

## **MPL Intellectual Freedom Statement**

Intellectual Freedom is a human right, a core value of a public library, and necessary to the functioning of a democratic society.

MPL affirms Intellectual Freedom as outlined in the *United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and as defined by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations as “the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media”. In addition to supporting the CFLA’s Statement on Intellectual Freedom, MPL is signatory to the Urban Library Council’s [Declaration of Democracy](#), which states that “to meaningfully participate in society, people need access to a broad range of information and ideas”.

MPL is committed to providing content representing a range of information, supporting a democratic exchange and expression of ideas and championing equitable access to resources and opportunities for learning and personal growth. MPL welcomes all community members to pursue knowledge and diversity of thought in any manner consistent with the Library’s policies, the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Canadian Criminal Code*. MPL is committed to protecting the rights to privacy for its users, and seeks to provide an inclusive space for the community to pursue their learning goals free from censorship.

MPL recognizes that censorship is a tool to suppress democratic engagement and most commonly harms equity-deserving groups, whose voices MPL seeks to amplify and support. To this end, MPL provides learning opportunities and services that include a range of opinions and experiences that may not be acceptable to all members of the community. MPL’s collections are developed to provide a representative range of ideas and opinions, including those that some may disagree with or find unconventional. Additional information on library materials is available in the [MPL’s Collection and Material Selection Policy](#).