



Policy Name	Internet Use		
Section & Number	Board – G-10	Effective Date	1999-04-15
Motion Number	2024-122	Last Review	2024-10-17
Author	Manager, ICT	Next Review	2028

Policy Statement

The St. Catharines Public Library is committed to offering open and equitable internet access for all community members in accordance with the Library's mission statement, the [Canadian Federation of Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom](#) and the [Ontario Library Association Intellectual Rights of the Individual](#).

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 on their own personal devices.

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.

Regulations

All customers are expected to comply with the Library's Internet Use Policy 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 [Code 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.
- Separate internet access is provided for customers 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
- Customers are prohibited from displaying content that can be reasonably foreseen to offend others or violate community standards.
- Internet content that violates copyright laws and malicious websites may be blocked. 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.

Responsibility

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