

Public Internet Use and Wireless Access Policy

- Approved by the Belleville Public Library Board April 2011-

Belleville Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill its mission of providing equitable access to information, and to meet the educational, recreational and cultural needs of our community.

The Library Board has established the following policy for Internet use in the library:

The Internet enables the Library to connect electronically to ideas, information and commentary and to offer access to many valuable local, national and international resources. Belleville Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content. Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete, age-appropriate or current information. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of any information.

Belleville Public Library recognizes that children are entitled to access to all information and services of the Library, including the Internet. However, Belleville Public Library does not act in place or in the absence of a parent or guardian. Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's Internet use at the Library. In keeping with the public library's tradition of providing age-appropriate materials for children in safe and welcoming environments, the Library provides filtered Internet workstations in the Children's area which are available only to children under 12 years old. Belleville Public Library assumes no responsibility for the accuracy and effectiveness of any installed filter.

With the exception of filters on designated children's workstations, 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. Belleville Public Library's users 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.

Internet workstations are situated in public areas shared by Library users of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Users are required to use the Internet in accordance with this environment and with consideration for fellow Library users. Viewing of sexually explicit material is prohibited. All users of Belleville Public Library, including users of the Library's Internet services, are also required to follow the Library's Rules of Conduct which are designed to ensure a welcoming environment. Disruptive, threatening, or otherwise intrusive behaviour is not allowed and Library staff are authorized to take action. Violations of this Policy and/or the

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Rules of Conduct may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library, as well as prosecution.

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.

Wireless Internet Access

Free wireless Internet access is available throughout the library for the use of laptops or other wireless devices. Users of the wireless Internet service are bound by the terms of Belleville Public Library's Rules of Conduct and Internet Use Policy.

The Library's wireless access points are unsecured connections to the Internet. The Library is not responsible for data transmitted or loss of information over the wireless network. Users should be aware that third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities when using the wireless service to connect to the Internet. The Library assumes no responsibility for the security and privacy of on-line transactions.