

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPL brings back Good Readance fines relief campaign

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) is getting relaunching a popular program that allows patrons to get rid of library late fines simply by using the library.

SPL's Good Readance program begins today, Jul 2 and will run until Aug 31. The campaign allows SPL cardholders to erase \$2.50 in fines from their account for every 15 minutes they spend in the library (\$10 per hour). Patrons can occupy their time in the library doing anything, including reading, attending programs, using a public computer, spending time in an Innovation Lab, or combing through the Local History archives.

The decision to reintroduce this program is consistent with SPL's strategic plan to "reduce barriers to accessing library services." Patrons with more than \$10 in late fines have borrowing privileges suspended, and that can often serve as a deterrent for continuing to use library collections, programs and services.

"There are currently more than 19,000 patrons with over \$10 in fines, and for many people this creates a significant obstacle to accessing the library," explained Carol Cooley, SPL's Director of Libraries and CEO. "We understand that items are returned late for various reasons, and we want to remove the shame and stigma that can sometimes be associated with fines. SPL created the Good Readance program to make reducing one's fines and regaining borrowing privileges both simple and fun."

To take advantage of this program, patrons can visit any branch and ask service desk employees for a Good Readance card. They then simply track the time they spend using the library and, once finished, return it to a service desk employee who will reduce their fines based on how long they spend in the library.

SPL wiped out all late fines at the end of 2015 and held the Good Readance program for the first time last year. It was very popular, with more than 11,400 people filling out Good Readance cards and more than \$59,000 in late fines waived.

This campaign cannot be used to reduce fees associated with lost or damaged items.

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For more information, contact:

Kirk Sibbald, Marketing & Communications
Saskatoon Public Library

e. k.sibbald@saskatoonlibrary.ca

p. (306) 986-1751