



# Dryden Public Library Board

# POLICY

<b>SECTION: FOUNDATIONAL</b>		<b>NO: FN-03</b>
<b>TITLE: Intellectual Freedom</b>		<b>Date: May 2026</b>
		<b>Next Review Date: May 2030</b>

## 1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 This policy ensures the rights of individuals to access information. The Dryden Public Library Board and staff support and advocate for intellectual freedom.

## 2.0 Statement of Intellectual Freedom

- 2.1 The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantee "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication". The Charter further grants everyone the right "to access diverse perspectives, including those that may be considered unconventional or unpopular", but within certain limitations.
- 2.2 The Dryden Public Library Board supports the Canadian Federation of Library Association's (CFLA) Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.
- 2.3 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.)
- 2.4 Intellectual freedom applies to all aspects of a Library, including but not limited to programs, services and materials.
- 2.5 We recognize that access to some points of view at a Library may be concerning or damaging to some individuals or groups, and may affect their relationship with the Library.

## 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 Library users have access to diverse perspectives through the provision of a wide range of programs, services and materials.
  - 3.1.2 Make the Library's facilities and services available upon request, except when anticipated speech or displays are unlawful.
  - 3.1.3 Resist all efforts to limit what Library users can read, see and/or hear, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals or groups.

- 3.1.4 Integrate the principles of intellectual freedom into all Library policies, procedures, and practices.
- 3.2 Practicing intellectual freedom is the professional duty of libraries and library workers, and harassment or persecution will not be tolerated.

**Related Documents:**

Canadian Federation of Library Associations, *Position Statement on Intellection Freedom*.

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.

[BCLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom](#)

History			
<b>Approval Date:</b>	March 2016	<b>Approved by:</b>	L Ayers
<b>Amendment Date:</b>	March 2017	<b>Approved by:</b>	L Ayers
<b>Amendment Date:</b>	March 2022	<b>Approved by:</b>	M Benson
<b>Amendment Date:</b>	May 2026	<b>Approved by:</b>	2022-2026 DPL Board