

News Release For Immediate Release

Pickering Public Library Stops Late Fees for Remainder of 2020, Extends Loan Periods

PICKERING, ON (July 20, 2020): The Pickering Public Library recognizes many on-going impacts and challenges resulting from the pandemic response affecting Library users. The Library will not be charging overdue fees for materials returned late, during the remainder of 2020. To maximize access, the Library has also upgraded several loanable materials to a 21-day loan period. These materials can be requested for curbside pickup.

Drop boxes are open at the Central, George Ashe, and Claremont Libraries. For staff and client safety, returned items will be quarantined for a minimum of three days before being checked in. Clients will not be charged overdue fees on these items.

For items that cannot be returned via the drop box, such as Maker Space loanables and book club kits, clients are asked to return those items during curbside hours or to contact staff to make alternative arrangements. During curbside service, to minimize contact and to support physical distancing, clients returning regular sized items are asked to place their materials directly into the drop box.

With the extension of loan periods, items that were previously limited to 2, 5, 7, or 14 days, can now be enjoyed for longer. These items were also previously ineligible for hold requests. By changing this, Library clients can access more materials when utilizing the curbside service.

For more details about overdue fees and loan periods, visit www.picnet.org/borrowing.

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Pickering Public Library is an award-winning library serving 95,000 City of Pickering residents across 31,000 households with over 41,000 active library card accounts. Operating under the guidance of a Board of Directors, the library is primarily funded through municipal contributions and is comprised of three locations that provide excellence in client experience.

The Library strives to create a connected, intelligent and successful community through innovative technology, programs, outreach, collections and services for all residents.

Staffed by over 60 permanent employees who are committed to making a difference within the community, the library lends almost 1 million items, receives over 515,000 visits, delivers programs and events for almost 28,000 attendees, provides over 33,000 research and technology assists, and provides almost 1.7 million internet sessions each year.

Pickering Public Library's Vision:

Pickering is a city where learning is promoted in all its forms and promoted as a force for improved personal, social, civic, and economic change. The Library is the heart of a learning city.