



Policy number: SC - 01
Policy type: Statements of Commitment
Adoption date: March 26, 2026
Last review/revision:
Next review: 2030

Intellectual Freedom

The Southgate Public Library Board (the library) is committed to upholding and championing the principles of intellectual freedom. This policy is established to protect, support, and promote the universal rights to intellectual freedom and access to information.

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide broad direction on access to content through services, collections, and programs offered by the library. The board endorses the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' ***Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*** as well as the Ontario Library Associations' ***Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual***.

Section 2: Scope

The board recognizes its obligations under the ***Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms***, which guarantees Canadians freedom of expression. The library recognizes and abides by all laws dictated at the federal, provincial or municipal level, including the ***Criminal Code of Canada***.

Section 3: Policy Objectives

1. **Access to Information, Knowledge and Expression:** the library ensures that all library users have the fundamental right to have access to information, knowledge, creativity, intellectual activity, and freedom of expression.
2. **Library Collections and Resources:** the library upholds intellectual freedom through the selection of books, films, periodicals, recordings, archival materials and other materials, including the provision of access to e-resources and access to the internet.
3. **Library Programming, Events, and Space:** the library maintains the principles of intellectual freedom and rights of expression by implementing them consistently when developing and hosting programs, events, and use of library space by individuals and community organizations.
4. **Internet Access:** the library provides equitable access to resources and provides open access to information and online resources.



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Related Documents:

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Canadian Federation of Library Associations' [Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#)

Criminal Code, RSC 1985, c. C-46

Ontario Library Associations' Statement on [Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual](#)

United Nations' [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

Southgate Public Library SC-03 – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Southgate Public Library OP – 07 – Internet Services and Technology