

Intellectual Freedom Award Call for Nominations

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations offers the Intellectual Freedom (IF) Award to recognize Canadian libraries, individuals or library-related organizations that upheld and defended the principle of intellectual freedom. The CFLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries states 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. (https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries).

CFLA believes that Canadian libraries play a fundamental role in enabling and supporting Canadians' right to intellectual freedom.

CFLA welcomes nominations representing a diverse range of IF-related activities. Eligible activities could include activities such as:

- Facing and responding to challenges or censorship over materials;
- Collections projects to achieve better balance regarding controversial issues, but which themselves generate no controversy and would otherwise go unnoticed;
- Programming or events regarding controversial issues, and which reflect multiple perspectives;
- Advocacy efforts on behalf of intellectual freedom;
- Innovative IF policy statements; and
- Conflict mediation: instances in which a library was able to work to resolve conflict between stakeholders in the community, each of whom had competing interests regarding the content of collections or programs.

Please submit your nomination with a brief 200-500 word description and any supporting documents to info@cfla-fcab.ca with the subject line IF Award Nomination.

The deadline for submission is November 9, 2025