

**2020 CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Challenges Survey – Data**

(All incidents occurred in public libraries)

Author/Title	Challenge Category	Complainant	Describe Incident	Social Media?	Proposed Action	Library Response	Outcome	P/T
<b>Books</b>								
Abortion by David Haugen, Susan Musser, and Kacy Lovelace	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Patron questioned the shelving location of an item concerning abortion.		Re-classification	Staff reviewed the material. Checked the library of congress subject headings and investigated where it is shelved in other libraries. No change was made in the item shelving location.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	AB
All J.K. Rowling's works	Creator of Work, LGBTQIA2 S+: Transphobia	Adult on own behalf	A patron wanted us to remove the works of J.K. Rowling due to the recent controversies surrounding her latest work and statements that have been identified as transphobic.	None	Removal	Sent patron information regarding our Collection's Policy and Intellectual Freedom. Provided the form to have the item(s) reviewed.  Patron did not respond.	No formal resolution, the matter is quiescent	ON
Canada in Decay by Ricardo Duchesne	Promotes Hatred	Adult on own behalf	patron expressed concern that an item promoted white supremacy but did not formally challenge or request follow up. Wanted us to remove it from a visible location.	None	Re-classification	Title retained.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	BC
De #metoo à l'asile de fous	Creator of Work	Adult on own behalf	La plainte concerne l'acquisition du livre numérique De #metoo à l'asile de fous de Michel Brûlé. L'abonné remet en question l'ajout de ce titre à la collection étant donné que l'auteur a été reconnu coupable en octobre dernier d'agression sexuelle et que le livre en question semble être son témoignage depuis le début de sa détention.	None	Remise en question du choix qualifié de discutabile	Nous allons écrire à l'abonné et partager la liberté intellectuelle et d'expression sur lesquelles se basent les principes de développement de collection des bibliothèques publiques.	No formal resolution, the matter is quiescent	QC

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Gold Diggers by Charlotte Gray	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Book challenge	None	Removal	Patron refused to give details about what they were challenging, and they left majority of the form blank and just repeatedly mentioned that it is racist. Committee found that there was insufficient information from the patron after asking several times for more (while in the library, in a written request, etc.).	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	AB
I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer by Michelle McNamara	Violence	Adult on own behalf but also a group	Patron asked on behalf of their private book club members that a Book Club Kit be removed from the collection: I'll Be Gone in the Dark: One Woman's Obsessive Search for the Golden State Killer by Michelle McNamara. The patron added that "at the very least, the description of the title be expanded...to include specific warnings...that clearly and accurately describe the true nature of the gruesome and grisly content." The library had a brief but still informative description of the book in its book club kit database (called KitKeeper) but agreed to expand the description and declined to remove the kit from the book club collection.	None	Other	The library declined to remove the kit from the collection; the library declined to add a warning to the book description in the book club kit software. The library agrees to expand the description of the book with more content from the publisher.	Other	ON

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Irreversible Damage by Abigail Shier	Inaccurate Information, LGBTQIA2 S+: transgender	Adult on own behalf	Believed the author to make discriminatory statements, mischaracterize transgender people, and lack of evidence in their claims	None	Removal	Book was kept in the collection. Formal letter to individual Follow up discussion with individual	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON
Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters by Abigail Shrier	Promotes Hatred, LGBTQIA2 S+: Trans	Adult commenter on the OPAC followed by concerned staff	Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters by Abigail Shrier was challenged as being transphobic in the catalogue comments.	OPAC comments	Removal	The item is still on order and was hidden in the catalogue so that staff could review it to ensure that it did not contain hate speech or promote harm of trans people. The item will be reinstated in the catalogue if it does not promote hate. A number of other library systems have this item and, based on what we have been able to read so far, we expect that it will go into regular circulation.	An alternative action was agreed to and implemented	ON
Lines of Fire by Ralph Peters (Book)	Promotes Hatred	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	A customer was concerned that this book promoted ethnic cleansing as better than genocide and believed it was a violation of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom. After a thorough review, it was determined that the author does not at any point advocate ethnic cleansing. Within the book, the author states specifically that ethnic cleansing	None	Removal	After a thorough review, it was determined that the author does not at any point advocate ethnic cleansing. Within the book, the author states specifically that ethnic cleansing is a crime against humanity and cannot be excused. The purpose of the essay, within the book, is to try and understand it, not condone it.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	AB

