

St. Thomas Public Library



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUTS TO SOUTHERN ONTARIO LIBRARY SERVICE TO REDUCE SOME SERVICES AT ST. THOMAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

St. Thomas Public Library, April 23, 2019 – Due to the provincial government’s severe budget cuts to the Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS), Interlibrary Loan Service will no longer be available at St. Thomas Public Library, effective immediately.

Interlibrary Loan Service made it possible for St. Thomas Public Library cardholders to request materials from library collections across Ontario. The delivery of these materials was made possible by SOLS courier vans. Last year, SOLS drove almost 1 million kilometers to deliver over 710,000 packages to 153 main library branches across southern Ontario.

“The loss of interlibrary loans deals a devastating blow for service at a local level.”, said Library CEO, Heather Robinson, “St. Thomas Public Library cardholders alone borrowed 3,383 items from across the province in 2018. Over many years, this service has allowed our community to borrow thousands of resources to which they would not otherwise have had access. We cannot possibly continue to offer this level of service on our own.”

If you have an Interlibrary Loan item out now, please return it by its due date. All pending requests will not be completed.

If you wish to learn more about the SOLS services affected, visit <https://www.sols.org/index.php/interlibrary-loan-and-delivery-service-changes>

Further questions about the impact of this service cut can be directed to Heather Robinson, St. Thomas Public Library CEO, 519-631-6050 ext. 8027, hrobinson@stthomaspubliclibrary.ca

Questions or concerns regarding provincial funding decisions can be directed to Jeff Yurek, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London, 519-631-0666, www.jeffyurekmpp.com.

For interviews or further information, please contact:

Heather Robinson, CEO/Chief Librarian

hrobinson@stthomaspubliclibrary.ca

519-631-6050, ext. 8027

PRESS RELEASE