Port Hope Public Library Public Internet Access Policy

With the support of the Municipality of Port Hope, Port Hope Public Library is pleased to provide free access to the Internet as an extension of the library's print and audio-visual collections.

The Internet is an unregulated, worldwide environment. It contains information and opinions that range in scope from reliable and authoritative to controversial and offensive. Users are solely responsible for assessing the validity of all information found. Port Hope Public Library cannot protect users from information and/or images that they may find offensive or disturbing. Port Hope Public Library shall have no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential damages related to the use of the information retrieved at the library.

Library responsibilities

The library and its staff will:
- Use reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with Internet use guidelines and procedures.
- Make users aware of our Internet access and use policies and guidelines through signage and the Internet policy provided at login.
- Take reasonable measures to ensure the privacy and confidentiality of Internet users.
- Provide staff assistance to library Internet users whenever time and knowledge permits.
- Inspect and report suspected illegal sites.

Given the nature of the Internet:
- The Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its own web pages.
- The Library cannot control the availability of information links that often change rapidly.
- Port Hope Public Library assumes no responsibility for any direct or indirect damages arising from the use of the connection to Internet services.

Users' responsibilities

All users of the Internet are expected to use this resource in a responsible manner and comply with these Internet access and use guidelines:
- Not all Internet sources provide accurate, complete, age appropriate or current information. It is the user's responsibility to question the validity of any information.
- All members of the public, regardless of age may use the public workstation. Parents or guardians are responsible for monitoring their children's Internet activity.
- The workstations are in public areas shared by people of all ages and sensibilities. Each user is ultimately responsible for the selection of sites and should be aware that other library users may be involuntarily exposed to what is displayed.
- Respect the privacy of others using public access workstations.
- Where permitted by copyright, users may print their information at the posted rate,

The following activities are prohibited:

- Use of workstations for illegal, actionable or criminal purposes or to seek access to unauthorized areas.
- Infringement of copyright and other intellectual property rights.
- Access to any type of instant messaging service and/or chat room, including MSN, Yahoo and AOL Messenger, is strictly forbidden. Use of 'Hotmail' is allowed for email purposes only.
- Subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format which the library has installed on its Internet workstation.
- Installing or attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software on the workstation or Internet, or seeking unauthorized access to any computer system.
- Sending unsolicited commercial material or spamming.
- Misrepresenting oneself as another user.
- Attempting to modify or gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others.
- Vandalism or theft of library property.

Consequences of violating Internet access and use guidelines.

Users in violation of the library's Internet access and use guidelines may have their Internet privileges revoked. Repeated violations will result in removal from the library.

Misuse or abuse of computers or programs is not acceptable. Offenders may be required to leave the library.

Patrons using the library's Internet workstation for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution. Vandalism or theft of library property is illegal and will be reported to the police.

<div align="center">

**Internet users who violate this policy or whose behavior is disruptive
will be asked to leave the Library immediately and may have their
Library privileges revoked.**

</div>