

Media Release Kingston Frontenac Public Library Laura Carter, Chief Librarian/CEO (613) 549-8888 x3530 (613) 484-8477 Icarter@kfpl.ca

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Connecting communities: increased hours and expanded access at KFPL's Pittsburgh Branch

In response to the evolving needs of community members, the Kingston Frontenac Public Library (KFPL) has introduced Extended Hours at the Pittsburgh Branch while expanding overall operating hours at the branch.

The Pittsburgh Branch is now open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, with a blend of conventional staffed hours and Extended Hours, during which registered users are supported remotely by off-site staff. Staffed hours have increased to 40 per week and will not be reduced as a result of this project.

During Extended Hours, registered users can browse the collection, borrow and return materials, pick up holds, access public computers and Wi-Fi, copy, print and enjoy the space.

"As Kingston East continues to grow, so does the need for library services in the area," said Chief Librarian/CEO Laura Carter. "We are committed to evolving alongside the community's needs, and we recognize that flexibility in library access is key. Extended Hours allows more people to access our rich resources and welcoming spaces."

Users can sign up in person at any of KFPL's 16 library branches to access Extended Hours, providing identification and agreeing to the Terms of Use. This service is available to individuals who hold a KFPL membership in good standing and are 16 years of age and older or are 14 or 15 years of age with permission from a parent or legal guardian.

Safety and security during Extended Hours are a top priority, with measures including video surveillance, clear separation of staff and public areas and a pre-registration process to identify users. Additionally, a phone is pre-programmed with buttons to summon emergency services or request assistance from library staff at another branch.

Hours of operation, both staffed and extended, can be found <u>online</u>. To learn more about Extended Hours, <u>visit KFPL's resource page</u> and <u>explore previous consultation and community engagement</u>.

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130 Johnson St. • Kingston, ON • K7L 1X8 • Phone: 613.549.8888 • Fax: 613.549.8476

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