



Dryden Public Library Board

POLICY

SECTION: FOUNDATIONAL	NO: FN-03
TITLE: Intellectual Freedom	Date: March 2022
	Next Review Date: March 2026

1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 Recognizing that the Dryden 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 Dryden Public Library Board recognizes that democracy cannot flourish unless materials representing a wide range of viewpoints are freely available. As a democratic institution, the Dryden Public Library will ensure that no individual or group shall be allowed to limit the community's freedom to read.

2.2 The Dryden Public Library recognizes that:

- 2.2.1 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.
- 2.2.2 Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and the freedom to read.
- 2.2.3 Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

2.3 The Dryden Public Library Board supports the Canadian Federation of Library Association's (CFLA) 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, 2015; CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019)

2.4 The Dryden Public Library Board 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, Reviewed 2020.)

3.0 Statement of Responsibility

3.1 It is the responsibility of the Dryden Public Library Board and Staff to:

- 3.1.1 Ensure that all Dryden 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
- 3.1.2 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 the widest variety of materials.
- 3.1.3 Make available the library’s public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.
- 3.1.4 Resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups

3.2 The Dryden 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 Federation of Library Associations, *Position Statement on Intellection Freedom*. Adopted and approved by CLA Executive Council June 27, 1974 Amended November 17, 1983, November 18, 1985 and September 27, 2015 CFLA-FCAB: Adopted August 26, 2016; Reviewed April 12, 2019).

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, Reviewed 2020.

History			
Approval Date:	March 2016	Approved by:	L Ayers
Amendment Date:	March 2017	Approved by:	L Ayers
Amendment Date:	March 2022	Approved by:	M Benson
Amendment Date:		Approved by:	