

PUBLIC CONDUCT and BARRING	
Purpose	The purpose of this policy is to outline behavioural expectations for all persons within the physical premises of the WMRL.
Scope	This policy applies to all patrons, members, and activities of the WMRL.
Definitions	<p>Patron: Any user of the WMRL, member or otherwise.</p> <p>Child: Any patron under the age of 13.</p>
Policy Guidelines	<p>LIBRARY PHILOSOPHY:</p> <p>The WMRL endeavours to provide safe and welcoming spaces for all, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religious belief, or political affiliation. To this end, it is important that all patrons respect the safety and comfort of their fellow Library users.</p> <p>LIBRARY STAFF RESPONSIBILITY:</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the Director of Library Services or their designate to maintain safe and respectful environments within all branches of the WMRL. To this end, certain behaviours will not be tolerated and may result in patrons being asked to leave the premises. All WMRL staff members hold the authority to ask patrons to desist from problematic behaviour, leave the premises for the remainder of the day in question, and/or call upon available security personnel for support.</p> <p>BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS:</p> <p>The following behaviours are not acceptable and may constitute grounds for removal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal or physical abuse of fellow patrons or staff • Theft of Library property • Defacement of Library property • Evident intoxication • Sleeping • Illicit activity • Sexually provocative activity • Discriminatory activity • Leaving children unattended • Any activity or behaviour that significantly disrupts, disrespects, or disturbs fellow library users • Failure to adhere to other Library policies <p>FOOD and DRINK:</p> <p>Food and drink is permitted in all WMRL facilities, provided its consumption is neither disruptive to other patrons, nor poses a reasonable risk of creating a mess. Patrons are responsible for ensuring that both of these requirements are met. WMRL staff members possess the right to require patrons to desist from food/drink consumption, particularly when accessing public computers, and possess the right to require patrons to remove their food/drink from the facility.</p>

CELLPHONE USE:

The use of cellphones is permitted in all WMRL facilities, provided such use is not disruptive to other patrons or WMRL staff. WMRL staff members possess the right to require patrons to desist from cellphone use if it is deemed disruptive.

PATRON ATTIRE and GROOMING:

All forms of self-expression through clothing and grooming are accepted and welcomed at the WMRL, provided they do not endanger or significantly disrupt the Library's patronage. Out of deference to health and safety, and out of respect for fellow patrons, WMRL staff members possess the right to require patrons to change their clothing or grooming choices if one of the following conditions is met:

- Clothing that displays hate speech or other distinctly discriminatory content
- Disruptive odours, including strong perfumes or other scents
- Nudity or partial nudity
- Bare feet, which are not permitted due to health and safety considerations

CHILDREN in the LIBRARY:

The WMRL welcomes children, and ongoing efforts are made to provide spaces, collections, and programs specific to children's needs and interests. A child's safety, wellbeing, and behaviour within the WMRL are the responsibility of the child's parent/caregiver. To this end, children must not be left unattended in any branch of the WMRL, and the attending caregiver must ensure that the child's behaviour does not create undue disruption to other patrons or staff.

BARRING:

Under extreme circumstances, patrons who display one or more of the behaviours listed above will be barred from the WMRL. The authority to bar patrons lies with the Director of Library Services, the Programming and Outreach Librarian, the Supervisor of each branch location, and, in the case of Brandon, with Paladin Security personnel.

In the event that a patron is barred, the duration of the barring is at the discretion of the WMRL staff member or security person who issued the barring notice.

Where possible, the barred patron will be informed in-person that they are barred, and presented with a written notice outlining the reason for the bar. In cases where a face-to-face delivery is not possible, the barring notice may be delivered by registered mail to the patron's address. In circumstances where the offending patron's name is not known, or when it is otherwise not possible to inform them of the barring, the barring still holds valid. In the case of the WMRL's rural branches, a copy of the barring notice is given to the RCMP. In Brandon, a copy is given to Paladin Security.

The decision to lift a permanent barring notice resides solely with the Director of Library Services.