

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the principles which will guide library staff based on their research and input from the community in selecting exhibits for the library. The policy is also intended to familiarize library customers with the principles with which selection decisions are made at Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL).

**APPLICATION**

This policy applies to all exhibits at VPL, Vaughan Public Library Board trustees, Vaughan Public Libraries staff and customers.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The selection of exhibits for VPL is guided by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (Appendix A) and the Ontario Library Association's position on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual (Appendix B). Exhibits support the VPL Mission.

Exhibits enhance the culture and heritage of the community and support the learning and leisure needs of a diverse community.

**EXHIBIT SELECTION**

While overall responsibility for library exhibits rests with the Vaughan Public Library Board, the responsibility for the selection of exhibits is vested in the office of the Chief Executive Officer, which delegates this professional activity to qualified and knowledgeable staff.

Selection of exhibits does not constitute endorsement by Vaughan Public Libraries of either the content or viewpoint. Parents or guardians are responsible for supervising the choice of resources to minors.

A range of objective measures and standards, including the policies of the Vaughan Public Library Board, are applied when selecting exhibits. Some or all of the following criteria may be taken into consideration during the selection process:

- Anticipated or expressed needs and interests of the community;
- Reputation and/or significance of the creator;
- Comments of professional and independent critics and reviewers;
- Relationship to Strategic Plan;
- Budgetary considerations;
- Format and physical form of exhibit;
- Physical limitations of the buildings.

Placement of exhibits is solely at the discretion of VPL.

**CONDITIONS OF USE**

- Exhibits specifically designed to promote commercial enterprises are prohibited.
- Charges will not be levied by exhibitors.
- Vaughan Public Libraries will not act as agents for exhibitors but may display exhibitor's name and telephone number for prospective purchasers.
- Exhibits in the foyers and public service areas of the libraries will be open to general viewing during regular library hours.
- Vaughan Public Libraries assume no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to exhibits while on library premises.
- Exhibitors will be responsible for the arrangement and removal of their exhibits at times to be arranged with the Library Manager.
- Exhibitors will be held responsible for any damage caused by the display of their exhibits.

- Exhibitors will assume all insurance coverage and supply any necessary supervision for their exhibits.
- In the event that the whole or any part of an exhibit is rejected by the Library, a request to reconsider may be submitted to the Chief Executive Officer.
- Conditions of use may vary for traveling exhibits subject to the requirements of the loaning organization

**APPENDIX A****Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**

Approval History: ~ June 27, 1974 Amended November 17, 1983; November 18, 1985; September 27, 2015; Reviewed 2018.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations 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 Federation of Library Associations 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 Federation of Library Associations 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 Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations 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.

**ONTARIO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
STATEMENT ON  
THE INTELLECTUAL RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

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In affirming its commitment to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and 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:

- 1) That the provision of library service to the 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.
- 2) 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, and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional or unpopular.
- 3) That freedom of expression includes freedom for a creator to depict what is ugly, shocking and unedifying in life.
- 4) That free traffic in ideas and opinions 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.
- 5) That it is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials, and in the provision of access to electronic sources of information, including access to the internet.
- 6) 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 access to information, the freedom to read, view and listen by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.
- 7) 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.

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Approved, Ontario Library Association  
1998 Annual General Meeting  
November 7, 1998.