



2022 CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Challenges Survey – Data

(All incidents occurred in public libraries)

Books

Titles and Authors	Challenge category	Complainant	Incident Description	Social Media?	URL	Proposed action	Library response	Outcome	P/T
A New Hope and The Family Fathering by Robyn Carr	Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that the recording has many sexual scenes and should have an age restriction or be removed from the library.	None		Label or Remove	Library will retain A New Hope and The Family Gathering in the adult fiction collection, without a warning label about its content.	No Change to status	AB
Abolition of Sex: How the “Transgender” Agenda Harms Women and Girls” by Kara Dansky.	Gender Critical Viewpoint	Other	A patron saw the book on the shelving for new non-fiction for adults and complained. They explained that they were transgender and did not want to see the book on the display as they found it harmful.	None		Other	The patron talked to a manager about their complaint. The manager removed the book from the new non-fiction adult display section and asked staff to interfile it in the stacks and not put it on the display again.	Action proposed taken	BC
Animal, Vegetable, Junk from Sustainable to Suicidal by Mark Bittmann	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that this book is more opinion based rather than a well-researched study. Seems to ignore alternate views/interpretations.	None		Remove	The book will remain in Library's collection because the book is journalistic, non-fiction and therefore rigorous citation for every statement is not expected and the occasional digression is an accepted element of this style.	No Change to status	AB
Annie and Simon by	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	This book teaches irresponsible dog ownership and should be	None		Remove	Library will retain this title in our collection. EPL does not add content	No Change to status	AB

Catherine O'Neill			removed from circulation or have explanatory notes added.				notes or labels to materials other than for shelving purposes.		
Anthology: stories, poems and articles for children and youth / Jorge Luis Serrano	Creator of Work	Adult on own behalf	Request to remove all books by Jorge Serrano. Customer complained that the author was abusive and that the books were a reminder of trauma	None		Remove	Manager of Collections contacted the complainant to explain why the books would not be removed from the collection.	No Change to status	ON
Asha's Moms, by Rosamund Elwin	Outdated	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Title is outdated. Felt it would have been hurtful for her daughter (who is part of a 2 Mother family) to read.	None		Remove	Item remains in collection	No Change to status	BC
Assassination classroom, tome 1 by Yusei Matsui	Inappropriate for Age, Violence	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	About Classroom Assassination. Madame finds the content too violent and shocking. Her 9-year-old borrowed it. She would like us to add an explicit mention of violent content. Objection was made in conversation; no written complaint was made.			Label	Children's manga have been separated from teen and adult manga to reduce contact.	Alternative action taken	QC
Asterix the Gladiator by, Rene Goscinny	Racism	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The anti-African /anti black caricature of the character Masureur. Book could cause - Misperception that	None		Remove	Item was not reclassified and remains in collection.	No Change to status	BC

			anti-African/ anti-Black stereotype is normal, acceptable and an accurate description of people of African descent/Black people and or concluding that the Vancouver Public Library condones misrepresenting African/Black people. It is now shelved with the other Asterix books, and I have not noticed these degrading images being proportionately applied to everyone's ancestry.						
Babysitter by Joyce Carol Oates	Profanity, Violence, Quality of Content	Adult on own behalf	Patron stated verbally to staff that the book is about psychopaths and is horrible and that "someone" at the library needs to read it and take it off the shelf.	None			Branch manager followed up with patron, no formal request to remove. No further action.	No Change to status	BC
C is for Country by Lil Nas X	Sexually Explicit, Creator of Work, Religion, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Patron wanted book C is for Country to be removed from library. Admits that they have not read the book, but are concerned that the author, Lil Nas X, has made a music video dancing on Satan's lap and sold Satan Shoes. Doesn't think children	None		Remove	We elected not to remove the book from circulation or change its classification. The book itself does not contain any of the material that the complainant objected to and is a suitable picture book for young children.	No Change to status	ON

			should know about author.						
Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator by Roald Dahl.	Racism	Adult on own behalf	The parent was concerned about the section regarding the US president trying to call the Chinese premier.	None			We left it as is on the shelves	No Change to status	ON
Course Poursuite au Studio de Cinema by Herve Eparvier	Cultural Appropriation, not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, Racism	Adult on own behalf	On pages 20-21, there are stereotypical images of indigenous people as well as misrepresentation of items indigenous people may or may not use (including images on a teepee).			Remove	Retaining book in collection. -image is of a movie set. The actors have various skin tones and appear that they could perhaps be Indigenous themselves—it is less clearly a case of “playing Indian” -Err on side of retaining material for older children who can understand context around such images	No Change to status	ON
Desire Lines: Stories of Love and Geography by Mary Soderstrom	Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Concerned the cover is openly displaying pornography.	None		Other	Library will retain Desire Lines: Stories of Love and Geography in the adult fiction collection.	No Change to status	AB
Diagrams for social dancing I and II: (big band era) / by Jorge Serrano	Creator of Work	Adult on own behalf	Request to remove all books by Jorge Serrano. Customer complained that the author was abusive and that the books were a reminder of trauma	None		Remove	Manager of Collections contacted the complainant to explain why the books would not be removed from the collection.	No Change to status	ON
Drole de papa by Bruno St-Aubin	Cultural Appropriation, not in spirit of	Adult on own behalf	Two children and their father are seen dressed up as "cowboys and	None		Remove	Agree that images like these, aimed at preschoolers, are inappropriate for our collection	Action proposed taken	ON

