



Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board

Policy

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| SECTION: FOUNDATIONAL | NO: FO-03 |
| TITLE: Statement of Intellectual Freedom | Date: October 2021 |
| | Next Review Date: October 2024 |

1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 Recognizing that the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board has a fundamental responsibility for upholding the principles of, as well as advocating for, intellectual freedom, this policy ensures the rights of individuals to access information.

2.0 Statement of Intellectual Freedom

- 2.1 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board recognizes that democracy cannot flourish unless materials representing a wide range of viewpoints are freely available.
- 2.2 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library will ensure that no individual or group shall be allowed to limit the community's freedom to read.
- 2.3 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library recognizes that:
- Every person in Canada has the fundamental right, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express his thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.
 - Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read.
 - Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.
- 2.4 The board adopts the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' **Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**, approved originally by the Canadian Library Association in June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983, November 18, 1985 and September 27, 2015, and adopted by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations on August 26, 2016, reviewed April 12, 2019.
- 2.5 The Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board also adopts and upholds the Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual. (Approved, OLA Board of Directors, December 2003. Reaffirmed, OLA Board of Directors, December 2005. Revised January 30, 2020.)

3.0 Statement of Responsibility

3.1 It is the responsibility of the Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library Board and Staff to:

- Ensure that all Leeds and the Thousand Islands Public Library users have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly
- Guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, the library shall acquire and make available a wide variety of materials.
- Make available the entire library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.
- Resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups

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

Related Documents:

Canadian Library Association, Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom. Adopted and approved by CLA Executive Council June 27, 1974 Amended November 17, 1983, November 18, 1985 and September 27. Adopted by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations August 26, 2016, and reviewed April 12, 2019. <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries/>

Ontario Library Association, Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual. Approved, OLA Board of Directors, December 2003. Reaffirmed, OLA Board of Directors, December 2005. Revised January 30, 2020. https://accessola.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020_OLAIIntellectualFreedomStatement.pdf

| History | | | |
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| Approval Date: | October 20, 2021 | Approved by: | B Lolley |
| Amendment Date: | | Approved by: | |
| Amendment Date: | | Approved by: | |
| Amendment Date: | | Approved by: | |