

## Intellectual Freedom Policy

**Effective Date:** October 23, 2025

**Review:** October 2028

### **PURPOSE:**

To provide broad direction on access to intellectual content through services, collections and programs offered by London Public Library.

### **SCOPE:**

Intellectual Freedom is guaranteed as a basic democratic right by the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and is defined as a universal right by the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

London Public Library (Library) believes that all people have the right to access expressions of knowledge, creative thought and intellectual activity. The Library supports, defends and promotes intellectual freedom and actively advocates in defense of the rights of library users to read, seek information, and express their views.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

The Library endorses the definition of “Intellectual Freedom” from the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

### **POLICY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of the Library that Intellectual Freedom is a core value of public libraries. As such, the Library endorses:

- *The Ontario Library Association (OLA) Statement on Intellectual Rights;*
- *The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries;*
- *The CFLA Statement on Libraries and the Intellectual Freedom of Children & Youth,* and
- *The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom;*

In practice, the Library will:

- Make its services, programs, collections and resources equally accessible to all users and will not discriminate due to race, creed, gender, age or any other protected ground;
- Commit to achieving a balance between Intellectual Freedom and supporting parents and guardians in their responsibility to monitor children's use of and access to Library materials and the Internet, and
- Acts in compliance with federal and provincial legislation, including the Canadian *Copyright Act* and other laws governing intellectual property, the *Criminal Code* of Canada, and other legislation governing access to and communication of information, knowledge, opinion, creative thought and intellectual activity, such as the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA)*.

## **INQUIRIES**

Board Chair  
CEO & Chief Librarian