	Truth & Reconciliation		indians" and playing under a tablecloth/tent						
Fancy Nancy and the Dazzling Book Report by Jane O'Connor	Inaccurate Information, not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation	Adult on own behalf	Refers to indigenous people as "Indians" -Works against efforts for repairing and reconciling our relationships with Indigenous people -says she was princess who helped the explorers. - sold to the explorers, impregnated, made to marry one of them at the age of 12. She was a slave.			Remove	retained in collection	No Change to status	ON
Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon by Kate DiCamillo	Ableism	Adult on own behalf	Concern over use of term "nut job" in book as attack on people with mental illness.			Remove	-Retained -Kate DiCamillo is celebrated American author, two-time winner of the Newbery Award -This book, aimed at children aged 6-9, was well reviewed upon release - the language you identified is offensive, it is ultimately a very small part of the book, and not integral to the work as a whole.	No Change to status	ON
Fred Gets Dressed by Peter Brown	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Customer concerned that the book "grooms" children to cross dress and implies that it's ok to dress as a girl. Requested the book be removed.			Remove	Upon receipt of your request to reconsider the title, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) convened a Review Panel. VIRL convened a review panel of staff, concluding that the book be retained. A formal letter was sent to the customer indicating that title falls within library's	No Change to status	BC

							Collections Development Policy in terms of developing collections to "represent as many viewpoints as possible." VIRL also indicated that we draw on many trusted review sources such as the School Library Journal and Publishers Weekly when deciding on new titles. This title was described as a story of acceptance and family love. Library also advised the customer that the decision aligns with our commitment to the CFLA statement on intellectual freedom.		
Gender Queer: A Memoir, by Maia Kobabe	Nonbinary/ asexual, Sexually Explicit, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	Library patron submitted a challenge to the graphic novel "Gender Queer: A Memoir," by Maia Kobabe, claiming that the book's depictions of sexuality violate the Canadian Criminal Code's sections covering "Invitation to Sexual Touching" (s. 152) and "Distribution of Child Pornography" (s. 163.1). Patron recommends "destroy[ing] the book."	None		Remove	Request for Remove of book was refused.	No Change to status	BC
Genre Queer. Maia Kobabe	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	In conversation with staff the complainant claimed that the book contained pornography. No written complaint was made.			Remove	We sent him a file concerning this book so that he understood that it was not about child pornography. We invited him to complete our dispute form, which he chose not to do.	No Change to status	QC

Heartstopper Vol. 1 by Alice Oseman	LGBTQIA2S+, stereotyping young boys as gay, Profanity, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	A grandmother allowed her granddaughter to check out material from our YA section. She then complained about the material and thought it was inappropriate.	None		Remove	Following our reconsideration policy, the CEO reviewed the material including collecting formal reviews of the book, discussing with our Children and Youth Librarian, and reading the title. It was decided to keep the title in the YA section but move the YA section, so it is not adjacent to the children's area.	No Change to status	ON
Hitler's Table Talk by Martin Bormann	Political view, Promotes Hatred, Racism	Adult on own behalf	Questioning the pub house's appropriateness because of suspected racists leanings. Suggested we use a different pub house for the titles			Remove	Due to condition and low circulation, we will be removing copies from collection. Other editions are available through SmartLibrary partners.	Action proposed taken	ON
How to Be Champion: My Autobiography by Sarah Millican	Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that the book as children discussing and performing sexual acts.	None		Label	The inclusion of this book in the adult non-fiction collection lets customers know that the content is intended for a mature audience, for this reason EPL will not affix a warning label to this book.	No Change to status	AB
IA -- izranennaia zemlia by Dolgareva, Anna. Prilepin, Zakhar.	Political view, Promotes Hatred	Adult on own behalf	Propaganda poetry dedicated to the so-called "Russian Spring", Ukraine is called "the own land of Russian people". Zakhar Prilepin is an infamous propagandist. Book violates the right of Ukrainians for their land and their dignity and			Remove	We don't believe the content qualifies as hate under the criminal code in Canada Acknowledge the lean towards nationalistic fervor and strong propaganda. Statement on Intellectual Freedom. The presence of material does not indicate an endorsement of its content. Not every book is right for every reader.	No Change to status	ON

