

POLICY: INTERNET USE

SECTION: III - Public Service Policies - Other

MOTION#/DATE: 98 - 152 – October 26, 1998
REVISED: 99 - 85 – June 14, 1999
99 - 125 – October 18, 1999
02 - 149 – September 23, 2002

The Toronto Public Library provides public access to the Internet to fulfill its mission to preserve and promote universal access to a broad range of human knowledge, experience, information, and ideas. Internet access is provided in keeping with the Canadian Library Association intellectual freedom statements.

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. Users must assess the validity of the information found. Users should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about users' 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 or guardians.

In keeping with the public library's long-standing tradition of providing age-appropriate materials for children in safe and welcoming environments, workstations designated for children will be filtered. The Toronto 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. The Library is not responsible for the site content of links or secondary links from its home pages. The Toronto Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect claims,

damages or costs, howsoever caused, sought by users or third parties arising from its provision of access to Internet services.

Toronto 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.

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 copyright or other intellectual property rights. The Library is not responsible for such infringements.

Internet workstations are situated in public areas, and users are expected to use the Internet in accordance with this environment. All users of the Toronto Public Library, including users of the Library's Internet services, are also expected 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 Rules of Conduct may result in suspension of library privileges and exclusion from the Library, as well as prosecution.