REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 15, 2011

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Internet Service Policy: "Extreme Adult" Filtering Category
Prepared By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer, Margaret Mitchell
Presented By:	Susanna Hubbard Krimmer
Purpose of Report:	For Receipt ☑

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received.

Issue/Opportunity

The London Public Library (LPL) *Internet Service Policy Review Report* was received at the Library Board meeting of November 24, 2011. The Library Board considered the matter of blocking access to extremely violent content using filtering software. Discussion included URLs that include extreme violence, torture and mutilation. Mr. Morgan introduced a motion to include the filtering of the additional category of "Extreme Adult" to all filtered machines. The following motion was approved:

> *That Administration investigate and bring back a report at the December meeting so that the Board may consider the possibility of including the filtering of the additional category of Extreme Adult to all filtered machines, being:*
> - *Computers specifically designated for use by children and/or teens, such as Homework Centres;*
> - *Computers in spaces specifically designed for use by children and/or teens;*
> - *Computers designated for specific functions, such as the Employment Resource Centre computers; and*
> - *Computers filtered in cases in which all other methods of due diligence regarding the reasonable protection of children/teens cannot be achieved.* (L11/89.3)

The purpose of this report is to provide further information including:
- Content blocked when using the Netsweeper Category of "Extreme Adult" and
- Access on LPL workstations to URLs categorized as "Extreme Adult".

Background & Review

The definition of the category of "Extreme Adult" is as follows:

> *Extreme web sites contain things that are considered far from normal. These URLs are categorized as such for their degree of intensity. The pages are usually violent and may depict or promote torture, mutilation, eating disorders, or other dangerous or disturbing activities. This category does not include widely accepted "extreme sports", such as rock climbing, skiing, or other achievements.*

Library Administration contacted Mr. Scott O'Neill, Director, Sales & Marketing, Netsweeper Inc. for information about this category. The number of URLs that are classified as being within this category is relatively small in comparison to the number of URLs classified in all other categories.

It is noted that URLs that deal with eating disorders as a medical and psychological condition are not categorized here. Eating disorder URLs categorized as "Extreme Adult" include those that positively promote eating disorders, celebrate and support the continued behavior.

The annual *Internet Service Review Report,* received by the Board at its November 2011 meeting, presented comparative annual data for categories accessed through the LPL workstations and the wireless network during the month of September 2011. This data was re-examined to assess access to "Extreme Adult" URLs and the comparative use compared to other categories. Of URLs, categorized as "Extreme Adult" and accessed through the LPL internet service, approximately 75 per cent were gaming sites. Within these, only approximately 30 individual gaming sites were accessed, but were accessed repeatedly over the month. Chart 1 provides an overview of system-wide workstation and wireless access.

Chart 1 Comparison of Extreme Adult URLs Accessed with Total URLs (32 Selected Categories)		
Workstation Type	Ranking	Percentage of URLs
System-wide Unfiltered	29th	.03 %
System-wide Filtered	28th	.05 %
Wireless Access	32nd	.008 %