

For Immediate Release: 12/22/2020

Niagara Falls Public Library Services available during Province-wide Shutdown

Niagara Falls, ON: On December 21st, the government of Ontario announced a province-wide shutdown effective 12:01 AM December 26, 2020, in an effort to combat the escalating COVID case numbers. In this new shutdown the current colour framework will be paused while the province shuts down for a minimum of 28 days in Southern Ontario. During this period the Ontario Government has mandated closures and restrictions have been imposed on Libraries.

In line with the new government regulation, the Niagara Falls Public Library is pleased to announce that contactless service will continue at all four locations during the upcoming 28-day Province-wide Shutdown starting on December 29, 2020.

The following Contactless Services will be offered during the Province-Wide Shutdown:

- Curbside Pick Up or Take & Go Pick Up of physical materials (depending on location)
- Print Pick-Up
- Visiting Library Service to homebound individuals and Seniors

As always, the following virtual and online services are available (visit <https://my.nflibrary.ca/>):

- Online resources available 24/7 for a wealth of ebooks, movies, music, and more
- Virtual programs - From storytimes to paint lessons and more, check our Online Event calendar on our website for what's coming up or our YouTube channel for past videos
- WiFi is on at all our locations for access and convenience
- Online Library Card registration through our website

Return boxes will be open at all locations, and all items will continue to be quarantined upon return. There will be no fines on any items through January 31, 2021. The Victoria Avenue Library will also continue to be an Emergency Warming Centre on extreme weather alert days as issued by Environment Canada (COVID-19 screening required, space is limited.)

"As always, the health and safety of our staff, customers and community is of the utmost importance. We are happy to offer safe contactless service to our community through these challenging times," says Alicia Subnaik Kilgour, CEO. "Our team has been working hard with Public Health and our Community Partners to develop safe solutions and flexible options for service, which enables us to continue to provide access to our materials, resources and services.

“Our community has really embraced our new services - everything from electronic materials to virtual programs and contactless pick up.” says Kilgour. “Since March 13th, we’ve had over 520,000 digital item check outs, including eBooks, audiobooks, movies, newspapers and video courses. We have hosted over 440 online programs that have been accessed by over 11,000 customers and there have been over 5200 contactless pick ups since starting the service in June.” More information on all of these services and resources are available on the Library’s website at my.nflibrary.ca or by phone at (905) 321-0348.

Library hours of operation for Contactless Service:

- **Victoria Ave.** - Mon-Tues 10-4 / Wed. 10-7 / Thurs-Fri 10-4 / Sat 11-3
- **Community Centre** - Mon-Fri 10-4
- **Chippawa** - Wed 10-7 / Sat 11-3
- **Stamford** - Mon. 10-4 / Wed 10-7 / Fri 10-4 / Sat 11-3

For the latest updates and information, please follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and check out our website <https://my.nflibrary.ca/>

Niagara Falls, ON: The Niagara Falls Public Library The Niagara Falls Public Library is a free, inclusive community space open to all. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls are invited to register for a free library card to access all of our resources, both physical and digital. The Niagara Falls Public Library dates back to 1878, and today has four library locations serving the City of Niagara Falls - Victoria Avenue Library, Stamford Centre Library, Community Centre Library and Chippawa Library as well as a NovelBranch library vending machine at the Gale Centre. Please visit our website at my.nflibrary.ca for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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