



SOLS | SBOS

Southern Ontario Library Service
Service des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Sud

Stronger Libraries. Stronger Communities.
Enrichir nos bibliothèques, c'est enrichir nos communautés.

June 14, 2019

Library communiqué: Postage rebate calculation

As you know, SOLS suspended inter-library loan services on April 18th. Following that decision, SOLS and OLS-North worked with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport to restore inter-library loan services across the province effective June 1.

As you are aware from my communication on May 31, 2019, SOLS will now provide partial reimbursement to libraries for delivery costs through Canada Post and will preserve the online system (VDX) libraries use to coordinate the program. SOLS is committed to ensuring that this key service continues to reach Ontario communities.

Since the reinstatement of interlibrary loans, public libraries in Southern Ontario have asked SOLS staff how much libraries should budget for ILL postage costs. To help answer that question, I am providing the following information.

In 2018, there were almost 419,000 lends in southern Ontario. As you all know, the available postage rebate fund for southern Ontario is capped at \$340,000. The Canada Post Library Material rate covers the return trip as well. Based on these numbers, we estimate that libraries would be reimbursed at a rate of \$0.81 per lend. Please see below for an example of how this would affect one library system.

Library

Estimated cost of lending material for Library:

2,000 items x \$1.38 (base Canada Post rate) = \$2,760

SOLS Rebate based on 2018 activity:

2,000 items x \$0.81 = \$1,620

Cost to Library = \$1,140

Note: This calculation is for illustrative purposes only. The actual cost to libraries would be variable dependent on location and weight of items shipped. Also, the rebate is dependent on the total volume of items shipped across the SOLS system.

If lending activity across southern Ontario declines, the per lend rate would increase. While I know all of you would like a more definitive number for budget purposes, the best we can offer is an estimate at this time. This year will be one of adjustment as we transition to an entirely Canada Post based delivery system. Please note that libraries in northern Ontario have operated successfully under this model for many years.

Another question that has been asked is how quickly SOLS will reimburse libraries. Given that the postage rebate will be based solely on VDX activity, SOLS will be able to issue rebates by no later than the end of January 2020. Libraries will not be required to make any submissions to trigger the rebate.

SOLS will be hosting interlibrary loan webinars the week of June 17th to review procedures and to entertain questions from public libraries. We will record these sessions and make them available to others who may not be able to attend.

Information on the Canada Post Library Materials service is available here:

<https://www.canadapost.ca/tools/pg/manual/PGlibrary-e.asp>

We will also be working to collect data from our libraries to determine how they will be adjusting their internal policies to adapt to our new operating environment.

Like you, our current staff complement is working as quickly and diligently as possible to adapt to this new environment. To date, we have been reviewing the interlibrary loan policies, updating our website to reflect our new environment, preparing to deliver webinars, distributing the Summer Reading Program materials, shutting down the delivery service, and presenting to and answering questions from libraries regarding procedures related to using the book rate. In addition to the upcoming webinars, we hope to bring together libraries to review interlibrary loan policies and procedures and ensure that they reflect new library practices.

We urge you to contact us directly at helpdesk@sols.org with all your interlibrary loan concerns so that you may better serve your community.

Again, I wish to express my thanks for your patience and understanding as we go through this transition.

Barbara Franchetto, CEO

SOLS