



WORKPLACE VIOLENCE POLICY

The management of the Newmarket Public Library is committed to the prevention of workplace violence and is ultimately responsible for worker health and safety. We will take whatever steps are reasonable to protect our workers from workplace violence from all sources.

Workplace Violence is defined in the *Act to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to violence and harassment in the workplace and other matters* as:

- a) The exercise of physical force by a person against a worker, in a workplace, that causes or could cause physical injury to the worker,**
- b) An attempt to exercise physical force against a worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker,**
- c) A statement or behaviour that it is reasonable for a worker to interpret as a threat to exercise physical force against the worker, in a workplace, that could cause physical injury to the worker**

Types of workplace violence are:

- Type I: External perpetrator (thefts, vandalism, assaults by a person with no relationship to the workplace)
- Type II: Client/Customer (physical or verbal assault of an employee by a client/or customer)
- Type III: Employee to employee (physical or verbal assault from an employee or former employee)
- Type IV: Domestic violence (personal relationship)

Violent behaviour in the workplace is unacceptable from anyone. This policy applies to employees, volunteers and any person providing a service on behalf of the Library.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act defines a workplace as any land, premises, location or thing at, upon, in or near which a worker works.

There is a workplace violence program that implements this policy. It includes measures and procedures to protect workers from workplace violence, a means of summoning immediate assistance and a process for workers to report incidents, or raise concerns. This information is available in a binder labelled *Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy and Procedures* in each service area.

Newmarket Public Library, as the employer, will ensure that this policy and the supporting program are implemented and maintained and that all workers and supervisors have the appropriate information and instruction to protect them from violence in the workplace.

Supervisors must adhere to this policy and the supporting program. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that measures and procedures are followed by workers and that workers have the

information that they need to protect themselves. Supervisors must acquaint their staff with the *Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy and Procedures* binder.

Every worker must work in compliance with this policy and the supporting program. All workers are encouraged to raise any concerns about workplace violence and to report any violent incidents or threats.

Management pledges to investigate and deal with all incidents and complaints of workplace violence in a timely and fair manner, respecting the privacy of all concerned to the extent possible.

The Workplace Harassment Policy should be consulted regarding concerns about harassment in the workplace.