



Libraries Approve Reciprocal Borrowing

New agreements allow residents to get free library cards in neighbouring communities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Residents in Brantford, Brant County, and Six Nations of the Grand River now have more access to library services and materials, thanks to recently established agreements among the three library systems.

The Library Boards of the County of Brant Public Library, Six Nations Public Library and Brantford Public Library have all approved reciprocal borrowing agreements with each other with all agreements coming into effect by June 1.

The Brantford Public and Six Nations Public Libraries previously established reciprocal borrowing between their systems on January 1, 2019. This agreement provides Six Nations residents with free access to materials available at Brantford Public Library, and provides Brantford residents with access to material at Six Nations Public Library, which is the country's largest First Nations Public Library. The new relationships between the Brantford and Six Nations Public Libraries will be marked by a celebration event to be held on June 20, at Brantford's Main Library location.

The County of Brant Public Library's agreements with Brantford Public Library and Six Nations Public Library take effect on June 1. As of that date, Brantford Public Library cardholders can become a member at the Brant County Public Library for free, and vice versa. Also, residents of Six Nations and Brant County can use each other's library systems for free.

These arrangements provide full membership privileges, including free access to programs, books and online services, such as downloadable eBooks, online learning platforms, and digital magazines.

Feather Maracle, CEO and Director of Library Services for the Six Nations Public Library, commented, "The Six Nations Public Library has an open membership policy. However, entering into these agreements with local library systems is of mutual benefit. It allows Six Nations community members increased access to print and online resources. And for the residents of those local library systems, they will have an increased awareness of our Library, and its wealth of Six Nations and Indigenous specific resources and material."

"These agreements open up opportunities for people in each of our communities," agreed Brantford Public Library CEO, Rae-Lynne Aramburo. "By working together to remove barriers to resources, information, and ideas, we are fostering positive relationships between community members and libraries, and encouraging literacy and life-long learning opportunities for all."

Prior to these agreements, residents from outside of Brantford were charged \$40 to join the Brantford Public Library.

"We welcome members from any community," explained Brant County Public Library CEO Kelly Bernstein, "because borders shouldn't be a barrier to receiving service. It makes sense to form partnerships with our neighbours and offer more opportunities to learn, discover, and become better connected."

To get a library card at a neighboring community, residents must have membership at their local public library. Any materials that are borrowed from a library system must be returned to that library system. Cardholders must also agree to membership and fines and fees policies at each Library.

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