

Internet Policy

Purpose Statement

To fulfill the general objectives of the Vanderhoof Public Library, and in keeping with the Canadian Library Association intellectual freedom statements, the Vanderhoof Public Library provides public access to the Internet.

The Internet enables the Library to connect electronically to ideas, information and commentary from around the globe and to offer access to many valuable local, national and international resources.

All Internet resources accessible through the Library are provided equally to all patrons, with the understanding that it is the individual patron's responsibility to demonstrate judgment, respect for others, and appropriate conduct while using Public Library resources and facilities.

Patron Responsibility

The Vanderhoof Public Library has created a policy outlining the "Rules of Conduct" and "Children's Rules for Online Safety" that patrons must read and agree to follow before being allowed computer access. These "Rules of Conduct" and "Children's Rules for Online Safety" will be posted near the computer workstations.

Internet Content

The Vanderhoof Public Library does not have filtering software to screen offensive internet material.

The reasons are:

Filtering technology has not been perfected. It does not allow for individual choice and imposes filtering on everyone – whether or not they wish to have their choices subject to filtering.

Filtering is a one-size-fits-all "solution". It treats a 6-year-old, a 16-year-old, and a 60-year-old the same. It may even block useful information. Filtering software may also limit access to sites which have legitimate research value.

It is impossible to block all inappropriate sites, both because of the way filters work and because of the speed at which the internet changes. Filtering software can give parents a false sense of security. The Internet is an **unregulated**, worldwide environment. It contains information and opinions that range in scope from reliable and authoritative to controversial or extremely offensive and in some cases illegal. Some information found on the Internet may not be accurate, complete or current. Patrons must assess the validity of the information found. Patrons should be aware that the Internet is not a secure medium and that third parties may be able to obtain information about users' activities.

Internet Rules of Conduct

1. Internet computers will not be used for illegal activity, to access illegal materials, or to access materials that by legal standards would be obscene.
2. Installation, downloading or modification of software is prohibited.
3. Patrons will respect copyright laws and licensing agreements.
4. Patrons will not make any attempt to gain unauthorized access to restricted files or networks.
5. Patrons will not damage or modify computer equipment or software.
6. Access to internet computers will be on a first come – first served basis.
7. Patrons will request a signon password from staff at the front desk to activate the TimeWatcher software. Staff will direct the patron to a specific computer.
8. Patron sessions are limited to 30 minutes per day.
9. A three-minute warning appears on the computer screen; the TimeWatcher program will then terminate each user session automatically.
10. Any files or programs in use at the time of termination will be closed without being saved.
11. Due to the public nature of the library's workstations, the Vanderhoof Public Library recommends that you do not use the library computers for secure transactions, such as online banking, or trading, or credit card purchases.
12. Patrons will respect the privacy of other patrons, and will refrain from attempting to view or read materials being used by others.
13. By mutual agreement, a maximum of two persons may share one access session as long as their behaviour or conversation does not disturb other patrons or library staff.
14. As with other library materials, children's access to the Internet and other electronic networks is the responsibility of parents and guardians.
15. Library employees are authorized to terminate any patron's access session, or to prohibit a patron from subsequent access sessions, given cause to believe that the patron has failed to comply with the Internet Rules of Conduct.

Vanderhoof Public Library Does Not Filter Content

Parents and children are encouraged to read "MY RULES FOR ON-LINE SAFETY" available from the library.