



Statement of the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) on the Continued Protection of Canadian Public Libraries in response to Alberta's Bill 28

May 11, 2026

WHEREAS public libraries across Canada are founded on the principles of free and open access to information as a cornerstone of a democratic society, respecting the rights of individuals to privacy, intellectual freedom, and choice;

WHEREAS public libraries are locally governed institutions, supported by municipalities and guided by trained professionals who apply evidence-based policies and practices to collection development and access;

WHEREAS the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries has taken a strong stand in support of Intellectual Freedom, as reflected in FOPL's [Intellectual Freedom Position Statement](#); and,

WHEREAS the proposed amendments to the Alberta Libraries Act through Bill 28 represent a significant departure from long-standing Canadian public library principles, including independent local governance and professional, community-responsive decision-making;

WHEREAS national library organizations have raised serious concerns that legislated restrictions on access to library materials constitute censorship, erode intellectual freedom, weaken personal privacy protections, and diminish public trust in libraries;

FOPL affirms that decisions regarding library collections and access must remain at the local level, guided by professional expertise, community needs, and accountable governance structures - not political direction or legislative overreach;

FOPL further affirms that protecting the privacy of library users is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that libraries remain safe and inclusive spaces for all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that FOPL expresses its strong support for the positions advanced by the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations \(CFLA-FCAB\)](#), the [Canadian Urban Libraries Council \(CULC\)](#), and the [Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries](#).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FOPL calls on governments across Canada, library boards and library professionals to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom, local governance, and user privacy, to advocate for the autonomy and integrity of the public library in their communities, and to reject legislative approaches that enable censorship or political interference in public libraries.