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Policy: Internet Usage

Board motion number: 76:20 5 December, 2020 Chair signature: _____

The Bonnechere Union Public Library does not monitor and has no control over the information accessed through the Internet, and cannot be held responsible for its content. 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.

Responsible Use

All users of electronic information resources such as the Internet are expected to use these resources in a responsible manner which includes:

1. using resources for educational, recreational and informational purposes and not for unauthorized, illegal, or unethical purposes;
2. respecting the privacy of others using public access workstations and not interfering with their use;
3. making only authorized copies of copyrighted or licensed software or data; and
4. respecting library time limits for using computers and yield to the next signed-up person (when necessary signup sheets may be required); and
5. taking responsibility for all financial transactions they perform on the Internet (e.g., on-line banking, shopping, stock trading, etc.).

NOTE: The library assumes no responsibility for lost data or financial transactions.

Violation

Violation of acceptable use is defined as Internet abuse, and can include the following:

1. using the Internet to access, display, download, upload, forward or e-mail material with pornographic (as defined by the Criminal Code of Canada - Section 163), criminal, or hate literature content;

2. subverting or attempting to subvert any security devices in either software or hardware format which the library has installed on its Internet workstations, installing or attempting to install viruses or other programs designed to damage or alter software on the workstations, the LAN (Local Area Network) or the Internet, or seeking unauthorized access to any computer system;
3. using email to send unsolicited commercial material, spamming or any denial of service attack;
4. misrepresenting oneself as another user;
5. attempting to modify workstations in any manner or attempting to gain access to files, passwords or data belonging to others; and
6. attempting to modify, vandalize or steal library property.

Violations including, but not limited to, the above may result in any or all the following:

- a) the library reserves the right to request that patrons discontinue use of the Internet for a period of time;
- b) loss of Internet privileges permanently;
- c) may be banned from the library; and
- d) patrons using the library's Internet service or workstations for illegal purposes will be subject to prosecution under Canadian laws.

Minors and the Internet

Parents may find some of the material on the Internet objectionable. As with other library materials, parents are expected to provide guidance in its use.

Any restriction of a minor's access to the Internet is the responsibility of the parent / legal guardian.

To support parents with this concern for minors, the library does maintain computers in the children's section not connected to the Internet.

In addition, for more information, parents may be referred to the Ontario Library Association website, specifically the article on "Internet, Connectivity and Broadband."