



Title	Internet Use		
Number	97/05	Date	Sep 10, 1997
Revised	Oct 11, 2000; Nov 14, 2000; Mar 14, 2001; Feb 12, 2003; Mar 07, 2011		
Preamble			
<p>The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library believes in free access to information regardless of format. The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library supports the Canadian Library Association statement on Internet access as stated in the CLA policy FR07 (as attached in Schedule A).</p> <p>The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library will not deny or limit access to information available via electronic resources because of its alleged controversial content or frivolous value unless it contravenes the criminal code.</p> <p>The Library provides public access to the Internet, on both Library Public Access Computers and through a wireless network, at no cost to the patron. Patrons accessing the service are reminded that they are at a public workstation in a public building and should conduct themselves accordingly.</p>			
Policy			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsibility for materials accessed in the Fort Saskatchewan Public Library lies solely with the patron accessing the information. 2. The Fort Saskatchewan Public Library does not endorse the viewpoints or vouch for the accuracy of any electronic information it does not have control over. 3. Parents or guardians of minors are responsible for monitoring information and materials accessed by minors. Children who use the Library's Internet computers without supervision by parents or guardians may be exposed to inappropriate or disturbing information and images. 			

4. Accessing Internet sites that are inappropriate for viewing in a public building with multi-age users is prohibited. Accessing such sites could result in the suspension or loss of Internet privileges, at the discretion of the Library Director. Internet users are required to abide by Fort Saskatchewan Public Library's policies governing conduct in the Library.
5. Criminal Law forbids the display or spreading of hate literature, child pornography, illicit drug literature, or obscene material.
6. Civil Law forbids the harassment, libeling or slander of others.
7. The Fort Saskatchewan Public library reserves the right to establish time limits on the use of the Internet workstations, and to terminate an internet session at any time.
8. Library staff have the authority to monitor information accessed on the Library's computers for violations of this policy.
9. Patrons may be permitted to download information from the Internet. The cost of printing from the Internet will be the same as photocopying charges.
10. Library staff is not able to provide technical assistance for wireless users' own devices, and no guarantee can be made that patrons will be able to make a wireless connection.
11. FSPL's network is not secure, and users are responsible for the safety or security of any personal equipment connecting to the Library's wireless network, and of the data files that equipment contains.

Approval

Signature

Matthew Fellows
Board Chair



Title	CLA Statement on Internet Access (approved by Executive Council, Nov 08, 1997 (revised Feb 2000))
Number	97/05
Schedule	A

This statement is intended to be considered in tandem with both CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom (1985) and the CLA Statement on Information and Telecommunication Access Principles (1994). The principles enunciated in those statements apply to issues of intellectual freedom and public access to the Internet in libraries and provide guidance in this area.

In addition, CLA encourages libraries:

- To offer Internet access with the fewest possible restrictions,
- To familiarize themselves, their governing bodies and their communities with the legal issues surrounding the provision of Internet access and to integrate such legal reference points into their access policies,
- To incorporate Internet use principles into overall policies on access to library resources, including time, place, and manner restrictions on Internet use, and user behaviour policies and to publicize these policies widely and post them prominently in library facilities and on electronic media,
- To safeguard the long-standing relationship of trust between libraries and children, their parents and guardians, in developing Internet use policies and practices, acknowledging the rights and responsibilities of parents and guardians,
- To create library web pages consistent with resource priorities that point to appropriately reviewed sites both for general use and for use by children,
- To educate their publics about intellectual freedom principles and the shared responsibility of public and school libraries, parents, and guardians in facilitating access to resources in various forms of media, including the Internet, and
- To assume active leadership in community awareness of, and dialogue on, the issues inherent in the informed use of this essential, yet non-selective and unregulated medium in libraries.



**CLA Statement on Public Access to the Internet
February 24, 2015**

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

¹ Statistics Canada. *Table 358-0167 - Canadian Internet use survey, household access to the Internet at home, by household income quartile, Canada and provinces, occasional (percent)*, CANSIM (database). (accessed: 2015-02-16)