



ACORN Hamilton Statement on Central Library Access Policy Changes

ACORN Hamilton is deeply concerned about the recent access policy changes at the Hamilton Central Library. Public libraries are essential community spaces that must remain open, accessible, and welcoming to everyone; especially low- and moderate-income residents who rely on them for safety, resources, and connection.

Libraries are more than buildings; they are vital public infrastructure. For many in our community, they provide access to computers, information, shelter from extreme weather, and a sense of belonging. Any changes that limit access risk excluding those who need these services the most.

ACORN Hamilton stands in solidarity with library workers and their union. We oppose the introduction of a carding system and the reduction of access through Sunday closures. These measures do not address the root challenges facing the library and instead place additional barriers on community members.

We are calling on the Hamilton Public Library to prioritize inclusive, community-based solutions that support both staff and patrons, and that uphold the library's role as a truly public space.

We encourage residents to take action by completing the public survey on the Central Library Access Policy:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CardAccess_Public

Tips for Filling Out the Library Survey

- **Visited during the pilot?**
 - Answer honestly. If yes, mention any barriers. If no, share concerns about access.
- **Experience using a library card:**
 - Keep it brief, note delays, discomfort, or how it creates barriers (especially for people without cards).
- **Support rating (0–10):**
 - Choose a lower number (closer to 0) to show opposition to the policy.
- **Alternative solutions:**
 - Suggest more staff, funding, and social supports, not access restrictions.
- **Awareness of decision:**
 - Answer honestly; you can note that restricting access isn't a real solution.
- **Reasons for the decision:**
 - Acknowledge safety concerns, but emphasize support is better than exclusion.
- **Impact on your use:**
 - Share if it made access harder or made the space feel less welcoming.

Please share this survey widely and make your voice heard.

ACORN Hamilton will continue to advocate for accessible, inclusive public spaces for all.