



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee

Terms of Reference

Mandate:

The CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee is a Committee of the Board of Directors, responsible for advocating for the value of intellectual freedom (as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) in Canada and developing policies, guidelines, position statements and written reports to inform society on the importance of intellectual freedom.

Responsibilities/Objectives are to:

- Promote and support intellectual freedom as a prime responsibility of the library profession in Canada.
- Gather and disseminate information about Canadian violations of intellectual freedom, such as the practice of censorship.
- Gather and disseminate information about threats to intellectual freedom in Canada such as new legislation that could restrict or expand intellectual freedom.
- Monitor the status of intellectual freedom in Canada as it is reflected in reported cases in the library community across the country and retain pertinent related documents.
- Engage in discussions within CFLA-FCAB, as well as with government and other agencies regarding pending legislation and public policy affecting intellectual freedom in Canadian libraries.
- Maintain effective liaison with and provide support where appropriate to other organizations and groups in Canada and around the world that are also concerned with intellectual freedom.
- Maintain a working relationship with the media and make statements to the press, television, and radio on issues affecting intellectual freedom, especially as they affect libraries and the information professions.
- Review the Intellectual Freedom Position Statement and the linked Code of Ethics on an ongoing basis in conjunction with related CFLA-FCAB committees.

- Review regularly, and confirm or update, CFLA-FCAB intellectual freedom and related policy positions and statements and make recommendations to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors

Deliverables:

- Review CFLA-FCAB policies and statements
- Draft statements and communiqués for media and public consumption
- Review and update criteria for an Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada
- Review and update the Challenges Survey
- Ensure proper administration of the Challenges Survey
- Promote documentation and reporting of challenges and the Challenges Survey within the library community
- Make recommendations on various activities related to intellectual freedom to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors
- Review and update toolkit
- Promote advocacy information related to Freedom to Read week
- Make recommendations to the Board for representatives to external intellectual freedom committees (e.g. Book and Periodicals Council, ALA, IFLA, CAUT, etc.)

Membership:

- CFLA-FCAB seeks broad national representation from different library sectors for individuals who value the principles of intellectual freedom and will actively participate in the work of the committee.
- Individuals will ideally have expertise in intellectual freedom normally attained through research, policy development, education, and involvement.
- The committee will be comprised of a combination of appointments and nominations from the CFLA-FCAB Board and member associations. The Chair/Co-Chairs of the committee will be approved by the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors as recommended by the committee.
- Committee members, including the Chair/Co-Chairs, will normally serve a 3-year term. Terms may be renewed and will be staggered to ensure continuity.

Approved by the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors August 27, 2018.