



Whitby Public Library

Public Internet Policy

Policy Type: Public

Authority/Created: Library Board

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The Whitby Public Library offers public Internet computer access and unencrypted, unfiltered Wi-Fi access at all locations and by lending hotspots. Internet access helps meet the community's information, education, recreation, communication, and entertainment needs. The Internet provides global access to information, ideas, and opinions.

The Library:

- is responsible only for information on its web pages.
- advises patrons to critically evaluate information found using the Internet. Some information may be controversial, inaccurate, outdated, or offensive.
- is not responsible for damages that occur through use of its Internet access.
- does not guarantee that personal information transmitted is secure.
- is not responsible for damage to users' hardware, software or data from power surges, security issues, hacking or viruses.
- does not guarantee that Internet service will be always available.

The User:

- is responsible for setting up their own device.

- will not tamper with library equipment, damage or disrupt library networks or intercept others' data.

The Library supports the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' **Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries** and provides unfiltered Internet access. Some content found on the Internet is not appropriate for children. Children-13 and under need permission of a parent, guardian, or caregiver to use unfiltered public Internet computers.

The Library uses commercial filtering software on children's computers in the Central Library and Brooklin Branch. The Library is not responsible for the accuracy and effectiveness of filtering software. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children's access to the Internet.

Federal, provincial, and municipal legislation applies. This includes provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, hatred, and sedition. Use of the Library's Internet for illegal purposes will result in loss of library privileges and may result in prosecution.

The Library's **Rules of Conduct** ensure a safe and welcoming environment. Users must follow these rules while using the Internet. Display of sexually explicit material is prohibited.

Violations of this Policy may result in suspension of library privileges, exclusion from the Library, and prosecution. The Library has the right to end a Wi-Fi or computer session.