

Report to / Rapport au:

**Ottawa Public Library Board
Conseil d'administration de la bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa**

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Submitted by / Soumis par:

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File Number: OPLB-2017-0502

SUBJECT: Intellectual Freedom Board Position Statement

OBJET: Position du Conseil d'administration sur la Liberté intellectuelle

REPORT RECOMMENDATION

That the Ottawa Public Library Board approve the revised Intellectual Freedom Board Position Statement.

RECOMMANDATION DU RAPPORT

Que le Conseil d'administration de la Bibliothèque publique d'Ottawa approuve la position révisée du C.A. sur la Liberté intellectuelle.

BACKGROUND

As per Board Policy # 001-OPLB, Roles and Responsibilities of the Board and Trustees, the Ottawa Public Library (OPL) Board has adopted a policy or strategy model of governance that focuses on setting strategic directions and objectives. As part of this approach to governance, the OPL Board prepares statements as required by legislation, or believed necessary, in order to document the Board's position on various topics/matters such that staff can carry out their administrative duties.

The Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom is intended to demonstrate the OPL Board's support of intellectual curiosity and inquiry, recognizing intellectual freedom as the prerequisite for an informed, democratic society.

The Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom was last revised in March 2016, when the OPL Board approved changes to reflect updates to the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom, and the Ontario Library Association Statement on the Intellectual Rights of the Individual.

The Canadian Library Association dissolved in 2016, and was replaced by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA).

DISCUSSION

As a preliminary order of business, the newly formed CFLA sought to revise a number of position statements, including that of intellectual freedom. Libraries across Canada were invited to provide feedback on the various position statements. The Ottawa Public Library supported the statement and had no suggested wording changes. The CFLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom was endorsed by its board in February 2017.

The proposed edits to the OPL Board Position Statement serve to align with those of the CFLA. There are no significant amendments to the position statement's overall intent and purpose.

CONSULTATION

Canadian libraries were consulted by the CFLA. The OPL supported the statement on intellectual freedom, and had no suggested wording changes.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with the OPL Board's consideration of this report.

The report and the proposed revisions to the Board's Intellectual Freedom Position Statement are in alignment with the law as it relates to one's freedom of expression under Section 2(b) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* as well as the limits on that expression as set out in the "hate propaganda" provisions of the *Criminal Code of Canada* (see Sections 318 to 320).

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

ACCESSIBILITY IMPACTS

There are no accessibility impacts associated with this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

There are no technology implications associated with this report.

BOARD PRIORITIES

The report aligns with the Board's Rules of Procedure By-Laws.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Document 1 Intellectual Freedom Position Statement (Revised)

DISPOSITION

Once approved, the position statement will be adapted into French, with customer-friendly versions posted in appropriate formats on the OPL website and across OPL's branches, replacing current revisions.

The position statement will be reviewed in the second year of each term of a new Board, unless otherwise required due to legislative requirements or alignment with other statements as applicable.