

## **Challenges Faced by Libraries: Programming and Collections Supporting LGBTQIA2S+ Communities – Guidance from the CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee.**

Libraries across Canada are experiencing increased pressure to remove library materials and [cancel programs](#) that feature LGBTQIA2S+ topics and presenters. The Canadian Federation of Library Associations – *Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB)* Intellectual Freedom Committee – supports the decision of Canadian libraries to uphold Intellectual Freedom and champion Diversity and Inclusion through their collections and programming.

The Library is a place for people of all ages to access information and learn more about themselves and others—including the topics of gender and sexuality. Libraries offer a wide array of materials and services, reflecting the diversity of the communities we serve and providing a window to the wider world. While some people may feel specific content, speakers, authors, or topics are inappropriate, others will find them engaging, enjoyable and educational.

Libraries resist censorship, in accordance with the Canadian Federation of Library Associations Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, which states:

*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.*<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, Canadian libraries have a responsibility to contribute to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities or income.<sup>2</sup>

Featuring content and presenters from LGBTQIA2S+ communities during Pride month is consistent with the library's longstanding role in fostering understanding between community members throughout the year. Not everyone will support all of the services, content, topics, authors or speakers available through the library and we respect each person's right to choose what is best for them. Reflecting a wide range of viewpoints, ideas and perspectives through programming and collections creates opportunities for those who are interested to learn more about themselves and their neighbours.

Questions or comments related to this brief or Intellectual Freedom issues in general can be sent to [IFCchair@cfla-fcab.ca](mailto:IFCchair@cfla-fcab.ca).

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<sup>1</sup> CFLA-FCAB Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries/> 2UN Universal D

<sup>2</sup> CFLA-FCAB Position Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/position-statement-on-diversity-and-inclusion/>