

Policy Name	Intellectual Freedom		
Section	Foundation	Effective Date	October 24, 2023
Policy Number	FDB-02	Reviewed Date	October 24, 2023
Motion Number		Next Review Date	2027

Purpose

Wasaga Beach Public Library's collections, services, displays and programming must serve all parts of its community and respect the diversity of its citizens. The Library has a fundamental responsibility for upholding the principles, as well as advocating for, intellectual freedom.

Scope

The Library Board, staff, and volunteers acknowledge that all Library users have the freedom to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. The organization will uphold the right to intellectual freedom.

Definitions

Intellectual freedom, under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights denotes that people have the right to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Freedom of expression as affirmed by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations acknowledges that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Ontario Library Association calls on public libraries to protect the **freedom to read** by resisting any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate, censor or curtail access to information by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.

Policy

The Library Board and staff endorse the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' *Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries* and the Ontario Library Association's *Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual*. The Library will follow the most current versions of the **Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (2016)** and the **Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual (2020)**.



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The Library will:

- Support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy;
- Provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content;
- Ensure that all library users have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable;
- Resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources;
- Make available its public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination;
- Protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them;
- Recognize the right of individuals to express opposition to author's ideas or their creative exercise of language in material selected for the library. However, selection of material will not be influenced by any approval or disapproval of its intellectual content by sectors of the community.

Responsibility

The Library Board directs the CEO to ensure that the principles of intellectual freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures and practices.

Appendix

A: Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

Approval History: CLA: June 27, 1974. Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 27, 2015. CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016: Reviewed April 12, 2019.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.



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In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers, and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

B: Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual, 2020

Introduction:



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The Ontario Library Association and its divisions are committed to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Ontario Libraries have the important responsibility to facilitate expressions of knowledge, creativity, ideas, and opinion, even when viewed as unconventional or unpopular.

The Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following principles for libraries:

1. Equitable access to library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.
2. Intellectual freedom requires freedom to critically examine and create other ideas, opinions, views, and philosophy of life, other than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional, uncommon or unpopular.
3. The free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen, view, and create is fundamental to such free traffic.
4. Library governance ensures that the principles of intellectual freedom and expression of thought are upheld.

Library Service, Collections and Resources

5. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials including the provision of access to electronic sources of information and access to the internet. Materials are not excluded from library collections based on race, place of birth, origin, ethnic origin, ethnicity, citizenship, age, creed, disability, family structure, sex, and sexual orientation.
6. It is part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate, censor or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view, listen or participate by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.

Library Programming, Events, and Space Bookings



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7. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and expression by implementing it consistently when hosting programs and events within the public space of the library including rented public space by individuals and community organizations.
8. Libraries create welcoming community spaces where community members are free from discrimination and may engage in peaceful assembly. Libraries may cancel or deny permits to individuals or organizations when speech or displays are used in a way that is unlawful.

[Related Materials/Policies](#)

WBPL Foundation Policy – Mission, Vision and Values Statements

WBPL Operational Policy – Collection

WBPL Operational Policy – Library Space Use

[Policy History](#)

Approved by the Wasaga Beach Public Library Board

Date. October 24, 2023 Policy FDN-02 Motion Number: #####

Supersedes

Date: Nov. 19, 2012, Policy: General – Statement of Intellectual Freedom
Motion:47-12