			violates the Canadian policy that condemns aggression against nations and xenophobia.						
If I Ran the Zoo by Dr. Seuss	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Racist implications in both words and pictures (e.g., people "who wear their eyes at a slant" and capturing humans to keep in the zoo).			Remove	-Publisher cut the title in March 2021 due to racism as a result we moved it from JEPIC to AENF -Importance of Intellectual Freedom	No Change to status	ON
If you're a drag queen and you know it. Lil Miss Hot Mess	LGBTQIA2S+, Sexually Explicit, Book not appropriate for under 18	Adult on own behalf	The patron did not think that the title was appropriate for anyone under age 18. They specifically pointed out the line and accompanying illustrations for "If you're a drag queen and you know it shake your bum." The patron left the branch. Then returned and took a photo of the book before leaving again.	None		Re-classify	Item remains in Children's collection.	No Change to status	BC
It's Perfectly Normal by Robie H. Harris	Inappropriate for Age, Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Requesting "It's Perfectly Normal" by Robie H. Harris removed due to inappropriate content for children. Book is too explicit for children aged 10. It is presenting sexual material which causes desensitization	None		Remove	Item was reviewed by the Collections and Support Services Librarian including re-reading the material, literature review, and examination of holdings at other libraries. It was determined that the book would remain in the collection.	No Change to status	ON

			and allows grooming of children.						
It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris	Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Complaint was the book is sexually explicit, pornographic, and violated the criminal code. Claim is that it should be removed due to content that promotes child sexual grooming and should not be available to the public. The complainant filed similar complaints against other children's materials.	Facebook, Instagram	https://www.bc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-29/clip/15944215	Re-classify	The book was evaluated and moved to a more mature section (Young Adult non-fiction) but remains in the collection. There are on-going activities against this book (and other materials) by a delegation.	Action proposed taken	MN
Josiane Sterlczyk, Privés de télé! Bayard jeunesse	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The patron found the content inappropriate for young children because characters who are deprived of TV as a punishment say they will kill their father in revenge.			Label	The book has been kept in the picture book section and a tag has been placed on the book: "This book may require adult guidance."	No Change to status	QC
Just Me and My Little Brother by Mercer Mayer	Cultural Appropriation, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that the book appropriates Indigenous costume and the action of one character shooting another in the same illustration.	None		Remove	Library will be maintaining this title within our collections as this title was originally published in 1991 and children's books were not scrutinized in terms of diverse representation as is expected in 2022.	No Change to status	AB
Kak Rus' stala Sverkh-Derzhavoi by	Political view, Promotes Hatred	Adult on own behalf	Russian imperialist propaganda. The author supports			Remove	We don't believe the content qualifies as hate under the criminal code in Canada	No Change to status	ON

Shliakhtorov, A. G.			Russia's "natural right" to expand its territory and control other nations Promotes the idea that Russia only expanded to the benefit of the people subdued by that expansion. This book promotes ideas of ethnic superiority, hatred, and genocide.				Acknowledge the lean towards nationalistic fervor and strong propaganda. Statement on Intellectual Freedom. The presence of material does not indicate an endorsement of its content. Not every book is right for every reader.		
Ladybug Girl by David Soman and Jacky Davis	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that the book perpetuates racism by displaying cultural appropriation towards Indigenous people.	None		Remove	In 2015, the publisher of Ladybug Girl, Penguin Random House, released a new edition of the title that excludes this image and EPL plans to replace the current copies with the new edition.	Alternative action taken	AB
Let's Talk About It: The Teen's Guide to Sex, Relationships, and Being a Human by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan (2021)	Inappropriate for Age, Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Received Request for Reconsideration for teen non-fiction graphic novel: "The graphics are 18+....There are drawings of sexual activity and nudity."	None		Re-classify	Decision of Collection Advisory Group - title to remain in teen non-fiction graphic novel collection: "Let's Talk About It has been written expressly for teens. The library's teen graphic novels are identifiable by two labels on the spine: a red stripe and a graphic novel image. The book has been assigned a '306.7' call number ('sexual relations'), and its title clearly indicates what topics will be addressed inside its pages: 'sex, relationships, and being a human.' While not all teens will be interested in reading it, some will."	No Change to status	BC

Long Live Princess Smartypants by Babette Cole	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Customer identified a children's book as having racist content and asked that it and other works by the author be removed from the collection.	None		Remove	The book was kept in the collection.	No Change to status	SK
Ma soeur veut un zizi by Fabrice Boulanger	Quality of Writing	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The person judged that the contents of the book used vague terms to describe the genitals of the little boy. This father who is also a teacher, considered that it was not educational. This is a complaint made during an informal discussion with staff (no formal written complaint).	None		Remove	In the context of annual pruning, we have decided to withdraw this document from our collection after its analysis. Here are the arguments that led us to make this decision. - the year of publication (2012) - sexist remarks - the remark goes against the values of consent	Action proposed taken	QC
Marlène grignote tout le temps by Dominique De Saint Mars	Other	School teacher	A teacher asked us to withdraw the book "Marlène nibbles all the time" because it is about fattening up and not looking good anymore.	Nona		Remove	We have removed the book "Marlene nibbles all the time" from the collection.	Action proposed taken	QC
Mashima hero's by Hiro Mashima	Inappropriate for Age, Quality of Content	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The father said that this manga seemed inappropriate for children. He questioned the way in which the notion of sexual consent is treated in this book. He asked us to review. It	None		Re-classify	Pending, as I have not yet been able to get my hands on the document to evaluate it.	No formal resolution	QC

