

## Town of Beaverlodge Library Board Policies

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Intellectual Freedom</b>
<b>Policy Number</b>	16
<b>Authority</b>	Library Board Basics, A Handbook for Library Trustees and Managers, by the Public Library Services Branch, Alberta Municipal Affairs

**Purpose** To state clearly that the Beaverlodge Public Library subscribes to the Statements of Intellectual Freedom adopted by the Canadian Library Association and the Library Association of Alberta.

**Definitions** Library Board means Town of Beaverlodge Library Board  
Library means the Beaverlodge Public Library

**Background** The 'Library Board Basics: A Handbook for Library Trustees and Managers' recommends libraries have a policy that includes a statement on intellectual freedom. Within the Handbook are the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Library Association of Alberta Statement of Intellectual Freedom.

**Policy** **1. Freedom of Choice**

- 1.1 The Library Board and the Library staff do not interpret their function to be the supervisors of public morals.
- 1.2 The Library Board and staff believe in the freedom of the individual, and the right and responsibility of parents to direct their children's use of library resources.
- 1.3 The Library will provide, as far as possible, resources on all sides of controversial issues, including representation of unpopular or unorthodox positions, without censorship or bias, providing the resources give evidence of a sincere desire to be factual.

**2. Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom**

The Beaverlodge Public Library subscribes to the Statement of Intellectual Freedom adopted by the Canadian Library Association, as printed below:

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

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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.

### **3. Library Association of Alberta Statement of Intellectual Freedom**

The Beaverlodge Public Library also subscribes to the "Statement of Intellectual Freedom" adopted by the Library Association of Alberta, as printed below:

Every Albertan, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, as supported in the Alberta Bill of Rights and Alberta's Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act, has the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thought publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of democracy and society in Alberta.

Libraries in Alberta have a fundamental responsibility to protect and promote intellectual freedom.

Alberta libraries have a responsibility to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge, opinion, creativity and intellectual activity including those which some elements of society consider unconventional, unpopular, unorthodox or unacceptable.

To this end, Alberta libraries shall acquire and make available, through purchase or resource sharing, the widest variety of materials and communication media (including the internet) that support the intellectual and recreational pursuits of both their communities and individual Albertans.

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Alberta libraries have a responsibility to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all of the library's facilities and services to any Albertan who needs them regardless of age, religion, ability, gender, sexual orientation, social or political views, national origin, economic status, location and/or level of information literacy.

Alberta libraries provide service based upon the right of each Albertan to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality. Parents have the responsibility for determining their children's access to all library materials.

Alberta library employees do not need to endorse or support every idea or presentation contained in the materials they make available. Alberta library employees do have the responsibility to insure that all perspectives are represented in their collections. Alberta libraries should resist all efforts to limit their ability to protect and promote intellectual freedom, while at the same time recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups. All requests for removal or limitation of access to materials must, however, follow the library's written procedures for reconsidering materials.

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Reviewed and Revised Effective Date:	March 21, 2018	Chairperson's Signature	Chairperson's Name Jini Palmer
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