



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Listing of Challenges to Collections and Policies in Canadian Libraries in 2018-2019

May 2020

A. Library Materials Challenged in 2018-2019

Books, Graphic Novels, and Comics

All material written or performed by Bill Cosby

A Time to Keep, by Tasha Tudor

Addicted, by Elle Kennedy

Arab of the Future, by Riad Sattouf

Asperger's Huh?, by Rosina Schnurr

Au fond des bois, by Anne Cortey

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain, by John Boyne

Boy Erased, by Garrard Conley

Bridge of Clay, by Markus Zusak

Canada in Decay, by Ricardo Duchesne

Crafts for Kids, by Gill Dickinson

Delta of Venus, by Anais Nin

Doctor Zhivago, by Boris Pasternak

Dumplin', by Julie Murphy

Epic Adventures of Huggie and Stick, by Drew Daywalt

Everybunny Dance, by Ellie Sandall

The God Delusion, by Richard Dawkins

Guru Granth Sahib

I Don't Want to Be Chinese Again, by Zukang Zhong (aka Joe Chung)

It Is About Islam, by Glenn Beck

The John Lennon Letters, by John Lennon via Hunter Davies

Les papas de Violette, by Emilie Chazerand

Mein Kampf, by Adolf Hitler (Challenged 2 times)

Mon ours Nestor, by Valérie Wishar-Guiliani & Baptistine Mésange

My Crocodile does not Bite, by Joe Kulka

Princess Princess Ever After, by Katie O'Neill

The Nature of Nature: The Discovery of SuperWaves and How It Changes Everything, by Irving Dardik

Pinocchio (Cartoon Classics series), by Kate McMullan

Rainbows Never End and Other Fun Facts, by Laura Lyn DiSiena and Hannah Eliot

Sex Criminals vol 3, by Matt Fraction and Chip Zdarsky

Tesla Model S, by Emily Oachs

T-Rex Trying, by Hugh Murphy

Trump's ABC, by Ann Telnaes

The Unvaccinated Child, by Thompson and Camp

We are all made of molecules, by Susin Nielsen

When I'm with you, by Beth Kery
Year of No Sugar - A Memoir, by Eve O. Schaub

Magazines and Newspapers

China Today
The Epoch Times
Teen Vogue

DVDs/Streaming videos

"Alpha," Directed by Albert Hughes
"Amazing Trains"
"Black Metal Veins," Directed by Lucifer Valentine
"Boy Undone"
"Death of a Nation"
"Killer Joe," Directed by William Friedkin
"Old Dog"
"Pinocchio"
"Pocahontas"
"The Bad Batch"
"The Deuce," Season 1
"The Girl with all the Gifts"
"The Ornithologist"
"Mr. Wong," Directed by Pam Brady and Kyle McCulloch
"To Kill a Mockingbird," Directed by Robert Mulligan
"Trainwreck," Directed by Judd Apatow
"Weiner Dog"
"Wire in the Blood," Season 1, Directed by Robson Green

B. Library Access Policies Challenged in 2016

Library Collections

- The patron who challenged *A Time to Keep*, by Tasha Tudor was concerned about an image in the book of a child dressed as an indigenous person pretending to scalp someone.
- The patron who challenged *Boy Erased*, by Garrard Conley requested it be removed due to the assertion that the title was hateful towards Baptist ministers due to the portrayal of the father character.
- The patron who challenged *The John Lennon Letters*, by John Lennon via Hunter Davies was concerned about the wide variety of scraps of writing on the grounds that Lennon did not mean to publish these sometimes very private notes.
- The patron who challenged *Epic Adventures of Huggie and Stick*, by Drew Daywalt requested it be removed due to use of negative language, and verbalization of hate and anger.
- The patron who challenged the *China Today* magazine requested it be removed due to concern that there is a certain bias that doesn't cover all of the issues that confront modern China.
- The patron who challenged *It Is About Islam*, by Glenn Beck was concerned about Islamophobia.
- The patron who challenged *Amazing Trains*, DVD requested it be removed due to poor quality of movie content and movie production.
- The patron who challenged *Pocahontas*, DVD requested it be removed due to inappropriate depictions of Indigenous people.

