



## **Yukon Public Libraries Statement on the Reconsideration of Materials Decision**

In April and May 2023, Yukon Public Libraries received several requests to reconsider *Irreversible Damages*, by Abigail Shrier, as part of the library collection.

A formal review, as outlined in the [Reconsideration of Materials Policy](#), was conducted by a Review Committee convened to deal with the matter. After reading the book and measuring the content against the YPL [Collection Development Policy](#) and the [Canadian Federation of Library Associations Statement of Intellectual Freedoms](#), they decided not to censor the book.

This issue also generated discussion about the “Staff Pick” sticker on the book. In this case, the intention of the recommendation—highlighting a book of interest—did not match the impact it had on some members of the community. We are grateful for those who engaged in open, respectful dialogue about seeing the book identified as a Staff Pick. As a result of those conversations, the sticker has been voluntarily removed and the Staff Pick process has been updated to better meet the library’s goals of upholding freedom of expression and promoting inclusion and diversity.

During this process, we heard the fear and concern regarding the discrimination transpersons face. YPL’s collection and resources include recent and relevant trans-affirming works, and beyond our collection we will continue providing programming, displays and resources to engage with trans and other equity-deserving communities while also educating the broader public.

YPL has made and will continue to make efforts to ensure the perspectives of equity-deserving groups are included in the various aspects of the library, including the collection, displays and programming.

In a free and democratic society, libraries do not presume why people borrow materials or assume the outcome of what will happen when someone reads a particular book. Libraries believe in an individual’s ability to discern the content and foster this by making available the broadest array of materials possible for individuals to make informed decisions.

We thank everyone who took the time to fill out a form and participate in this important conversation.