

# Media Advisory

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For immediate release

## “Bring it Back!”: Clarington Public Library Turns the Page on Overdue Fines

April 14, 2022—Clarington Public Library is excited to introduce a new material return model that eliminates overdue fines on late items.

The new fines free service model supports equitable service to the community by reducing barriers to library resources. While paying a small fine for a late item is affordable for some individuals, there are other residents on fixed incomes who may find this challenging. Outstanding fines can disproportionately affect some members of the community, who rely on library services to stay connected and informed.

As of May 3, residents with late materials may simply “bring it back” with no need to worry about overdue fines. “One of the primary objectives of the public library is to provide access to information, resources, and services to all members of the community,” states Linda Kent, CEO of Clarington Public Library, Museums, & Archives. “This new service model directly supports the Library’s mandate. Overdue fines have been shown to be an obstacle, sometimes a significant one, to accessing libraries and their services. We wanted to remove this barrier and help ensure equitable access to resources and materials for all community members.”

Despite the removal of fines, the new material return model ensures that library members are motivated to return their items on time. Overdue accounts will be suspended and members will be unable to borrow additional material. When an item is 21 days overdue it will be considered lost and the borrower’s account will be charged for the replacement cost.

Clarington Public Library originally suspended overdue fines in March 2020 because of the impact of the global pandemic. Previously, late fines were charged per item on a daily basis but accounted for less than 2% of the Library’s budget. By implementing a new material return model, the Library can spend more time on customer service.

To help ease the transition to the new service model and ensure the timely return of materials, the Library is increasing the frequency of automated account notification of due dates. Residents are encouraged to contact Member Services at 905-623-7322 x2712 or [info@clarington-library.on.ca](mailto:info@clarington-library.on.ca) to confirm their communication preferences for email, text, or phone notifications.

For more information about the new materials return model and the Library going overdue fine free, please visit their website at [www.clarington-library.on.ca/bringitback](http://www.clarington-library.on.ca/bringitback).

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