**TEMISKAMING SHORES PUBLIC LIBRARY**
**POLICY**

**SUBJECT: Internet Filtering and Control of Information Statement**
**POLICY NO: Facilities-5**
**AMENDMENT DATE: May 27, 2026** **MOTION NO: 2026-34**
**NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2nd quarter 2030**

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Temiskaming Shores Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill its mission:

The Temiskaming Shores Public Library is a source for inspiration and inclusion in our community. We enhance our neighbourhoods by providing access to resources, programming, and opportunities for participatory learning and leisure in both official languages.

Internet access is provided in keeping with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations position statements on **Internet Access** and **Intellectual Freedom** as cited in Appendices 1 and 2.

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 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 web site. The Library is not responsible for the site content of links or secondary links from its web site.

Temiskaming Shores 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.

Temiskaming Shores 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 Temiskaming Shores 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.

(May 27, 2026)

**Appendix 1**

# Public Access to the Internet Position Statement

Acknowledgment - Canadian Library Association (CLA): February 24, 2015. CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016

Canadians visit public libraries every day to use public computers to access the internet, to connect to WiFi with their mobile devices, and to obtain assistance from library staff. They come to access government services, to reach out to their friends and families via email and social media, to research health information, to explore new opportunities and to learn. Canadians find support from library staff with their information and technology needs, whether they're learning to use a computer or access email for the first time, finding out how to protect themselves online when using social media, or researching an area of personal interest.

While Statistics Canada found in 2012 that 83% of Canadians had internet access from computers at home or could afford mobile devices with data plans, nearly 1 in 5 depended on free public access at libraries, retail and community locations to connect. Access is tied to income, and just 58% of Canadians in the lowest income quartile had access to the internet at home in 2012.1 Affordability continues to improve, however, many continue to depend on free public access to help them bridge the digital divide.

A number of media reports on Canada's Bill C-51, the Anti-Terrorism Act 2015, have incorrectly reported that Canadian public library computers protect people participating in criminal activity. The Federation wholeheartedly refutes this notion.

Public libraries use software to ensure that private health, banking, and personal information of Canadians using library computers will not be compromised when the next individual logs on. Such software also ensures that each individual's passwords and browsing history remain private. The choice to access the internet in a public facility does not lessen the importance of protecting personal information while online. The Federation maintains that the privacy and freedom of law-abiding citizens should not be compromised. As Canadians discuss Bill C-51, the Anti-Terrorism Act, The Federation remains committed to promoting public libraries' role in providing free and safe access to the Internet. Public libraries' internet use policies consistently reinforce that illegal activities are not permitted on library computers and library staff across the country continue to cooperate with law enforcement as required.

The Federation encourages anyone with questions about managing internet use in libraries to contact their local public library for more information.

Posted at https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/public-access-to-the-internet-position-statement/

**Appendix 2**

# Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Approval History: ~ CLA: June 27, 1974. Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 27, 2015. CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

Posted at http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/monthly-update/guidelines-and-position-papers/