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Policy Title:	Internet Services and Technology	Initial Policy Approval Date:	<b>Feb. 25, 2016</b>
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The Mississippi Mills Public Library Board endorses the use of the Internet as a source of information to complement traditional library collections and as a communication tool, connecting individuals and communities. At the same time, the Internet functions in an unregulated environment, and therefore provides access to a wide variety of resources over which the Mississippi Mills Public Library has no control.

This policy establishes the provision of public network services to access the Internet, acceptable use of these services by users, staff responsibilities, and consequences of inappropriate behaviour or illegal activity by users.

### **ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC NETWORK**

1. The Library provides members of the public with Internet access through the library's desktop computers and laptops as well as through the library's wireless network which can be used with personal mobile devices.
2. Wired and/or wireless access to the Internet via public computers or users' personal devices is provided free of charge.
3. The Library provides a computer with additional accessibility features including raised keyboards, large monitors, and adjustable heights for equipment at both branches.
4. To ensure equitable access to the public network and efficient use of resources, the Library reserves the right to set time limits or ask users to limit their time on the library's public computers.

### **INTERNET FILTERING**

1. The Library does not use filtering software. It is the position of the Board that filtering technology is not effective in making the internet safer for children nor in preventing criminal activity. This access to, and use of, the public computer network is

compatible with the Mississippi Mills Public Library position on *Intellectual Freedom* (FN-04).

## **USE BY CHILDREN**

1. Children may access all information and use all facilities provided by the Library. Children's access to the Internet is compatible with the policy on *Children in the Library* (OP-02) and the Mississippi Mills Public Library position on *Intellectual Freedom* (FN-04).
2. Parents and guardians are reminded that the restriction of a child's use of a library computer, including Internet and wireless access, is their responsibility. The Board accepts no responsibility for enforcing restrictions which a parent or guardian places on a child's use of the Internet.

## **ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE LIBRARY**

1. Users must be aware that computers and other devices, regardless of whether on the Library's Internet service or not, are being used in public areas which is shared by people of all ages, backgrounds, and sensibilities. Some content is age-inappropriate for children. Some content may be offensive, objectionable and/or intimidating to other library patrons and/or staff. The staff reserve the right to redirect users whose activities on the public computers or their personal devices diminish the enjoyment of the library space by others.
2. Users should respect the privacy of other library patrons. However, staff cannot guarantee privacy at the library workstations or when using personal mobile devices.
3. Users must respect the laws of Canada when using the public network. Use of the public network for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes is prohibited. Examples of such illegal activities include, but are not limited to, harassment or stalking, libel, illegal commerce or solicitation, "hacking" or tampering with other computer systems, viewing, downloading and/or printing child pornography. Users who violate the rules may have their library privileges suspended or be required to leave the Library. Illegal use, within the definitions of federal or provincial legislation, will be reported to the police.
4. Users of the public network may not violate or circumvent copyright and other intellectual property rights and liability for infringement rests with the user. The Board will follow fair dealing copyright principles and will advise users of their legal responsibilities.
5. Users should use caution before providing personal information over the Internet. As the Internet is not a secure medium, third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities. The Library assumes no responsibility for Internet content or

damages, directly or indirectly, arising from its website, online services, or from its connections through to other Internet services.

6. Users may not modify, or otherwise willfully damage, the library's computer equipment, software, or network.
7. The Library will post an "Acceptable Use Agreement" as a landing page for reviewing before using the Library's Internet. Consequently, anyone not adhering to the 'Acceptable Use Agreement' will have their library privileges suspended and will be legally and financially responsible for damages.

## **LIBRARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. The Library proactively helps and promotes public access to quality information for all users. Library staff are available to assist with:
  - a) finding and evaluating the quality of an Internet site
  - b) accessing the public workstations and personal devices
  - c) accessing the library's subscription e-resources and e-books
2. The Library respects the right of users to privacy and confidentiality with regards to information sought or received and resources consulted, acquired, or transmitted.
3. Library computers are equipped with anti-virus software. However, the Library does not take responsibility for the configuration, security or files on personal devices resulting from connection to the Library's network. The Board assumes no responsibility for the security and privacy of online transactions, as the Internet is not a secure medium and third parties may be able to obtain information about the user's activities. The Library is not responsible for any damages sustained while using a personal device.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Mississippi Mills Public Library Policies:
  - Intellectual Freedom
  - Children in the Library
  - YA/Teens in the Library
  - Accessibility in the Library
- Ontario Library Service, Trillium Public Library: Sample Policies