



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oshawa Public Libraries Eliminates Late Fees on Children and Teen Library Items

Oshawa Public Libraries, September 2021

Great news! Oshawa Public Libraries (OPL) is sending kids and teens back to school footloose and fine-free as part of an all-new pilot initiative!

Recognizing how important it is for kids to have access to their public library, OPL has decided to eliminate late fees on children and teen library items such as books, DVDs, and games. Since libraries support and encourage discovery, education, and growth, children who form a relationship with their library are more likely to develop strong habits that can contribute to a lifetime of benefits, including a love of learning and reading, confidence, curiosity, communication skills, and so much more.

For many libraries, overdue fines are meant to encourage people to return their library items on time. However, some studies have shown that fines may deter people from using the library, thus creating a barrier for equal access to technology, information, entertainment, and essential community resources.

"Children shouldn't miss out on visiting and using the library because they are embarrassed about owing fines, or if their parents cannot afford to pay the fines. We hope that by removing fines for kids and teens, they will come back to the library and make the most of all we have to offer," says Frances Newman, Oshawa Public Libraries C.E.O.

Since the pandemic's beginning in early 2020, OPL suspended all late return fines. As of October 4, 2021, OPL will resume issuing late charges for on library materials for adults as well as electronic devices such as wi-fi hot spots and tablets. Please note that charges for lost or damaged items will remain the responsibility of all cardholders.

Oshawa Public Libraries serves the City of Oshawa through 4 locations. To learn more about Oshawa Public Libraries, visit our website at oshlib.ca. To get the most current updates on what's happening at the Library, follow us on social media @oshawalibraries.

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