

Milton Public Library Updates Policy For Enhanced Access and Inclusivity

MILTON, ON – The Milton Public Library is pleased to share its recent policy updates, enacted on February 5, 2024, which are centered around broadening access and bolstering inclusivity within our community. These changes, demonstrate our ongoing commitment to making library resources more accessible and creating an environment that welcomes everyone.

Streamlined Library Card Access

The library has revised its process for obtaining a library card, making it significantly easier for adults and teens to access our resources. As of last month, showing proof of identification is no longer a prerequisite for card registration. This adjustment aims to remove barriers to access, allowing all community members to freely enjoy our collections and services.

The registration process for children, however, remains unchanged, with safety and security continuing as our top priorities. It is important to emphasize that parents or guardians must still provide identification for their children to receive a library card. This ensures the safety of our younger members and maintains the integrity of our library system.

Inclusive Membership for First Nations Communities

Reflecting our dedication to inclusivity, the Milton Public Library now offers complimentary membership with full borrowing privileges to individuals residing on First Nations reserves in Ontario. This initiative underscores our support for First Nations communities and our desire for them to explore and take advantage of the library's comprehensive offerings.

Defined Age Categories for Simplified Access

To further simplify access to library services, clear age categories have been established:

- A Child is defined as an individual from birth up to and including age twelve (12).
- A Teen is someone from thirteen (13) years up to and including seventeen (17).
- An Adult is anyone eighteen (18) years of age and older.

These categories are designed to clarify eligibility and facilitate smoother access to age-appropriate resources and services.

How to get an MPL Library Card

Patrons can effortlessly obtain an e-card through the MPL's website or by utilizing the MPL mobile app, available on both Google Play Store and the App Store. This approach allows patrons to store their

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library e-card directly in the app, providing seamless access to the myriad of services offered by the library. Whether it's borrowing books, accessing digital resources, or participating in library events, the e-card simplifies library interactions. To apply for an e-card, patrons can visit <https://beinspired.ca/online-card-registration/>, and to download our mobile app, simply visit <https://beinspired.ca/mobile-app/> or search for Milton Public Library in the App marketplace.

Alternatively, those preferring a physical interaction can apply in person at the Main Library, Beaty Branch, or Sherwood Branch during operating hours, ensuring everyone in the community has easy access to a library card.

A Commitment to Community and Accessibility

Since implementing these changes, a month ago, the Milton Public Library continues to prioritize ensuring that every member of our community has equitable access to our vast array of knowledge and resources. "Our aim is to foster a library environment that is as welcoming and inclusive as possible," remarked a Sarah Douglas-Murray, CEO of the Milton Public Library. "By streamlining our card registration process, and establishing clear membership categories, we are actively working towards eliminating obstacles and enriching the lives of all our patrons", she added.

About MPL:

Serving one of the fastest-growing municipalities in North America, Milton Public Library (MPL) is a multi-award winning public library focused on innovation and service excellence. Patrons can visit MPL through three physical branches, Main, Beaty and Sherwood as well as online through www.beinspired.ca. MPL empowers the community to Read. Learn. Create. Connect.

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