline agreement, they will not be granted access to the Internet.
14. Users in violation of this Internet Use Policy may have their Internet access privileges revoked and/or be asked to leave the Library. Illegal activity involving the Library's Internet resources will be subject to prosecution by the appropriate authorities.