



Policy Name:	Statement of Intellectual Freedom
Policy Type:	Foundation
Number:	FN-04
Original Adoption Date:	March 2024
Current Approval:	March 20, 2024
Review:	March 2027
Motion:	2024:15

Intellectual Freedom Statement

1. Purpose

The Orillia Public Library Board has a fundamental responsibility for upholding the principles of, and advocating for, intellectual freedom.

2. Policy

This policy ensures the rights of individuals to access information in a safe and equitable environment.

3. Procedure

- a. The Orillia Public Library Board adopts the *Canadian Federation of Library Associations' **Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*** and the *Ontario Library Association's **Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual***.
- b. Public libraries are dedicated to serving all members of their community in a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment. It is the responsibility of the Library Board and those who work or volunteer in the Library to ensure:
 - i. that all individuals and groups who require the Library's public facilities, collections, and services have access to them.
 - ii. that all library users have equitable 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.
 - iii. That efforts to limit such access will be resisted, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups. The Library will welcome respectful dialogue about its commitment to intellectual freedom.



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- c. The Board directs the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the principles of intellectual freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures, and practices.

Related documents:

- *Canadian Federation of Library Association's [Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#)*
- *Government of Canada's [Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#)*
- *Ontario Library Association's [Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual](#)*
- Orillia Public Library: Collection Development (OP-04)
- Orillia Public Library: Meetings Rooms (OP-08)
- Orillia Public Library: Programming (OP-06)
- Orillia Public Library: Statement of Values (FN-03)