			is also youth rated elsewhere in the network.						
Migrants by Issa Watanabe	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	-It's dark and creepy. -The main character is a creepy skeleton. -A bunny character dies, drowned, trying to escape their home forest land. -this should be a special picture book.			Re-classify	Retained in Juvenile picture book.	No Change to status	ON
Minnie and Moo: Will You Be My Valentine? by Denys Cazet (2003)	Racism	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Request for reconsideration of children's reader in the collection: "The turkeys shout 'Indians' as a result of being shot with an arrow."	None		Remove	Decision: to retain the book in the children's fiction (reader) collection	No Change to status	BC
My Body is Growing by Dagmar Geisler	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Pornographic material and is inappropriate for children and should be removed from EPL's collection.	None		Remove	Library will retain My Body is Growing in the collection.	No Change to status	AB
My Body is Growing by Dagmar Geisler	Inappropriate for Age, Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Concern submitted via email to the library board, looked to be a form letter mostly addressed to establishments that sell books. Patron complained that a book is "soft porn for kids."	None		Remove	We do not carry a copy of the title. Emailed the sender of the letter and no reply was received. No action taken.	No Change to status	BC

<p>My Moms Love Me by Anna Membrino</p>	<p>Gay parents, LGBTQIA2S+</p>	<p>Adult on own behalf</p>	<p>Book was inappropriately placed to draw attention to it. The title is somewhat deceptive and on a quick glance was taken to read "My Mom Loves Me". Every child has the right to a mother and a father. Many psychological studies have shown that both male and female parents are necessary for the proper development of a child.</p>			<p>Remove</p>	<p>Positive literary reviews. Included in collection at Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary Public Libraries. Book represents families in our community in age-appropriate way. Customer demand for the title.</p>	<p>No Change to status</p>	<p>ON</p>
<p>My Nana and Me by Irene Smalls (Little, Brown and Company, 2005)</p>	<p>Not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation</p>	<p>Adult on own behalf</p>	<p>A customer returned a children's picture book with the following comment: "It is a beautiful book but sadly uses the word Eskimo in reference to Kunik which is a way of showing deep love by the Inuit people. Eskimo is a colonial name given to the people of the north. In the name of truth and reconciliation I feel that reading/hearing this word used perpetuates its use. Thank you for your time and consideration."</p>			<p>Remove</p>	<p>We assessed the pages the customer referenced and yes, the phrase "Eskimo kiss" is used in the book. The word "Eskimo" is outdated and considered offensive and racist. Also, due to its age and low circulation (it's in a Mother's Day collection, so is only on the floor during that time [although it is available year-round, but by request simply for space reasons]), we discarded the title (we had just the one copy). We have many other Mother's Day titles that are more current and relevant.</p>	<p>Action proposed taken</p>	<p>ON</p>

Our Skin: a first conversation about race by Megan Madison	Racism, Inaccurate Information, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	A patron emailed the Library Hotline to complain that a children's book was racist and included misinformation. He requested that it be removed or given a warning label. We hold the book in Board Book and Picture book formats.	Email		Remove	Upon reviewing the book, we decided that it should be kept in the collection, however it belongs in Children's non-fiction, not in the board book/picture book collection. The book was re-classified.	Alternative action taken	AB
Out North: An Archive of Queer Activism and Kindship in Canada by Craig Jennex and Nisha Eswaran	Transgender people, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	A patron emailed our Library Hotline to ask that two books be pulled from the library's collection (I will submit a survey response for both titles) on the basis that they are outdated, transphobic.	Email		Remove	We reviewed the books and decided to keep them in the collection. The patron did not respond to a request for a phone call.	No Change to status	AB
Passages of time: stories and poems / Jorge Luis Serrano	Creator of Work	Adult on own behalf	Request to remove all books by Jorge Serrano. Customer complained that the author was abusive and that the books were a reminder of trauma	None		Remove	Manager of Collections contacted the complainant to explain why the books would not be removed from the collection.	No Change to status	ON
Petit Poilu Les sauveurs d'outoupouss e by Pierre Bailly	Cultural Appropriation, not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, Racism	Adult on own behalf	-Dated / inappropriate indigenous content on every page - racial stereotyping			Remove	Retain in the collection	No Change to status	ON

Princess Princess by Katie O'Neill	Title shows same sex relationship, sexually explicit\, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Patron felt title was too advanced for 5-year-old and shouldn't expose children to same-sex relationships because 5-year-olds shouldn't be taught about sex between two women.	None		Other	Item remains in collection and in the same classification	No formal resolution	BC
Sarah J. Maas, Un palais de flammes d'argent	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The patron disputes the fact that volume 5 of the series is classified in the section of novels for teenagers when there are several scenes of explicit sexuality, inappropriate for teenagers.			Re-classify	Volume 5 has been reclassified to the adult novels section	Action proposed taken	QC
Série "Bride Stories" de Kaoru Mori	Sexually Explicit	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	Illustration (manga) of a bare breast that the parent deemed inappropriate for their child. Objection made in conversation; no written complaint was made.			Re-classify	The series had been classified in the youth section. It was later moved to the Adult Manga section (we don't have a Teen manga section).	Action proposed taken	QC
Sword and Scimitar by Raymond Ibrahim	Political view, Promotes Hatred, Racism	Adult on own behalf	Quoting parts of Islam that directly used statements from the Quran that stated violent rhetoric. Used the word "dreaded camel". The author even said			Remove	Author is a scholar of the M.E. and Islam and a member of organizations that aim to defend the values of the United States against Middle Eastern threats. Ibrahim's unapologetic portrayal of Islamic history as one of an ongoing jihad against Christians described in	No Change to status	ON

