OBJECTIVE: To define a public use policy for Internet Access in the Township of Uxbridge Public Library.

DATE OF APPROVAL: March 24, 2016

MOTION: 16-25

DATE OF AMENDMENT AND MOTION:

Policy Statement

The Township of Uxbridge Public Library offers public Internet access at both of its branches. The Township of Uxbridge Public Library assumes responsibility only for the information provided on its own home pages. It is not responsible for links or secondary links from its pages and assumes no responsibility for damages, howsoever caused, sought by patrons or third parties arising from its provision of Internet services.

Patrons are responsible for assessing the quality and validity of information found on the Internet.

As with other Township of Uxbridge Public Library services, minor's access to and use of the Internet is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

Policy Practices

1.   In providing public access to the Internet, the Library recognizes the shortcomings and dangers of an unregulated, worldwide environment. Internet content may be reliable and authoritative, or controversial and offensive: the library user must assess the validity of all information found.

2.   Children's access to and use of the Internet is the responsibility of parents or guardians.

3.   The Library reserves the right to modify or restrict access to the Internet, in full or in part, in order to carry out the service priorities of the organization.

4.   Public Internet Use

a)   The Library assumes no responsibility for any damages or expenses incurred as a result of the use of the Internet at the Library. The Library will not be responsible for any personal information (e.g. credit card numbers or PIN numbers) that is compromised.

b)   Certain copying or distribution of material found on the Internet may infringe on the copyright laws of Canada; the library accepts no responsibility for such infringements.

c)   While using the Library's Internet connection, users may not:

• Make any attempt to damage or disrupt service on the Library's computer networks.

• Run network sniffer software, operate wireless access points or utilize any other means to intentionally intercept other users' data.

• Submit, publish, or display any defamatory, abusive, obscene, threatening or illegal material.

• Canvas, sell, promote, distribute or display unsolicited material (e.g. SPAM email).

• Use Library computer networks or workstations for any illegal or criminal purpose.

• Violate copyright laws or software licensing agreements in their use of Library computer networks.

d)   Library users must be respectful of the online experience of other users using the network. Users are asked to ensure that their activity does not impose an unusually large burden on the Library's network. The library may limit bandwidth capabilities of users who abuse the service.

5.   Public Internet Use on Library Computers

a)   Library users must not use library workstations in a manner that results in damage or other harm.

b) Library users must be aware that the Library's workstations are located in a public environment, which is shared by users of all ages and sensibilities. The Library is unable to ensure user privacy at our workstations and Library users must be responsible for the sites that they select. Sites that may offend or disturb others should be closed immediately.

c) Library clients must respect the privacy of others using library workstations.

6. Public Internet Use of Wireless Network

a) Library users use the Library's wireless network at their own risk. The wireless network is not secure, as it is not encrypted. Unless additional precautions are taken, any information you send using a wireless device could potentially be intercepted by a third party.

b) Library users are expected to use headphones when playing sound files in order to be considerate of library users nearby.

c) The Library is not responsible for laptops or other devices left unattended.

d) Library users are not permitted to tamper with any equipment belonging to the Library (e.g. unplugging library machines in order to use outlets or network cables).

e) The Library will not be responsible for any damage caused to library users hardware or software due to power surges, security issues, hacking, or viruses. Anti-virus and security protection are the responsibility of the library user.

f) The Library recommends that all users take measures to secure their wireless devices and Internet communications by equipping them with the following items:

• Functional, up-to-date antivirus software.

• The latest service packs and security patches for their computer's operating system and software packages.

• Personal firewall software.

The Library does not provide any of the above-referenced items and cannot guarantee or otherwise be responsible for their effectiveness. It is the responsibility of the library users to secure their devices and Internet communications.

Possible consequences of violating any of the above rules, but are not limited to include expulsion, loss of library privileges, and prosecution.