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<b>Policy Number:</b> P03		<b>Pages:</b> 5

## Room Booking by External Groups

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### Policy Statement

The Library has meeting rooms for the purposes of library operations and to further the Board's Ends. The Library recognizes that the meeting rooms are a community resource and will make this resource available to the community as much as possible.

### Policy Principles

1. The Pickering Public Library has meeting rooms primarily for its own purposes: thereafter, it may offer meeting rooms for community use and for revenue generation. The Library has a process for prioritization of group use in place.
2. Rooms may not be booked by any groups with the intent of breaking any laws, or promoting discrimination. Permission to use these facilities does not imply any endorsement of the aims, policies or activities of any group or individual. All meetings must be conducted in a manner consistent with the Library's Rules of Conduct, and according to these Terms and Conditions.
3. No games of chance, including bingo and lotteries, are permitted.
4. A booking fee is charged according to the size of the room and its facilities. There are two fee schedules; one for non-profit groups and a second for other groups. Non-profit groups are defined as those with proof of incorporation as a non-profit or charitable entity; any organization nationally recognized as a service organization; or any local group meeting for a specific non-profit purpose. Membership for all of these organizations must be open to the public. Individuals or groups booking space for the purpose of informational seminars will be considered non-profit only if the organization which they represent fulfills the requirements for non-profit status as above.
5. A representative of the group or organization booking a room must sign a Room Booking Agreement making the group responsible for damages and indemnifying the Library against any and all claims arising out of the group's use of the Library facilities. If the

group or organization reserves a room under the provisions of a Library partnership, a Partnership Agreement must be signed prior to the room use.

6. The group or organization must make one contact person responsible for a room booking. This person, who shall sign the agreement(s) listed above, must remain on-site at all times, during the group or organization's use of reserved Library space.
7. Group insurance coverage is included in the room rental cost. Groups entering into a partnership agreement must provide proof of insurance or a small insurance fee must be paid as part of the agreement process. Details of costs and policy coverage available separately.
8. Ongoing bookings are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure fair distribution of resources and that the use continues to meet the Library's strategic directions and priorities.
9. Rooms are NOT available for:
  - press conferences without the expressed permission of the CEO
  - retail / sales transactions except for books sold at author readings or book signings.
  - private social functions
  - functions requiring an admission or registration fee, unless granted permission by the CEO
  - activities that may result in physical harm to participants or audience members
  - Charitable fundraising unless authorized by the CEO.
10. Acceptance or refusal of a specific booking is at the discretion of the CEO.
11. Library staff retain the right to attend all external group events for the purpose of auditing or reviewing compliance with Library policies and the Terms and Conditions;
12. The Library reserves the right to cancel bookings or rentals. Use will be denied when there is deemed to be a misrepresentation or a likelihood of the misuse of the premises or equipment. Past misuse or non-payment of fees is sufficient grounds for denial of an application.

### 13. Denial of Use

When making the Library's Rooms available for use, the Library is committed to ensuring the dignity and safety of the public and staff, and to maintain the security of Library property.

- a) The Library reserves the right to deny or cancel a booking when it reasonably believes that:
  - i. use by any individual or group will be for a purpose that is likely to promote, or would have the effect of promoting discrimination, contempt or hatred for any group or person on the basis of race, ethnic origin, place of origin, citizenship, colour, ancestry, language, creed (religion), age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, disability, political affiliation, membership in a

- union or staff association, receipt of public assistance, level of literacy or any other similar factor;
  - ii. use by any individual or group will be for a purpose or action, that is contrary to the law or any of the Library's policies or Code of Conduct, including violent, threatening, abusive, harassing, disruptive or intrusive language or conduct;
  - iii. there is a misrepresentation, a likelihood of physical hazard to participants or audiences or a misuse of premises or equipment. Past misuse or non-payment of fees is sufficient grounds for denial of an application;
  - iv. use by individuals, clubs, groups and organizations is intended to establish the Library as a permanent location for their activities, including establishing offices in Library meeting rooms;
  - v. use will include games of chance, including bingo and lotteries.
- b) The Library requires potential users of Library Rooms to confirm that they will not be conducting any business or activities that are in violation of 4.4(a)(i) of this policy, the Criminal Code of Canada (including hate propaganda laws) or the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- c) Applicants who are denied permission to use Library facilities may, upon written request, have the decision reviewed by the CEO, whose decision shall be final.

#### **14. Food and Beverages**

Serving of alcohol is prohibited in any library meeting room. Any request for exemption must be approved by the CEO and a special occasion permit (liquor license) will be required. The Library will not be responsible for the procurement and cost of the special occasion permit. Policies regarding the serving of food and beverage vary by location depending on the availability of kitchen facilities and cleaning arrangements. Requests to serve food and beverages should be discussed at time of booking. All food/beverage arrangements, set-up and clean-up are the responsibility of the organization booking the room.

#### **15. Hours of Use**

A “booking” is defined as the use of the room for any portion of time from one (1) to four (4) hours. Meeting rooms are only available for use during open Library hours. Booked events may start thirty (30) minutes after the Library’s opening time and must end thirty (30) minute prior to the Library’s closing time.

Depending upon the availability of staff resources, special arrangements may be made to book rooms outside of regular hours.

#### **16. Waiving fees**

The CEO has the option of waiving room booking fees under certain circumstances where the event meets the Library’s current strategic directions. To apply for a waiver of

fees please contact Kathy Williams, Director of Public Services 905-831-6265 ext. 6251 or [kathyw@picnet.org](mailto:kathyw@picnet.org)

#### 17. **Payment and Cancellations**

Payment must be received at least three business days prior to the booking date otherwise the booking may be cancelled. There will be no refund for cancellations made less than 24 hours in advance of the booking.

#### 18. **Noise**

Unnecessary noise which disturbs the peace, quiet or comfort of any persons in proximity of the booked space shall not be permitted.

#### 19. **Promotion of Programs Held in Library Meeting Rooms**

All organizations must clearly specify their official name in all promotional materials for meetings at the Library.

Organizations booking space from the Pickering Public Library must add the following disclaimer to all promotional materials that advertise programs held in the Library.

***“The Pickering Public Library does not necessarily endorse this program and the Library accepts no responsibility for any information or advice shared at this program.”***

#### 20. **Equipment & Room Set-up**

The following equipment is available on request: tables, chairs, whiteboard, digital projector and screen, microphones and flipcharts.

Room set-up and clean-up is the responsibility of the group booking the space. If Library staff must spend time doing a clean up of rental rooms after use, a cleaning fee may be charged.

Because of limited staff resources there is no guarantee that Library staff will be available to provide audiovisual assistance on the day of the booking. Training to use audiovisual equipment must be arranged at least one week in advance.

#### 21. **Other Information**

- Pickering Public Library accepts no responsibility for lost or stolen articles.
- Groups or organizations are responsible for complying with all laws and by-laws as well as the Library’s Rules of Conduct and other Policies. Please note the official occupant loads for the available spaces:
  - Auditorium capacity: 100 people
  - Boardroom capacity: 12 people
- Please check the Library website [Service Disruptions page](#) for updates on the day of your event which may affect or disrupt your program or meeting.

**It is the responsibility of the renting group to ensure your audience leaves in case of a fire alarm or other emergency.**

## **Related Documents:**

Room Booking Agreement  
Room Booking Insurance Agreement  
Partnership Agreement

For further information or to book a room, please contact the Room Booking Staff at the Pickering Central Library: (905) 831-6265 ext. 6237

*Alternate formats available upon request. Please talk to Library staff.*