



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 3 library locations and through the hotspot lending service. Internet access assists in meeting the information, education, recreation, communication, and entertainment needs of the community. The Internet allows users global access to information, ideas, and opinions.

The Library:

- assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its web pages
- advises patrons to critically evaluate information found while using the Internet as some information may be controversial, inaccurate, outdated, or offensive.
- assumes no responsibility for damages, direct or indirect, arising from its provision of Internet access
- does not guarantee the security of personal information transmitted
- does not accept responsibility for damage to any user's storage or computing device, or for any loss of data, damage, or liability that may occur from patron use of the Library's Internet connection or malfunctioning Library hardware, software, or power supply
- does not guarantee that the Internet service will be available at any specific time.

The User:

- is responsible for configuring and setting up their own device

- is not permitted to tamper with any equipment belonging to the Library and is prohibited from damaging or disrupting service of the Library's networks or utilizing any means to intercept other users' 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 inappropriate for children. Children, ages 13 and under, must have permission of a parent, guardian, or caregiver to use the unfiltered public Internet computers.

The Library provides computers equipped with commercial filtering software in the Children's area of the Central Library and Brooklin Branch. The Library assumes no responsibility for accuracy and effectiveness of filtering software. Parents or guardians are responsible for their children's access to the Internet.

Users of the Library's Internet services are subject to federal, provincial, and municipal legislation regulating Internet use, including the provisions of the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, hatred, and sedition. Use of the Library's Internet for illegal purposes is prohibited and will result in loss of library privileges and may result in prosecution.

The Public Internet Policy incorporates by reference the Whitby Public Library's Rules of Conduct which ensure a safe and welcoming environment. Users must comply with these rules while using the Internet. Display of sexually explicit material is prohibited.

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