

## Statement on Intellectual Freedom

**Intellectual freedom** means that everyone has the right to their own opinion and to access information and ideas from all points of view without restriction.

The Colchester-East Hants Public Library (the Library) believes that intellectual freedom is an essential human right. We support the principles in the *Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom*. You can read more about that here: [Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries](#).

**Censorship** occurs when individuals or groups deny access to ideas and information they think is dangerous or offensive. Censorship also occurs when materials are restricted to particular audiences, based on their age or other characteristics.

### **The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**

The *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* gives everyone in Canada the right to free thought, belief, opinion, and expression. You can read more about the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* here: [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#). These rights are subject only to the Constitution and reasonable limits set by law.

### **The Exception: Hate Speech**

The Library supports intellectual freedom, **but** we do not support people sharing views that are hateful. Canadian courts decide what is considered hateful based on the *Criminal Code of Canada*. You can read the *Criminal Code of Canada* here: [Criminal Code of Canada](#).

### **How the Library Supports Intellectual Freedom**

Supporting intellectual freedom is one of the Library's core responsibilities. We do this by:

- Supporting Library users' rights to explore different viewpoints through reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Recognizing peoples' right to disagree with other people or groups.
- Fighting against censorship and systems that restrict access.

We offer access to materials on different viewpoints, opinions, and ideas so that every community member may freely engage with materials of their choosing. Some library materials may be controversial or offensive to some people.

### **Comments/Questions**

We welcome feedback about the Library's *Statement on Intellectual Freedom*. People can send feedback to the Library's Chief Executive Officer:

#### **By email at**

- [admin@cehpubliclibrary.ca](mailto:admin@cehpubliclibrary.ca)

#### **By phone at**

- (902) 896-4196

#### **By regular mail at**

- Executive Director and Chief Librarian  
Colchester-East Hants Public Library  
754 Prince Street  
Truro, Nova Scotia  
B2N 1G9

### **More Information:**

- [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](#): Section 2(b) of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* protects “freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.”
- [Criminal Code](#): Section 63 relates to ‘Unlawful Assemblies and Riots.’ Section 297 relates to ‘Defamatory Libel.’ Section 318 relates to ‘Hate Propaganda.’
- [Nova Scotia Human Rights Act](#): Sections 4 and 5 relate to ‘Discrimination Prohibited.’

**Board Approval Date:** March 1, 2023

**Implemented:** April 1, 2023

**Revised:** N/A

**Last Review Date:** N/A

**Next Review Date:** March 2028

**Replaces:** CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom; CLA Code of Ethics (Adopted in 1998); ALA Code of Ethics (Adopted in 1999)