			that Islamophobia does not exist Author described Arabs as being unruly animal like beast. Offensive Promotes Islamophobia.				reviews as 'highly controversial', will make some readers uncomfortable. Reviewers recommended this book for community and academic libraries. Ibrahim clearly states he has his biases. Suggestion to purchase from a community member, conforms to our Material Selection Policy. Importance of Intellectual Freedom. The presence of material does not indicate an endorsement of its content.		
The Big Autism Cover-Up by Anne Dachel	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	Remove from circulation because of inaccurate information that vaccinations are the direct cause of autism.	None		Remove	Library's internal retention guidelines for health-related materials are to retain titles that have been published within the last 5 years. This title was written in 2014 and missed by the internal processes for this reason the library will be discarding all copies in the collection.	Action proposed taken	AB
The Big Bath House by Kyo Maclear and Gracey Zhang	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Concerned about the pictures of naked women and children in a children's picture book and should not be included with the picture book collection.	None		Re-classify	All reviews consulted by the Librarian responsible for this collection indicated the book as appropriate for ages 3 and up and because of this the book will continue to be shelved with the picture book collection.	No Change to status	AB
The Big Book of Girl Stuff by Bart King (rev. ed. 2014)	Inappropriate for Age	Adult on own behalf	Received Request for Reconsideration for children's non-fiction book: book encourages "body image issues and	None		Remove	Decision of Collection Advisory Group - title to remain in children's non-fiction collection.	No Change to status	BC

<p>"The Big Book of Girl Stuff is recommended for readers aged eight to twelve by the publisher. The author consulted with pre-teen girls to develop the topics addressed in the book. While the tone is playful and even flippant at times, the core content is educational but not prescriptive, providing information on a variety of topics girls encounter in their day-to-day lives and that some may be interested to</p>			<p>possible disorders," and "contributes to negative and damaging connotation as to what being a girl is. It's stereotypical and restricting."</p>						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

know more about."									
The Boy's Book of Adventure by Michele Lecreux with Celia Gallais and Clemence Roux de Luze	Not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, Racism	Adult on own behalf	A book was returned in one of our drop boxes with a note, asking the library to "Please review this book as the illustrations are questionable/racist. Ex: p. 64-67."	None		Remove	The book was assessed, and the images on pages 62-67 were considered outdated and inappropriate (the section is called "The Native American Way"). As the book is older (2013; most of our NF is weeded if it's more than 5-10 years old, depending on the content and relevance), it was decided to remove the title from the collection. We checked other libraries, and we were one of the few to still have it. The book had circulated well for us, which is likely why it wasn't weeded earlier. We had two copies in the collection, and they were removed.	Action proposed taken	ON
The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (2021)	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	Received Request for Reconsideration for adult non-fiction book: "This book is explicitly about spreading COVID-19 misinformation."	None		Remove	Decision of Collection Advisory Group - title to remain in the adult non-fiction collection: "The collection is developed to present as many points of view as possible within the constraints of budget, space, and availability of resources. The presence of an item in the collection does not constitute endorsement of its contents by the library. The Real Anthony Fauci was purchased for the collection in response to patron requests."	No Change to status	BC
The Small Black Knife by Pamela Hill	Sexually Explicit,	Adult on own behalf	The patron borrowed a book which had a rape scene that they did not	None		Remove	The patron did not return the book and it has not been re-ordered.	Book destroyed by patron	NS

	Quality of Content		approve of. They described the book as a "petty piece of dated literature". The patron admitted to destroying the book and paid for its replacement cost.						
The Travels of Babar by Jean de Brunhoff	Racism	Adult on own behalf	A parent pointed out racist drawings and language in The Travels of Babar by Jean de Brunhoff that they felt perpetuate stereotypes about Indigenous/Black peoples.	None		Remove	The book was retained in the picture book section. The illustrations and language pointed out by the patron are undeniably racist, but the book still has merit and is in steady demand by our patrons.	No Change to status	BC
There is No Difference by Peter Best	Not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, Racism	Adult on own behalf	Patron emailed the library to suggest we review the title in case it contained racist ideas.	None		Remove	A Librarian reviewed the book and concluded that it had a place in the collection. The patron was contacted with an offer to have a conversation. The patron did not respond.	No Change to status	AB
There is No Difference by Peter Best.	Racism, not in spirit of Not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation	Adult on own behalf	A patron filled out the library's online 'contact us' form to express concern that a book in the collection could potentially perpetuate racist views about Indigenous people.	None		Remove	A staff member reviewed the book and contacted the patron to discuss. The patron did not respond.	No Change to status	AB
They Call Me a Lioness by Ahed Tamini and Dena Takruri	Political view	Adult on own behalf	Patron complained that this book represented only one point of view, that it was pro-Palestinian, and it did	None		Remove	We did not remove the material from the collection.	No Change to status	BC

