

Lake of Bays Township Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill its mission to provide access to timely information, opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. Internet access is provided in keeping with the Canadian Library Association position statements on **Information and Telecommunication Access Principles, Internet Access** and **Intellectual Freedom** as cited in Appendices 1-3.

The Internet enables the Library to connect electronically to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe and to offer access to many valuable local, national and international resources.

The Internet is an unregulated, worldwide environment. It contains information and opinions that range in scope from reliable and authoritative to controversial or extremely offensive. Some information found on the Internet may not be accurate, complete, or current. Patrons must assess the validity of the information found. Patrons should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about patrons' activities. The Library assumes no responsibility for the security and privacy of on-line transactions.

Children are entitled to access to all information and facilities in the Library. As with other library materials, children's access to the Internet and other electronic networks is the responsibility of parents and guardians.

The Library does not manage the content of the information accessed through the Internet and assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its own home pages. The Library is not responsible for the site content of links or secondary links from its home pages.

Lake of Bays Township Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect claims, damages or costs, howsoever caused, sought by patrons or third parties arising from its provision of access to Internet services.

Lake of Bays Township Public Library patrons are subject to federal, provincial and municipal legislation regulating Internet use, including the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, sedition and the incitement of hate. The use of the Library's Internet services for illegal purposes is prohibited, and may result in prosecution.

To ensure equitable access to the Internet and efficient use of resources, the Library has developed service use guidelines. The Library reserves the right to modify these guidelines when and where appropriate.

Certain copying or distribution of material found on the Internet may infringe on copyright or other intellectual property rights. The Library is not responsible for such infringements.

Internet workstations are situated in public areas, and patrons are expected to use the Internet in accordance with this environment. All patrons of the Lake of Bays Township Public Library, including users of the Library's Internet services, are also expected to follow the Library's Code of Conduct which is designed to ensure a welcoming environment. Disruptive, threatening, or otherwise intrusive behaviour is not allowed

and Library staff members are authorized to take action. Violations of the Code of Conduct and other policies may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library.

Parents or guardians are responsible for their child's use of the internet up to age 14. The library does not restrict the access of children to any information, resources, or facilities in the library. **The library has not installed filtering software on its computers or network.**"

Appendix 1

Canadian Library Association / Position Statement on Information and Telecommunication Access Principles

Approved by Executive Council ~ June 18, 1994

Preamble

The convergence of computers and high-speed telecommunication networks provides increased opportunity for public access to information and participation in the democratic processes of society. Conversely, access and participation could be reduced through the imposition of user fees and centralized control.

Librarians, libraries, and library organizations will work to assure the 'public good' is represented in all government and corporate initiatives for information dissemination and telecommunications policy. Co-operation with other organizations and public interest groups to protect social interests will strengthen the efforts of the library community. All people have the right to:

1. Literacy

- The opportunity to learn to read and write is fundamental for all people. Basic literacy includes numeracy and information literacy. Literacy is an important requirement for participating in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the country.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to acquire the necessary skills to find and use information.

2. Universal, Equitable, and Affordable Access

- Access to information and telecommunication network services should be available and affordable to all regardless of factors such as age, religion, ability, gender, sexual orientation, social and political views, national origin, economic status, location, and information literacy.
- Diverse sources of information should be developed through encouraging nonprofit organizations and community groups to provide information and opinions and by preventing information monopolies.
- Opportunities should be created for broad public participation in the determination of information and telecommunication policy.

3. Communicate

- Individuals have the right to create, exchange, access, and receive the widest range of ideas, information, and images.
- Individuals should have the right to choose what information to receive and what not to receive and what information to give and not give including that which others may find objectionable.

4. Public Space on the Telecommunications Networks

- Government information is fundamental to participation in the democratic process and should therefore be accessible in a current, timely, accurate, and comprehensive manner.
- Access to government information should be guaranteed through active programs of dissemination.
- Opportunities to communicate electronically with elected and appointed government representatives is a vital extension of democracy.
- Government policy should encourage and support archiving of information in support of the collective human memory.
- Government policies should encourage and support the development of community information networks, such as Freenets.
- Government should provide resources for libraries and other community organizations to make electronic access to information available and to provide training to the public in the use of such technology.
- Individuals have the right to know the positive and negative personal and social consequences of the introduction of information technology.
- Individuals have the right to a safe ergonomically-sound environment and appropriate training or re-training when new technologies are introduced.
- Social policies accompanying the introduction of new and more efficient information technologies must emphasize benefits to the whole population, such as greater leisure time and shorter work weeks rather than narrow economic interests.

5. Privacy

- Privacy of personal information should be carefully protected and extended.
- Personal data collected should be limited to the minimum necessary and only after the prior written approval of the individual affected.
- Personal information collected for one purpose cannot be traded or sold without the express written permission of the individual affected.
- Individuals should have the right to examine personal information collected by government and corporations and have mistakes corrected at no charge.

Appendix 2

**Canadian Library Association / Position Statement on Statement on
Internet Access** *Approved by Executive Council ~ November 8, 1997;
Revised February 2000*

This statement is intended to be considered in tandem with both the [CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom \(1985\)](#) and the [CLA Statement on Information and Telecommunication Access Principles \(1994\)](#). The principles enunciated in those statements apply to issues of intellectual freedom and public access to the Internet in libraries and provide guidance in this area.

In addition, CLA encourages libraries:

- To offer Internet access with the fewest possible restrictions,
- To familiarize themselves, their governing bodies and their communities with the legal issues surrounding the provision of Internet access and to integrate such legal reference points into their access policies,
- To incorporate Internet use principles into overall policies on access to library resources, including time, place, and manner restrictions on Internet use, and user behaviour policies and to publicize these policies widely and post them prominently in library facilities and on electronic media,
- To safeguard the long-standing relationship of trust between libraries and children, their parents and guardians, in developing Internet use policies and practices, acknowledging the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians,
- To create library web pages consistent with resource priorities that point to appropriately reviewed sites both for general use and for use by children,
- To educate their publics about intellectual freedom principles and the shared responsibility of public and school libraries, parents, and guardians in facilitating access to resources in various forms of media, including the Internet, and
- To assume active leadership in community awareness of, and dialogue on, the issues inherent in the informed use of this essential, yet non-selective and unregulated medium in libraries.

Canadian Library Association / Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Approved by Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and

November 18, 1985

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

Approved: February 26th 2018

Review: Feb 2022

Signature of the Chairperson _____