Clarington Library
Museums & Archives

Policy Title:	CFLA Statement on Third Party Use of Meeting Spaces
Policy Type:	Administration
Policy #:	ADM 13
Policy Authority:	Board
Effective Date:	January 2024
Review Date:	December 2025

Purpose

The Clarington Public Library Board endorses the "Position on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Meeting Rooms and Facilities" from the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA).

Position on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Meeting Rooms and Facilities

The articles of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques' (CFLA-FCAB) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries:

The articles of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques' (CFLA-FCAB) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (**http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-onintellectual-freedom-and-libraries/**) are explicit declarations of basic principles that should govern the service of all public funded Canadian libraries, nonetheless, questions do arise regarding application of these principles to specific library practices.

This document provides an interpretation of the CFLA-FCAB's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries with regards to third party use of publicly funded library meetings rooms and facilities, which affirms: "Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination."

The following points are conditional to applying CFLA-FCAB's position on third party use of publicly funded library meetings room and facilities:

- Publicly funded libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

- CFLA-FCAB affirms that allowing use of its meeting rooms or facilities in no way correlates to the library endorsing the nature of the free expression of any individual or group using a meeting room or facility.

- CFLA-FCAB affirms controversial expression is supported in the library. Equally so, challenge to controversial expression is supported. CFLA-FCAB does not, however, endorse the exercise of prior restraint as a means to avoiding controversy in the library.

- CFLA-FCAB unequivocally directs libraries to work within the Canadian law and human rights codes.

- CFLA-FCAB recognizes Canadian public libraries are subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which identifies freedom of expression as one of the four fundamental freedoms in Canada, subject only to reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

- CFLA-FCAB recognizes there is a wide range of measures available to libraries to minimize and correct violations of the law, expecting libraries to exercise due diligence and avoid being wilfully blind to illegal behaviour while ensuring their fundamental commitment to intellectual freedom.

- CFLA-FCAB is mutually committed to intellectual freedom and to zero tolerance for discrimination, believing the two principles are mutually reinforcing.

Policy Resolution

Any questions, concerns, or requests for clarification regarding the interpretation or application of this policy can be directed to the CEO at ceo@cplma.ca

If the matter remains unresolved or the party is not satisfied with the CEO's determination, the issue may then be formally escalated to the Library Bard for review at chair@cplma.ca

The decision of the Library Board shall constitute the final authority on all matters related to the interpretation and application of this policy.

Approved by CFLA Executive Council March 2019