- The patron who challenged Death of a Nation, DVD was concerned due to “borderline hate propaganda” and that the public library should act as gatekeepers to protect the public from lower quality materials.
- The patron who challenged The Unvaccinated Child, by Thompson and Camp requested it be removed due to inaccurate scientific information regarding vaccination.
- The patron who challenged The Deuce, Season 1, DVD requested it be removed due to sexually explicit content.
- The patron who challenged Alpha , Directed by Albert Hughes requested it be removed due to a claim that 5 bison were killed specifically for a particular scene in the movie.
- The patron who challenged The Epoch Times was concerned about the pro-Trump and anti-immigrant/discriminatory content.
- The patron who challenged Mr. Wong, Directed by Pam Brady and Kyle McColloch requested it be removed due to racist content.
- The patron who challenged Guru Granth Sahib requested it be removed due to belief that the item could not be treated with proper respect in a library setting.
- The patron who challenged Old Dog, DVD was concerned about depictions of brutality towards animals.
- The patron who challenged Tesla Model S by Emily Oachs was concerned that the book was slanted and inaccurate.
- The patron who challenged Asperger's Huh?, by Rosina Schnurr was concerned that the information on Asperger’s was inaccurate.
- The patron who challenged Crafts for Kids, by Gill Dickinson was concerned about racist imagery.
- The patron who challenged Mon ours Nestor, by Valérie Wishar-Guiliani & Baptistine Mésange was concerned about stereotypical Indigenous images.
- The patron who challenged Les papas de Violette, by Emilie Chazerand was concerned that depiction of 2 same sex fathers was dated, and problematic.
- The patron who challenged Weiner Dog, DVD requested it be removed due to cruelty to animals.
- The patron who challenged Trump's ABC, by Ann Telnaes requested it be removed due to resembling a children’s book while containing offensive language.
- The patron who challenged To Kill a Mockingbird film, Directed by Robert Mulligan
- The patron who challenged Arab of the Future by Riad Sattouf requested it be removed due to stereotypes being depicted against Jewish, Arabs, homosexuals, French people and women.
- The patron who challenged My Crocodile does not Bite, by Joe Kulka requested it be removed due to it being too scary for young children and the use of the word "stupid”.
- The patron who challenged Everybunny Dance, by Ellie Sandall requested it be removed due to the material being “anti-individual, anti-evolution and pro-conformist”.
- The patrons who challenged Mein Kampf, by Adolf Hilter requested it be removed to promoting hate and anti-Semitism.
- The patron who challenged Black Metal Veins, Directed by Lucifer Valentine requested it be removed due to depictions of oral sex and rape.
- The patron who challenged The Nature of Nature: The Discovery of SuperWaves and How It Changes Everything, by Irving Dardik requested it be removed due to the patron’s belief that the material was not science but could be mistaken as such.
- The patron who challenged I Don't Want to Be Chinese Again, by Zukang Zhong (aka Joe Chung) requested it be removed due to racism and racial discrimination.

- The patron who challenged Year of No Sugar - A Memoir, by Eve O. Schaub requested it be removed due to the patron's belief of the book being deceptive and inaccurate because of the author's consumption of dextrose, a simple sugar.
- The patron who challenged the magazine Teen Vogue requested it be removed due to inappropriate clothing.
- The patron who challenged Trainwreck, Directed by Judd Apatow requested it be removed due to too much coarse language, profanity, sexual language.
- The patron who challenged Pinocchio (Cartoon Classics series), by Kate McMullan requested it be removed due to objects that language and concepts inappropriate for young readers. The library relocated the item to the intermediate children's collection.
- The patron who challenged Addicted, by Elle Kennedy requested it be removed due to graphic description of sexual activities, low quality plot, and vulgarness.
- The patron who challenged The Girl with all the Gifts, Videorecording requested it be removed due to content being inappropriate, offensive and disturbing.
- The patron who challenged all material written or performed by Bill Cosby requested they be removed due to Cosby being a "serial rapist"
- The patron who challenged Rainbows Never End and Other Fun Facts, by Laura Lyn DiSiena and Hannah Eliot requested it be removed due to scientific inaccuracies.
- The patron who challenged Doctor Zhivago, by Boris Pasternak requested it be removed due to antisemitic passages.
- The patron who challenged The God Delusion, by Richard Dawkins was concerned due to the author being a controversial figure who "frequently makes racist remarks and defends pedophilia".
- The patron who challenged When I'm with you, by Beth Kery requested it be removed due to inappropriate content.
- The patron who challenged Pinocchio, DVD requested it be removed due to depiction of physical discipline of a child.
- The patron who challenged We are all made of molecules, by Susin Nielsen was concerned that the book contained inappropriate and explicit language and content.
- The patron who challenged Boy Undone, DVD was concerned that it contained explicit LGBTQIA content.
- The patron who challenged Au fond des bois, by Anne Cortey was concerned that it contain disrespectful depictions of Indigenous Peoples.
- The patron who challenged Delta of Venus, by Anais Nin was concerned that the book contravened the Criminal code for underaged sex
- The patron who challenged Sex Criminals vol 3, by Matt Fraction and Chip Zdarsky requested it be removed due to inappropriate content.

