

**TOWN OF SYLVAN LAKE LIBRARY BOARD
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

S-005 STATEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Town of Sylvan Lake Library Board believes that it is the purpose of libraries to support unlimited access to ideas, to promote public information, and to foster enlightenment. These goals are accomplished through a collection that includes the widest possible diversity of views and expressions including those which are orthodox and unorthodox, popular and unpopular, from a variety of viewpoints. Strict adherence to the principle of intellectual freedom protects these important rights. The library board and staff will not control access to library materials by children. This responsibility rests solely with parents and legal guardians.

The Library Board subscribes to the Canadian Library Association's Statement of Intellectual Freedom, which states:

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights, and 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 of the library's public facilities and services to 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.

Adopted Date: November 27, 1996; June 21, 2005

Approval Date: July 21, 2009;

Board Chair: