

Statement of Intellectual Freedom

The FOPL Board adopts the [Ontario Library Association's \(OLA\) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual](#) (January 30, 2020) and the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations \(CFLA\) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#) (April 12, 2019); American Library Association's (ALA) [Statement on Censorship of Information Addressing Racial Injustice, Black American History, and Diversity Education](#) (August 18, 2021).

- 1.1. Further to these statements, FOPL and our member libraries are democratic institutions, and no individual or minority group should be allowed to limit the community's intellectual freedom. Democracy cannot flourish unless material and services representing all viewpoints are freely available. The FOPL believes that while a library may limit materials and services based policies, they should always strive to preserve and promote universal access to materials and services.

It is the responsibility of the Board to advocate for:

- 1.2. Ontario library users to have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly;
- 1.3. Access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.

Intellectual Freedom does not protect actions, statements or activities which are outside the limits prescribed by law.

The Board directs the ED to ensure that the principles of Intellectual Freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures and practices and review this Statement with each new Strategic Plan.

Approved by the FOPL Board September 20, 2024