

801.1 Conduct in the Library

The Mackenzie Board of Trustees wishes to ensure that an orderly and safe environment is maintained in the library. All patrons should be able to use the library as a place free of inappropriate behaviour. This commitment is consistent with and expands on Policy 1204.1, Staff Safety and Security.

Therefore, the Board authorizes the following list for guiding conduct in the library. The list is not intended to be inclusive but rather to be a representation.

1. There is no smoking in the library.
2. Seeing-eye dogs are the only animals allowed in the library.
3. Eating and drinking in the public areas in the library are not permitted during normal library hours. Exceptions will be made for beverages with lids and food/drink served in conjunction with library programs and services at the discretion of the Director.
4. The public is allowed in the STAFF ONLY areas only when accompanied by an authorized person.
5. Misuse or defacement of library materials or property is prohibited.
6. Soliciting for donations or sale of materials or objects not related to library fundraising is not permitted on library premises.
7. Abusive, obscene, threatening or sexually suggestive language or behaviour is not permitted.
8. Drunk and/or disorderly individuals may be refused admission at the discretion of the staff member in charge.
9. Young children shall not be left unattended. (See Policy 801.2, Unattended Children.)
10. Obstruction of public access points or fire exits is not allowed.
11. Noise which is preventing the peaceable enjoyment of the library by patrons is not permitted.
12. Violation of any of the above prohibitions may result in expulsion from the library.

801.2 Unattended Children

The Mackenzie Public Library welcomes children to attend programs and to use the library to the fullest. However, parents and/or guardians should be aware that the library is a public place and, as such, is open to all members of the community. Library staff cannot assume responsibility for supervising children. Therefore, children should not be left unattended on the premises.

1. Children five (5) years of age and under

Children five and under must be accompanied at all times. Children should not be left unattended in the children's section while parents and/or guardians conduct their own business in the library. While

story times are on, parents of preschoolers are free to browse within the library but should not leave the premises as their child might leave the story time in search of them.

2. Children of elementary school age

Children of elementary school age may come into the library independently but should not be left unattended for substantial periods of time. If the library staff notices that children are left for extended periods of time, the parents and/or guardians will be contacted. The library information desk cannot always be staffed and there may not be a staff member available should a problem arise.

3. Unattended children at closing time

Children of intermediate age often study independently in the library. Parents and/or guardians are expected to make arrangements for their children to be supervised and, when necessary, to have rides home when the library closes. Library staff are directed not to assume responsibility for unattended children. If a child is unattended when the library closes and library staff cannot locate a parent and/or guardian, the library staff will leave the child in the care of Recreation Centre staff. If Recreation Centre staff cannot be located, library staff will arrange for the RCMP to take responsibility for the child.