



BCLA Intellectual Freedom Statement

Approved by the BCLA Board February 6, 2026

What is intellectual freedom?

Everyone has the right to access all points of view, including those that people will find offensive, harmful, or inaccurate.

1. BCLA supports and advocates for intellectual freedom in BC libraries.
2. Intellectual freedom exists and is practiced within the framework of Canadian legislation.
3. Intellectual freedom is a core library value and is practiced alongside other values and commitments.
4. Intellectual freedom applies to all aspects of libraries, including but not limited to programs, services, spaces, and materials.
5. People of all ages, including children and teens, have the right to intellectual freedom.
6. BCLA believes in the right to access all points of view, without censorship, and recognizes that some points of view are damaging to individuals, communities, and the library's relationship with them.
7. Practicing intellectual freedom is the professional duty of libraries and library workers, and they should be protected from harassment or persecution for doing their jobs.

Why this statement exists:

BCLA represents library workers and institutions across BC. This statement explains how BCLA approaches intellectual freedom for all types of libraries. BCLA can support and influence libraries but does not control how they operate.

Who this is for:

This statement is written in plain language for everyone—library staff, library users, the general public, governing bodies, and politicians.

Keeping it current:

The BCLA Board reviews this statement every 3 years.