



Canadian Federation of Library Associations  
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèque

## CFLA-FCAB Intellectual Freedom Committee Terms of Reference

### **Mandate:**

To advocate for the value of intellectual freedom in Canada and to develop policies, guidelines, and reports to inform Canadians on the importance of intellectual freedom.

### **Responsibilities/Objectives:**

- To promote and actively encourage intellectual freedom as a prime responsibility of the library profession in Canada.
- To gather and disseminate Canadian information about violations of intellectual freedom, such as the practice of censorship.
- To gather and disseminate Canadian information about threats to intellectual freedom, such as new legislation which could restrict intellectual freedom.
- To monitor the status of intellectual freedom in Canada as it is reflected in reported cases in the library community across the country and to collect pertinent related documents.
- To make formal presentations to CFLA-FCAB, government and other agencies concerning the status of intellectual freedom in Canada, such as informing those bodies of pending legislation and the formation of public policy affecting intellectual freedom in Canadian libraries.
- To maintain effective liaison with and provide support where appropriate to other organizations and groups in Canada and around the world that are also concerned with intellectual freedom.
- To maintain a working relationship with the media and make statements to the press, television, and radio on issues affecting intellectual freedom, especially as they affect libraries and the information professions.
- To review the Intellectual Freedom Position Statement and the inextricably linked Code of Ethics on an ongoing basis.
- To promote awareness about the Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada and to administer it annually as per the award terms of reference.
- To review regularly, and confirm or update, CFLA-FCAB intellectual freedom and related policy positions and statements and to make recommendations to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors

**Deliverables:**

- Review policies and statements
- Draft statements and communiqués for media and public consumption
- Review and update criteria for the Award for the Advancement of Intellectual Freedom in Canada
- Review and update Challenges survey
- Engage administrators for the annual Challenges survey
- Promote Challenges survey within the library community
- Make recommendations on various activities related to intellectual freedom to the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors
- Review and update toolkit
- Issue statements related to Freedom to Read week
- Make recommendations to the Board for representatives to external intellectual freedom committees (i.e. Book and Periodicals Council, ALA, IFLA, CAUT, etc.)

**Composition:**

CFLA-FCAB seeks broad national representation from different library sectors for individuals who value the principles of intellectual freedom and will actively participate in the work of the committee.

Individuals will ideally have expertise in intellectual freedom normally attained through research, education, and involvement.

The committee will be comprised of 5 to 10 people and the Chair/Co-Chairs of the committee will be approved by the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors as recommended by the committee.

**Resources and budget:**

Costs related to meetings being held by teleconference and survey tool annual fees will be the primary expenditures.

**Timelines**

- Bi-annual report to Board (to be determined by the Board)
- Annual Challenges Survey:
  - October – December: review the survey and edit if changes are needed
  - Mid January: Survey is issued via an email notification to all associations with a request to send the survey to their members.
  - End of March: survey closes
  - April – July: results are analyzed and reports are prepared.

- July: report is sent to the Book and Periodical Council for inclusion in their Freedom To Read Kit (this Kit is part of Freedom to Read Week in February annually)

**Type of Committee:**

This is a Standing Committee of the Board of Directors.

**Term of Appointment:**

Committee members, including the Chair/Co-Chair, will normally serve a 3-years term. Terms may be renewed.

Approved by the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors November 20, 2017