

Yukon Public Libraries - Reconsideration of Material Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

“Intellectual Freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. Intellectual freedom encompasses the freedom to hold, receive and disseminate ideas.” (American Library Association Office of Intellectual Freedom.)

Yukon Public Libraries has adopted The Canadian Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom which proscribes that:

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

Yukon Public Libraries provides materials to reflect the needs and interests of Yukon people. The collection includes materials that represent the broadest possible range of ideas and points of view within the limitations of the collection. That a particular item is in the collection does not mean that Yukon Public Libraries endorses its content rather that the library endorses free access to that item, despite the objections of those who might object. The resources of all Yukon Public Libraries are accessible to all library users. No person can exercise the individual right of censorship to restrict the freedom of others to read.

Yukon Public Libraries does not function in the position of parent. A child's parent or legal guardian has the right and responsibility to restrict their child's use of materials that the parent or guardian may deem inappropriate. Library staff provide reader's advisory services to assist all patrons in the use of the library. Yukon Public Libraries does not remove materials from adult areas because they are deemed inappropriate for children.

Patrons have the right to challenge the presence of any materials in the Yukon Public Libraries collection by completing the “Request for Reconsideration” form and submitting it to the Director, Public Libraries Branch.

PROCEDURE

1. Provide the patron with a “Request for Reconsideration” form. Inform the patron that the form needs to be completely filled out.
2. Advise the patron that the form will be forwarded to the Director, Public Libraries Branch, for review by a review committee, and that until a decision has been

reached, the material in question will remain in the library collection. Let the patron know that it may take 2-3 months for this process to be completed. [Note: if only one copy of the item is located in the Yukon Public Libraries collection, said copy will be temporarily set aside for the use of the review committee.]

3. The completed form can be handed in at the front desk of Whitehorse Public Library or at any community library or mailed directly to the Director, Public Libraries Branch, Government of Yukon, P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
4. The Director, Public Libraries Branch (or designate) will contact the patron once the "Request for Reconsideration" form has been received and will explain the process and time frame for review.
5. A review committee consisting of: the Director, Public Libraries Branch, the Whitehorse Public Librarian, and/or the community librarian and/or board chair or delegate(s) of the community library where the objection was received and/or other community and government representatives as appropriate, shall be struck.
6. The committee shall review the material and make a decision as to its place in the collection. The committee shall use this policy, professional reviews of the material, input from other libraries and related sources as background information.
7. If appropriate, the committee, through the Director, Public Libraries Branch, shall obtain advice from either the Canadian Library Association or the American Library Association (Office of Intellectual Freedom) or other libraries or library organizations.
8. Once the committee has made their decision, the Director, Public Libraries Branch, will inform the patron, in writing, of the decision.
9. This policy shall apply to catalogued material in the Yukon Public Libraries collection.