

8J

**From:** Susan Minns <sueminns@gto.net>  
**To:** <Mathysen.l@parl.gc.ca>  
**Date:** 9/18/2009 3:32 PM  
**Subject:** Display of pornography in libraries

**CC:** Cheryl Miller <cmiller@london.ca>, <adecicco@london.ca>, <david.winninge...  
Sept. 18. 2009

Dear Irene

Two days before a 71-year-old man was arrested for viewing and printing child pornography, I found myself viewing porn at the London Central library. I happened to be sitting next to a bank of computers and one fellow, who was casually researching masturbating women.

I didn't have to peer over his shoulder because it was on full display to anyone who walked or sat nearby. I moved and complained to a librarian, that there were children in the area. I was given a complaint slip and told there was nothing they could do.

I received the same response when I spoke to library management the next day. " Porn is not illegal, " I was told. Maybe so, but the viewing of porn is illegal to anyone under the age of 18 and that area of the library is not an adults only section. Do the staff supervise the viewing habits of teens using those computers?

I was told by administration that there were computers in the children's and teens areas that had filters. Terrific, but youth are permitted on the second floor where porn is not hidden. I had to move to get away from it.

I feel sorry for the staff who must work in this environment. I would never leave children in this toxic space.

Come on people, we're talking about the library! The library should be held just as accountable as the corner store concerning the display of porn.

The filters I have on my home computer filter porn but allow breast and prostate cancer research. Lady Chatterly went to trial in 1959 and we are well past that now. We can all check out American Psycho, so the cry of "Censorship" can stop.

The London city libraries are no longer family friendly. If they need to install a windowed room with a security guard so anyone in a ball cap can access his right to freedom of information, so be it.

And here's the coupe de grace, I saw Mr. Research go out for a cigarette break before returning to his station. You can't make this stuff up.

Irene, I know that you have a history of defending the rights of women and children in this city. What can the average person do to solve this problem?

I am 54 years old but I want to visit London libraries without being

subjected to degrading images of women. Our daughters should feel safe and should not find themselves seated next to an adult male scrolling porn. Confronting and policing a porn viewer should not be in the job description of a librarian.

If the library is bent on delivering access to information and see this as a "greater good" (as heard this afternoon on CBC Radio's Ontario Today) then they should set up areas for it so women and children can study, read and access information in a safe environment.

Take back the night.....take back the library.

Mad as hell

Susan Minns  
5 Almond Rd.  
London , ON  
N5Z 4C1  
519-680-0776  
www.sueminns.com

--  
This message was scanned by ESVA and is believed to be clean.  
Click here to report this message as spam.  
<http://spamfilter.londonpubliclibrary.ca/cgi-bin/learn-msg.cgi?id=95D732824F.CA714>