

## **INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM POLICY**

*Approved: March 28, 2006*

The Trail & District Public Library will adhere to the Intellectual Freedom Statement prepared and adopted by the Canadian Library Association, as follows:

Intellectual freedom comprehends the right of every person (in the legal meaning of the term) subject to reasonable requirements of public order, to have access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual creativity, and to express his/her thoughts publicly.

Intellectual freedom is essential to the health and development of society. Libraries have a primary role to play in the maintenance and nurture of intellectual freedom.

In declaring its support of these general statements the CLA/ACB affirm these specific propositions:

1. It is the responsibility of libraries to facilitate the exercise of the right of access by acquiring and making available books and other materials of the widest variety, including those expressing or advocating unconventional or unpopular ideas.
2. It is the responsibility of libraries to facilitate the exercise of the right of expression by making available all facilities and services at their disposal.
3. Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of those responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.
4. Librarians have a professional duty, in addition to their institutional responsibility, to uphold the principles enunciated in this statement.