			not represent a complex political situation in a more even-handed manner.						
This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson	Transgender people, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	A patron emailed our Library Hotline to ask that two books be pulled from the library's collection (I will submit a survey response for both titles) on the basis that they are outdated, transphobic.	Email		Remove	We reviewed both books and determined that they would be kept in the collection. The patron did not respond to requests for a phone conversation.	No Change to status	AB
Tintin au Congo by Hergé	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Offensive depiction of black people. Questionable depictions of Indigenous people. Little distinguishing black people from the monkeys Tintin hunts down.			Remove	Written in the 1930's, revised and coloured in the 1940's, and reflect Belgian attitudes of the time. Leading expert on Tintin, Michael Farr reviews this title as having aged very poorly and would not stand the test of time on its own. Characterizations, along with the highly stereotypical images, are undeniably racist. We have examined this title several times since 2002. Moved to adult collection in 2021, significant as a part of the Tintin series, a classic of European bandes dessinées. Customer Demand very strong. Present at other major Canadian Libraries. Canadian Federation of Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom Every book is not right for every	No Change to status	ON

							reader; everyone retains the right to make that choice for him or herself.		
Tintin au Congo by Hergé	Racism	Adult on own behalf	Racist depictions of Black people and Africans - colouring their skin coal black. Exaggeratedly thick, red lips. Characterizing them as unintelligent and unevolved. Presents Tintin as a white saviour who can colonize and civilize Africans. Tintin refers to Black people as "Negroes" throughout the book.			Remove	We have examined this title several times since 2002. Moved to adult collection in 2021, significant as a part of the Tintin series, a classic of European bandes dessinées. Customer Demand very strong. Public demand important selection criteria. Written in the 1930's, revised and coloured in the 1940's, and reflect Belgian attitudes of the time. Leading expert on Tintin, Michael Farr reviews this title as having aged very poorly and would not stand the test of time on its own. Characterizations, along with the highly stereotypical images, are undeniably racist. Present at other major Canadian Libraries. Canadian Federation of Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom Every book is not right for every reader; everyone retains the right to make that choice for him or herself.	No Change to status	ON
Tintin en Amérique by Hergé	Not in spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, Cultural Appropriation, Racism	Adult on own behalf	Racist and stereotypical imagery. Indigenous man is wearing stereotypical dress and villainized. Indigenous peoples are referred to as "Indians,"			Remove	We have examined this title several times since 2002. Moved to adult collection in 2021, significant as a part of the Tintin series, a classic of European bandes dessinées. Customer Demand very strong. Public demand important selection	No Change to status	ON

The Flood written and directed by Victoria Wharfe McIntyre (2021)	Sexually Explicit, Violence	Adult on own behalf	Request for reconsideration of unrated feature film in adult collection: graphic sexual violence	None		Label	Decision: retain in adult film collection; add 521/"general content warning" to catalogue record ("Not rated. Contains sexual violence") based on Australian Classification Branch "MA 15+" rating upon theatrical release, as per cataloguing procedure	No Change to status	BC
The Greater Good	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	Request for review due to disinformation with regards to vaccination. Anti-vax messaging			Remove	Withdrawn, eligible to be weeded as nonfiction health DVDs older than 3 years	Action proposed taken	ON
Liberté by Albert Serra	Sexually Explicit	Adult on own behalf	Concerned that it contains pornographic content.	None		Remove	Library will maintain Liberté in our collections and will not affix a warning label to this film.	No Change to status	AB
Bone Tomahawk by S Craig Zahler	Cultural Appropriation	Adult on own behalf	Remove from library's collection because of racial stereotyping of Indigenous peoples.	None		Remove	Library will maintain Bone Tomahawk within our collections	No Change to status	AB
Library Services									
Service									
Read Woke Program	Political view	Adult on own behalf	A Library Board member, who is also a City Councillor, received a complaint via email concerning the Library's Read Woke Reading Program. The patron found the Woke message from the library to be "very upsetting and	None		Other	The patron made a delegation to the Library Board on February 8th, 2022 and stated her concerns to the Library Board. The Board choose not to take any actions on the patron's comments and the program continued unchanged.	No Change to status	ON

			rather racist", as the library was promoting indigenous, black, Asian, LGBTQ2S+, diverse able and women, and the had neglected "European" books. "I am tired of being of being [sic] sidelined as if the contribution and value added to this country by my family do not count", she wrote. "The funding for many of the initiatives that support groups that are less fortunate come from the majority who work hard and pay taxes so that others can have a better life." A response from the Library CEO was made concerning the Library's Read Woke Program, and the patron was invited to make a delegation to the Library Board at the next meeting (Feb 8, 2022), which she accepted.						
Display	Display of pride flag, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	Patron was - disappointed to see a large LGBT (etc.) flag prominently displayed on the wall in full view. It seems inappropriate and	None		Cancel the event	No action taken; flag remained up.	No formal resolution	BC

			unfair to me that that particular segment of society is getting some kind of "most favoured" status by the library. Isn't it enough that the entire MONTH of June is dedicated to LGBT (etc.)?						
Display	Display knocked over, LGBTQIA2S+	Other	The displayed books and book lists were knocked on to the floor. (Teen display)	None		Other	Display was put back up.	No formal resolution	BC
Display	Material in display not suitable for under 18, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	The patron believed that the display and materials were not appropriate for anyone under 18. They took a photo of the display before leaving the Branch.	None		Other	No specific action taken	No formal resolution	BC
Language Policy	Langue du matériel	Adult on own behalf	A digital resource provided by a French partner offers material in French only. Following a request to find out why there is no material in English from a user of the Libraries of Montreal, an unsatisfactory response was sent from the partner. The user wants to know the official position of the Montreal Libraries regarding a service	None		Cancel the event	We offered books on the subject in English to compensate for the missing online courses.	Alternative action taken	QC

			offered only in French to newcomers.						
Drag Queen story hour	Drag Queen Storytime, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	An unknown male patron phoned the library to complain that the Drag Story Time scheduled for June was inappropriate and sexualizing children. The caller was loud, very angry and swore during the telephone call, forcing the library manager to end the call. During the call, the patron threatened to picket the event.	None		Cancel the event	Proceeded with Drag Queen and King Storytime as part of the Library's Pride Month celebrations. Police were made aware of the possibility of picketing at the library. The event was moved inside the library to enable better protection of the participants in case of picketing. It was a successful event with 40-50 attending without incident.	No Change to status	ON
Drag Queen story hour	Drag Queen Storytime events, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	The library hosted Drag Queen Storytime events (scheduled and held without incident on June 25), organized by the local Pride group as part of Pride month celebrations. A Facebook post advertising the events, posted on June 14, was targeted (in a seemingly coordinated effort) by three commenters who posted negative and homophobic comments; none of the commenters are known library patrons or community members.	Facebook		Cancel the event	As the comments were in contravention of the Library's Technology/Social Media Policy which states: '...the Library CEO or designate will remove postings from external contributors to the library's social media channels when the content of the posting is considered malicious or destructive rather than a constructive contribution to a conversation,' the comments were deleted. The Facebook post (as well as prior and future posts advertising the event) remained on the site. The events were held without incident.	No Change to status	ON

Story Hour	LGBTQIA2S+, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	SCL offered two 30-minute Rainbow Reading Storytimes about 2SLGBTQ+ allyship followed by a child-friendly discussion and fun activity. A presentation was made encouraging Strathcona County Council to provide direction to the Library Board to write a "policy by no later than September 2022, that clearly identifies the fact that it is not the library's job to attempt to teach or provide programming that opens-up or promotes any biased dialogue on any topic that could create confusion pertaining to gender identity, fluidity or sexuality among children and students under the age of 18 years." Instead, Council supports the Library Board and the 2SLGBTQ+ community in a 35-minute counter presentation.	Email, Twitter, Instagram	https://www.sherwoodparknews.com/news/local-news/bigoted-plea-prompts-council-to-reaffirm-diversity-and-inclusion-policy , https://www.sherwoodparknews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-friday-july-8	Other	The presenter provided a copy of his concerns to the Council in order to make the presentation to the Priorities Committee of Strathcona County Council (and had provided that copy the day before to CEO of the Library (and declined to make the presentation to the Library Board on June 20 (despite being a former library board member because he was a former County Councillor). Council chose to address the presentation. I said above that a formal written complaint wasn't filed with the library because the challenge went directly to Council. Council supported the independence of the Library Board, intellectual freedom, and expressed strong support for the 2SLGBTQ community. See link to media report above.	No Change to status	AB
Harry Potter reading week	Transphobia, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	The complaint seeks to have a week of activities in tribute to the Harry	Email		Cancel the event	The event was held, and the complainant agreed to a meeting	No Change to status	QC

			Potter books canceled, claiming that author J.K. Rowling's remarks are harmful to trans people.				with management to increase the institution's awareness of his cause.		
Drag Queen Storytime	LGBTQIA2S+, Inappropriate for Age	Adult on behalf of child/children (incl. parents)	The library hosted a Drag Queen Storytime during Pride Month. There were objections from members of the public, both through email and social media. In total, there were 3 written complaints via email and several social media interactions, primarily through Twitter. The complainants vocalized concerns that ranged from opposition to exposing children to a certain "lifestyle", taking away their innocence, to assertions that the library was engaging in immoral behaviour and putting children at risk.	Email, Twitter, Facebook		Cancel the event	The library did not cancel the Drag Queen Storytime and proceeded with the event as scheduled.	No Change to status	ON
Drag Queen Story Hour	Drag Queen Storytime, LGBTQIA2S+	Other	We held two Drag Queen Story Times and an Afterhours Drag event fundraiser on June 11, 2022. The entire thing from May 13, 2022 when we put out a press release until July 19th when the Globe and Mail	Email, Twitter, Facebook	https://www.sismcoe.com/news-story/10628151--drag-queen-st	Other	We stood firm and did not tolerate homophobia.	Similar events will be held in the future	ON

			featured an editorial about it was fraught.		ory-tim e-an-o pportu nity-to talk-ab out-div ersity-a nd-emp athy-ori llia-libr ary-ceo , https:// www.ori lliamat ters.co m/local -news/l ibrary-fi elds-pr ofanity- hatred- for-hos ting-dr ag-que en-eve nt-545 5945, https:// www.c bc.ca/li sten/liv e-radio /1-112- ontario				
--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

					-morn ng-fro m-cbc-r adio/cli p/1591 8254-ju ne-10- 2022-d rag-qu een-sto rytime- orillia-p ublic, https:// www.or illiamat ters.co m/local -news/ popular -drag-q ueen-st ory-tim e-sasha ys-into- orillia-li brary-5 468681				
Drag Queen Story Hour	Drag Queens, Inappropriate for Age, LGBTQIA2S+,	Adult on behalf of child/childre n (incl. parents)	The library partnered with a new community partner, Word Vancouver (well-established in Vancouver, new in Surrey) to present 2 days of author readings as	Twitter, Faceboo k			No in-person drag performers, no program disruption, so nothing further to report	No formal resolution	BC

			<p>part of a larger festival. One of the sessions was going to be featuring drag queen performers. The library was aware that recent similar local events have experienced hate-based disruptions, so a comprehensive and unprecedented security plan was developed by the library in anticipation of program disruption. Word Vancouver noted that someone with a significant social media following (Billboard Chris) had noted the upcoming event at the library and he was encouraging his followers to show up in-person to engage in hate-based disruption of this event. In consultation with the drag performers, Word Vancouver decided to move this event online. There was no disruption at this event on the day.</p>						
Display	Objected to addition to pride flag and prominence of	Adult on own behalf	Patron comment: The pride flag used to have six colours. Now there's black and brown and a circle. What's the	None			Staff took no further action	No formal resolution	BC

	the flag LGBTQIA2S+		circle for?" There should be so many colours and a circle. They would be including animals on [the pride flag] next. Society was "indoctrinating children", and people shouldn't talk about being homosexual. It used to be that people would keep the information "personal," that "what people do in their own homes is their own business," and that he didn't think it was "right." He then went on to say that he was a member of Toastmasters and "those people" are going to want their own Toastmasters.						
Display	Labels removed from display, LGBTQIA2S+	Other	Staff noticed that parts of the Adult Summer Reading Challenge were repeatedly removed. First a sticker saying "pride," and then another one saying "people with disabilities" that featured a rainbow-coloured umbrella. When the stickers were replaced the pride one was later	None		Other	Staff replaced labels.	No formal resolution	BC

			found to have been removed again.						
Display	Vandalism to display, LGBTQIA2S+	Other	Display was subject to repeated vandalism. First the sign saying "Pride" was removed, then its replacement. After the display signs were modified to be harder to tamper with, one of the books on display was removed and vandalized. The book ("Pride: Celebrating diversity & community" by Robin Stevenson) was later found in the stacks with many pages torn from it.	None		Other	Staff reordered vandalized material.	No formal resolution	BC
Display	Objected to Pride flag, LGBTQIA2S+	Adult on own behalf	Patron complained the Pride Flag was a hate symbol of pedophilia			Other	Flag remained on display	No formal resolution	BC
Display	Racism, Hate Crime, Vandalism	Other	A member of staff reports: On Saturday, February 26 I saw that a picture book on the Black History Month display was damaged. The front cover of the picture book had been sliced multiple times, resulting in a piece of the illustrated character's face being cut	None			Though we searched on our video cameras we could not find the perpetrator for the book defacements.	No formal resolution	BC

			<p>out. While taking down the display on March 1, I inspected the rest of the books on the Black History Month display and found one other Juvenile Fiction book that had been damaged in the same way.</p> <p>Also reported around the same time, a damaged magazine was found, featuring a black celebrity. The cover was ripped, not cut, so it was unclear if this is related.</p>						
Display	Vandalism of Pride display, LGBTQIA2S+	Other		None			Staff put the books back on the display.	No formal resolution	BC
Display	Vandalism of poster, LGBTQIA2S+	Other	A poster for the parks board 2STGD swim and gym program was defaced with large x's and the word homosexuals.	None		Other	Vandalized poster needed to be removed.	No formal resolution	BC
Collection Policy (Public/School Library)	Inappropriate for Age, Sexually Explicit	School Teacher	It was not a specific document but the section containing children's books on sex education. And there were also children's novels We are a municipal/school library			Other	<p>There's another title she wanted us to prune but we couldn't find a reason to do so.</p> <p>These requests were made through informal conversations with staff (no written protest).</p>	No Change to status	QC

			and a substitute (whom the school decided not to hire anymore, unrelated to this incident) decided that the documentary section containing books on education sex should not be left in the hands of children.						
Staff Activities	Inaccurate Information	Adult on own behalf	Library staff were notified about community lists created on Bibliocommons by members of their library system. Staff were contacted by patrons with complaints that the lists were sharing COVID misinformation and that since users were listed as being part of the library system it appeared as if it was staff sharing the information and the patrons felt this was wrong.	None		Other	Staff contacted Bibliocommons to see what they could do about having information shared they did not want shared and how to not associate it with their library system. There was no resolution found.	No formal resolution	BC