

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPL encouraging patrons to bid Good Readance to fines

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) is getting set to launch a program that will allow patrons to get rid of their library fines, simply by using the library.

SPL's Good Readance program will begin on Wednesday, Apr 11 and allow 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—from reading and attending programs to using a public computer or combing through the archives in Local History.

"Fines create barriers to access for those who cannot afford to pay them, hurting those who need library services the most," explained Carol Cooley, SPL's Director of Libraries and CEO. "There are so many reasons why patrons accumulate fines, and we know how quickly they can add up. Ultimately, we don't want fines to be a reason people can't use the library," she added.

The decision to introduce this program is consistent with SPL's strategic plan to "reduce barriers to accessing library services."

While SPL wiped out all fines at the end of 2015, many cardholders have since accumulated more. Currently, more than 16,000 members are not able to borrow materials because they have fines in excess of \$10. In 2017 SPL budgeted to collect \$180,000 in fines and only actually collected \$126,363.

To take advantage of this program, patrons can visit any branch beginning Apr 11 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.

This campaign, which wraps up at the end of July, cannot be used to reduce fees associated with lost or damaged items.

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