

**Type:** System**Authority:** Board**Resolution No.:** BMPL 2018-130 on 6-21-18; POL-SYS.2018.89

Associated Documents:

- Criminal Code, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-46
- Ontario Public Library Guidelines
- Standards for Community Museums in Ontario
- Collection Development Policies

Legal Framework

The Blue Mountains Public Library Board and Personnel are subject to both the *Ontario Public Library Guidelines* and *Standards for Community Museums in Ontario* as it relates to Intellectual Freedom. The Board, personnel and users must abide by the Canada Criminal Code and all legislation protecting against racism, hate speech and harassment.

SYS.2018.89.1 Intellectual Freedom

1. The Board adopts the Canadian Library Association's *Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom*, approved by the CLA Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and November 18, 1985.
2. It is the responsibility of the Board, and those who work in the library, to:
 - 2.1. Ensure that all library users have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly
 - 2.2. 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
 - 2.3. Make available all of the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them
 - 2.4. Resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups
3. Intellectual Freedom does not protect actions, statements or activities which promote or incite discrimination, contempt, racism or hatred of any group.
4. The Board directs the CEO to ensure that the principles of Intellectual Freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures and practices.

SYS.2018.89.2 Public Library Intellectual Freedom

Further to the CLA statement, the Library is a democratic institution, and no individual or minority group should be allowed to limit the community's freedom to read. Democracy cannot flourish unless material representing all viewpoints is freely available. The Library staff may limit content based on quality or authority, but will always strive to hold a balanced collection.

SYS.2018.89.3 Museum Intellectual Freedom

Museum collections and exhibitions also flourish in a setting where intellectual freedoms are set as the cornerstone for decision making. Neither the Board, Museum Advisory Council, or any other body may direct or restrict the types of collections or how they are exhibited, providing said collections and their exhibition meet the mandate of the museum.

SYS.2018.89.4 Gallery Intellectual Freedom

Be it the Board, Arts Advisory Council, staff or member of the public; our individual tastes in artistic expression are unique and varied. Throughout the Gallery exhibitions individual artists and their creative expressions shall not be limited or restricted due to bias or personal preferences. The L.E. Shore Gallery will provide the community with a rounded experience of artistic expression, with a focus on local artisans, regardless of medium or content.

Original Approval: 6-21-2018

Amended On: _____

Appendix

The Blue Mountains Public Library endorses, as policy, the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom.

Canadian Library Association Intellectual Freedom Statement

Ratified by the Canadian Library Association in June 1984.

1. *Every person in Canada has the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Charter of Rights, 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. *Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.*
3. *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.*
4. *It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all of the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.*
5. *Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.*
6. *Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.*

The Blue Mountains Public Library endorses, as policy, the Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual.

Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

Ratified by the Ontario Library Association on November 23, 1990

In affirming its support of the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and the freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following propositions:

- i. That the provision of library service to the Canadian public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion, and morality.*
- ii. That it is the responsibility of librarians to maintain this right and to implement it in their selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings and other materials.*
- iii. That intellectual freedom requires freedom to examine other ideas and other interpretations of life than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general, including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.*

- iv. That freedom of expression requires freedom for a writer to depict what is ugly, shocking and un-edifying in life.*
- v. That free traffic in ideas and opinion is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen and view is fundamental to such free traffic.*
- vi. That it is therefore part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate or curtail the freedom to read, view and listen by demanding the removal of any book, periodical, film, recording or other materials from the library.*
- vii. That it is equally part of the library's responsibility to its public to ensure that its selection of material is not unduly influenced by the personal opinions of the selectors, but determined by the application of generally accepted standards of accuracy, style and presentation.*