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			is a crime against humanity and cannot be excused. The purpose of the essay, within the book, is to try and understand it, not condone it.					
Puella Magi Kazumi Magica: The Innocent Malice by Masaki Hiramatsu	Inappropriate for Age, Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	A customer was concerned that there was very graphic content (nude, semi-nude images) in this graphic novel and that it should not be in the children's section. After careful review it was decided that this piece would be moved to the adult graphics collection.	None	Re-classification	After careful review it was decided that this piece would be moved to the adult graphics collection.	The action proposed by the complainant was implemented	AB
The bare naked book by Stinson, Kathy	Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Patron felt the content of the children's book was pedophilic in nature	None	Re-classification	We did end up moving the item to juvenile non-fiction, not because we felt it was age appropriate but because it was more informational in nature.	An alternative action was agreed to and implemented	AB
Tintin in the Congo	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Parent upset by images in a graphic novel that could be looked at as racist.		Removal	We decided that we did not need to keep that book in our collection any longer, so removed it. There are still several copies available through the system for people to order should they want to read it.	The action proposed by the complainant was Implemented	AB
Turtle Island by Kevin Sherry	Cultural Appropriation, Truth & Reconciliation, Racism	Adult on behalf of child/children	Story potentially glorifies colonization.	None	Removal	Book not removed. Email and letter sent to patron.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON

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<b>Movies</b>								
Blazing Saddles - DVD	Cultural Appropriation, Profanity, Racism, Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Found the content of the movie offensive, coarse language, prejudice, misogynistic and derogatory to multiple groups of people.		Removal	We decided to keep the movie in our collection. A formal letter explaining why the item is being kept in the collection was sent to the customer	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON
Dallas Buyers' Club (DVD)	Other, Sexually Explicit, drug use	Adult on own behalf	patron objected to explicit content, prostitution, and drug use in DVD	None	Removal	Item retained	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	BC
Disney's Beauty and the Beast (Live Action) DVD	Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Sexual/romantic content inappropriate for children	None	Re-classification	Film left in children's section.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON
Drag Kids (documentary DVD)	Children in drag	Adult on own behalf	Patron objected to content of young people in drag in documentary DVD.	None	Removal	Item retained	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	BC
Hilary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party (DVD)	Political view	Adult on own behalf		None	Removal	Item retained	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	BC

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Thoroughbreds	Profanity, Violence, Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Disturbing, violent, and sexual content.	None	Removal	DVD was not removed. Patron was notified via email and letter.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON
<b>Programs</b>								
Read Woke Program	Political view	Adult on own behalf	A patron objected to what he perceived as the liberal nature of MPL's support of the Read Woke philosophy. As a Black man he wanted better representation of conservative North American Black voices within the campaign	None		We informed the patron that the Read Woke campaign was just one aspect of service provision from a public library that seeks to represent all viewpoints and pointed him to the collection of materials that MPL houses, written by and expressing a conservative perspective from Black North American voices/ authors.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	ON
Reading with Royalty	LGBTQIA2 S+ and please specify, Program facilitator s in drag	We received numerous complaints, in writing, from several individuals in the community	Members of the public objected to the library offering a Reading with Royalty Storytime facilitated by drag performers (in partnership with Calgary Pride and Calgary Queer Arts Society). The Library Board received four written challenges in March 2020 and heard from a member of the public at the Board meeting in June. Another written challenge was submitted to the Library Board after the event in October.	None		The Library Board received all challenges as information. The program took place in September as opposed to the initial planned date in May due to the pandemic. Over forty members of the public attended the physically distanced, outdoors event.	The status prior to the complaint was not changed	AB