



PCIN

The
PERTH COUNTY
INFORMATION NETWORK

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PROVINCE-WIDE INTER-LIBRARY LOAN SERVICE TO RESUME IN PERTH COUNTY AUGUST 1ST

As of August 1st, libraries in Perth County will once again be able to fulfill requests for inter-library loan (ILLO) materials from public and university libraries throughout the province.

Anyone wishing to request an item not held within Perth County is welcome to make the request through their local library. However, due to the uncertainty regarding Provincial reimbursement of postage costs, the number of requests per person will be limited until the full budgetary impact is known.

The Perth County Information Network (PCIN) also continues to operate a reduced delivery schedule of materials for items borrowed within Perth County as it works to find a long-term solution for the delivery of over 72,000 items per year. The Perth County libraries are committed to sharing resources and to finding a solution that maintains the high standard of information services available in Perth County.

The PCIN libraries thank residents for their ongoing support and patience.

Background

InterLibrary Loan (ILLO) is the service that allows library customers to request and borrow items from other libraries. In April, the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) announced that it would cease operation of the provincial InterLibrary Loan delivery service. The announcement followed a \$1.6 million funding cut to the agency in the Ontario Budget. The system is used by all, including many students, book clubs, authors, and academics. "Interlibrary Loan provides equalized access to materials, especially for those who are members of rural libraries with smaller collections." says Kendra Roth, Management Chair of PCIN and CEO of Perth East Public Library.



The SOLS delivery service also functioned as the backbone of the Perth County Information Network (PCIN). The courier service moved nearly 80,000 items for PCIN in 2018.

Within Perth County, a library card provides free access to the collections of North Perth Public Library, Perth East Public Library, Stratford Public Library, St. Marys Public Library, and West Perth Public Library. This partnership maximizes the benefit of each library to their communities and is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2019.

Although details are still unclear, the Province has stated that there will be a partial reimbursement of postage costs for libraries to use the Canada Post Library Materials Rate to ship items. The funding restoration represents funding of only 30% of the original service, for which most other Provinces in Canada provide full funding. Due to the volume of items moved, full ILLO service using Canada Post as proposed by the Government is estimated to cost PCIN well over \$150,000 per year in postage and additional staff time. PCIN continues to seek a sustainable long-term solution to the loss of this critical service.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact your local PCIN member library:

- North Perth Public Library: Rebecca Dechert-Sage, CEO, 519-291-4621 / rsage@northperth.ca
- Perth East Public Library: Kendra Roth, CEO, 519-595-8395 / kroth@pcin.on.ca
- St. Marys Public Library: Matthew Corbett, CEO, 519-284-3346 / mcorbett@stmaryspubliclibrary.ca
- Stratford Public Library: Julia Merritt, CEO, 519-271-0220 x110 / jmerritt@stratford.ca
- West Perth Public Library: Caroline Shewburg, CEO, 519-348-9234 / shewburgc@pcin.on.ca