Library Labelling

- The patron who challenged Princess Princess Ever After by Katie O'Neill requested the book be labelled as LGBTQIA.
- The patron who challenged Dumplin', by Julie Murphy requested that a warning label be applied to the cover of this book because of its sexual content and coarse language.
- The patron who challenged Canada in Decay, by Ricardo Duchesne requested that the item be labelled warning of far right and anti-immigrant ideology.
- The patron who challenged Wire in the Blood, Season 1, Directed by Robson Green requested that the rating be changed from 14A to R due to depictions of torture. The rating was changed by the library.

- The patron who challenged *The Bad Batch*, DVD requested that the item be labelled warning of cannibalism.

Library Shelf Location

- The patron who challenged *Bridge of Clay*, by Markus Zusak requested that the book be moved to the adult fiction section not YA.
- The patron who challenged *T-Rex Trying*, by Hugh Murphy requested that the book be moved from adult fiction section to the children's section. The book was reassigned to the teen collection.
- The patron who challenged *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*, by John Boyne requested that the item be moved to the teen collection due to inappropriate content for younger readers.

Restricted Access to Items

- The patron who challenged *Killer Joe*, directed by William Friedkin requested that the item be restricted to those over 18 due to gratuitous nudity and simulated fornication.
- The patron who challenged *The Ornithologist*, DVD requested that the item be restricted due to explicit sexual content.

Library Programming

- A patron who had a non-resident card complained about not having access to book public meeting rooms. Further analysis of the current inventory of meeting rooms available, and utilization of those rooms across the system, allowed the Library's policy and procedures to be changed to allow for free meeting room bookings with non-resident cards.
- HPL cancelled ongoing movie event due to anti-police brutality films
- Library received a complaint letter two days before our 'Reading with Royalty' drag queen storytime event because they believed a drag queen storytime was "introducing a divergent sexual lifestyle to impressionable children in the guise of reading with a princess ... it makes a mockery of what a woman is ...Drag queens belong in nightclubs, not public libraries."
- Reading with Royal - a celebration of inclusion and diversity with a family-friendly storytime program, led by local drag queen and king performers received complaint He believed that the "intent of the program is basically to condition kids... specifically 12 and under, to become accustomed to the LGBTQ issues." He didn't think that a publicly funded organization should be supporting what he considers "child abuse."
- Approximately 25 negative responses on Facebook and one email complaint of EPL's choice of Anita Sarkeesian as speaker at one of our events.
- Two emailed complaints of EPL's choice to have Marie Henein as a speaker at our Forward Thinking Speaker Series. Concerns that with her public trial with Mr. Ghomeshi she would not be an appropriate source of forward thinking, specifically in regards to victims of sexual abuse.
- The patron who challenged *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Directed by Robert Mulligan being shown at an event was concerned with depictions of racism.

Library Internet and Computer Access

- Parents requested to be told the dates and times their child accessed the library computers.
- A patron asked that the library refuse a well known controversialist office services, or that the library better monitor what they doing on the public computers.

Patron Privacy or Confidentiality Issue

- Patron requested that personal information contained in her birth announcement in a local newspaper that the library had digitized and made available online, be removed. The citation included her DOB, and full names of parents.
- Staff noticed that in the new service desk model, which has patrons and staff connecting side by side rather than across a counter, personal information on the screen may be seen by other people standing nearby. The new service model has been developed over the past 18 months. We resolved this issue by upgrading the interface staff use for circulation and membership inquiries, masking private information so that it is hidden on the screen by default, but can be made visible when required. We resolved the issue by masking personal information (last names, DOB, PINs, addresses). Staff members now have to hover over the information with the mouse before it becomes visible, thus helping ensure that passers-by cannot see personal information belonging to the person being served.