



NOTICE OF MOTION

Changes to the Internet Policy for City of Toronto's Public Libraries

Moved by: **Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski**

Seconded by: **Councillor Tziretas**

WHEREAS the Toronto Public Library system stands for and represents the highest level of intellectual pursuit and should resist influences that do not meet this standard; and

WHEREAS the current policy with respect to Internet use in Toronto's Public Libraries which does not mandate the installation of filtering software on all Internet workstations, is subject to inappropriate behaviour on the part of patrons using City resources and facilities; and

WHEREAS Internet workstations in Toronto's Public Library system are commonly being used to access materials of a pornographic or objectionable nature; and

WHEREAS with the introduction of the Internet, Toronto's library system has experienced an increase in this type of inappropriate and disruptive conduct; and

WHEREAS with other library materials, children have full access to the Internet on adult workstations; and

WHEREAS reports of children or young adults accessing these sites is occurring on an all too regular basis; and

WHEREAS even when children or young adults are not the ones accessing these sites directly, they are often subject to this material when passing by a workstation; and

WHEREAS in the past, before the introduction of the Internet, materials purchased by the libraries were subjected to a rigorous selection process, offering parents a level of assurance and safety; and

WHEREAS most parents assume, and rightly so, that children of any age would not have access, or be subject to adult sex sites and other objectionable material in a public library; and

WHEREAS continuing to offer this service without proper safeguards will result in a reduction in the number of people who use libraries, as parents will refuse to send their children, once they discover the risk and unhealthy atmosphere; and

WHEREAS we have a duty to protect children and vulnerable members of our society and should not be

party to anything that could put these groups at risk; and

WHEREAS the current policy only prohibits Internet users from accessing materials which are deemed illegal under provincial or municipal legislation and the federal Criminal Code but allows users to access sex and other adult sites; and

WHEREAS we have a duty to protect people's freedom for, but we also have a duty to protect people's freedom from; and

WHEREAS I do not believe that we should be in the business of subsidizing unacceptable behaviour that does not belong out in public institutions; and

WHEREAS we are not mandated by legislation to provide this service and have the duty to deliver it in a manner that we feel is appropriate;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Public Library Board be requested to immediately take the appropriate action to ensure that children are not exposed to pornographic materials;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Public Library Board be requested to report back to the City of Toronto on measures taken;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the necessary provisions of Chapter 27 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code be waived to permit introduction and debate of this Notice of Motion at the meeting of Council to be held on April 16, 17 and 18, 2002.”

April 16, 2002

According to Chapter 27 of the Municipal Code, the foregoing Notice of Motion:

Notice was previously given	
Meets Municipal Code provisions and only requires a simple majority to introduce and debate	
Requires two-thirds to waive notice	(v)
Requires two-thirds to re-open	
Should be referred to Policy and Finance Committee	(v)
Requires two-thirds to waive referral if Council wishes to debate	
Recommendations are time sensitive	