

MANAGEMENT REPORT



North Vancouver District
Public Library

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2016

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Meeting date: Thursday, January 28, 2016

To: Library Board

From: Jacqueline van Dyk, Director of Library Services

Subject: **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM POLICY UPDATE--FOR DECISION**

SUMMARY

The Library Board's Policy Manual includes the Canadian Library Association's (CLA) position Statement on Intellectual Freedom because intellectual freedom is a core value and principle of public librarianship. Including CLA's position statement as library policy is a common practice of Canadian public libraries. CLA has recently updated its statement and therefore I recommend the NVDPL update our policy language to match the CLA amendment dated September 27, 2015.

PURPOSE

This report is for decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Library Board is asked to pass the following motion:

- **THAT the B-OP-14 INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM policy be approved and adopted and that it replace the current policy 2.4 Statement of Intellectual Freedom**

FINAL REMARKS

Updating the Library's Intellectual Freedom policy demonstrates the Library's intention to uphold the profession's stated values and practices.

**POLICY: INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM****POLICY #: B-OP-14**

COMMITTEE:	Library Board	PASSED:	[October 2013]
TOPIC:	Operating Policies	AMENDED:	[2016]
		REVIEW PERIOD:	As required

PURPOSE

To articulate the rights of library users to have their intellectual freedom supported and fostered by the library, as a founding principle of public libraries.

POLICY**Canadian Library Association STATEMENT ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM AND LIBRARIES**

The Canadian Library Association 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 Library Association 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.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Library Association 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 Library Association affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Library Association 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.

Approved by the CLA Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; and September 27, 2015

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Library Board is responsible for this policy. The Library Board supports and endorses the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.

The Director of Library Services is responsible for implementing this policy.

2.4 STATEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society.

Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to 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, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

(Ratified by the Board of Directors and Council at the 29th Annual Conference in Winnipeg, June 1974 and amended November 17, 1983 and November 18, 1985.)

- **To be replaced by B-OP-14 INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM**