



# STATEMENT ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## November 2023

Intellectual freedom is a fundamental principle and core value for public libraries in New Brunswick, in Canada and around the world. Intellectual freedom is the right to express one's view, as well as seek and receive information, without interference. Expression can be oral, in writing, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one's choice. Intellectual freedom is enshrined in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in international human rights law. To this end, New Brunswick Public Library Service supports the following principles:

- Safeguarding and facilitating access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups may consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.
- Resisting calls for censorship or for the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources, while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.
- Ensuring that the selection and availability of library materials and services is governed by professional considerations and not by personal beliefs.

Intellectual freedom, diversity and inclusion are mutually reinforcing values, and New Brunswick Public Library Service supports the following principles:

- Delivering inclusive service, recognizing and affirming the dignity of those being served regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities, or income.
- Understanding that an acceptance of differences can place individual and collective values in conflict.
- Promoting tolerance and understanding.
- Ensuring that people can enjoy services free from any attempt to impose values, customs, or beliefs.

### References

- Canadian Federation of Library Associations. <http://cfla-fcab.ca/>
- International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. <https://www.ifla.org/>