

# Township of Athens Public Library



Policy Type: **Foundation**

Policy Number: **FN-04**

Policy Title: **Intellectual Freedom**

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Recognizing that the board has a fundamental responsibility for upholding the principles of, as well as advocating for, intellectual freedom, this policy ensures the rights of individuals to access information.

1. The board adopts the Canadian Library Association's **Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom**, approved by the CLA Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and November 18, 1985.
2. It is the responsibility of the board, and those who work in the library, to:
  - a) ensure that all library users have the fundamental right to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly
  - b) guarantee and 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
  - c) make available all of the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them
  - d) resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups
3. The board directs the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that the principles of intellectual freedom are integrated into all organizational policies, procedures and practices.

## Related Documents:

Township of Athens Public Library **FN 03 - Values Statement**  
CLA Executive Council. **Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom**, approved ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and November 18, 1985 **(Appendix A)**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewed:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Intellectual Freedom (Continued)**  
**Appendix A**



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**Canadian Library Association**

200 Elgin Street, Suite 602, Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L5  
Telephone: (613) 232-9625 Fax: (613) 563-9895

**Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom**

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 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.

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Adopted and approved by CLA Executive Council June 27, 1974;  
Amended November 17, 1983 and November 18, 1985.

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