

# Public Internet Use Policy

## 1. Introduction - Universal Access

The St. Marys Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill the Library's mission to respond to the educational, cultural, leisure, and other information needs of the community in ways that provide universal access in keeping with the Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom.

### 1.1. Definitions

"Board" shall mean the Library Board of the St. Marys Public Library

"CEO" shall mean the Chief Executive Officer of the St. Marys Public Library

"Library" shall mean The St. Marys Public Library

"Town" shall mean the Town of St. Marys

## 2. Content and Access - Unregulated

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

The Internet is an unregulated, worldwide environment. It contains information and opinions that range from reliable and authoritative to controversial and offensive. Users should assess the validity of all information found.

While valuable information can be found on the Internet and its resources, users may find some material to be objectionable. The Library has no control over these resources and takes no responsibility for the content of the information accessed, or otherwise provided, over the Internet.

It is not the policy of the Board to filter Internet content; however the Board recognizes that the Internet connection provided by the Town may include minimal filtering.

Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about a user's activities. The Library assumes no responsibility for the security and privacy of online transactions.

The Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect claims, damages, or cost, howsoever caused, sought by users or third parties arising from its provision of access to the Internet.

### **3. Access by Children**

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

### **4. Terms of Use**

Responsible, ethical use of the Internet and its resources is required of all users.

Users are responsible for ensuring that they comply with copyright and any other associated intellectual property rights or laws.

The Library is a public place and hence users will employ common sense and courtesy towards others in their use of the Internet and will comply with the Rules of Conduct Policy.

The Library reserves the right to limit time on public workstations as necessary to allow for access to all users. If a user is asked to leave a workstation, refusal to leave will constitute a violation of this policy and of the Library Rules of Conduct Policy.

Use of the Internet in violation of any legislation or regulation is prohibited. Such legislation may include 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.

Unacceptable use includes, but is not limited to knowingly posting, transmitting or otherwise distributing, reproducing access to information, messages, or software that:

- Constitutes materials legally judged to be threatening, offensive, or obscene;
- Constitutes "spam", which includes but is not limited to, unsolicited email messages, mail bombing or any abuse of Internet servers;
- Contains a virus or other harmful or disruptive components;
- Constitutes invasion of privacy, appropriation of personality or identity, or unauthorized linking or framing;
- Constitutes material protected by copyright or other intellectual property rights, without prior authorization from the rights holder(s);
- Is in violation of software and data license agreements.

The above practices constitute unacceptable use of the Library's Internet connection. Therefore, the Library's Terms of Use prohibit these practices. Any of these practices may

result in suspension and potentially cancellation of Library privileges in accordance with the Rules of Conduct Policy. Illegal use of the Library's computing resources may be subject to prosecution under federal, provincial, or municipal law.

### **History**

Date of Latest Board Approval: April 2016

Date(s) of Revision(s): March 2014\*, June 2012, April 2009, June 2008, March 2006, May 2003,

Date of next scheduled review: April 2019

\*This policy was passed at the December 2012 Board meeting to ratify the change in format and again in March 2014 to add a statement about filtering. The next scheduled review date was not altered.

### **Related Documents**

Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Children's Services Policy

Circulation and Services Policy

Rules of Conduct Policy

Staff Code of Conduct