

YUKON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

SUBJECT	POLICY NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE
Reconsideration of Material	8	REVISED: Sept 2002, 2006, Aug 2017 REVIEWED: Sept 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, Mar 2014

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 Federation of Library Associations’ Statement on Intellectual Freedom which proscribes that:

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

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 than 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 or guardian for minors. 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. Reader’s advisory services 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.

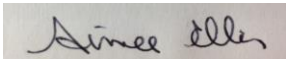
Patrons have the right to challenge the presence of any materials in the Yukon Public Libraries collection by completing the “Request for Reconsideration” form and submitting it to the Director, Public Libraries.

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, for consideration by a review committee, and that until a decision has been reached, the material in question will remain in the library collection. Advise the patron 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 to the Director, Public Libraries, Government of Yukon, P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6
4. The Director, Public Libraries (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, 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, and input from other libraries and related sources as background information.
7. If appropriate, the committee, through the Director, Public Libraries, 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.

Approved:



August 2, 2017

Director, Public Libraries Branch

Date

**YUKON PUBLIC LIBRARIES
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Community Library: _____ Date: _____

Patron's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Library Card No: _____ Type of card: _____

Address: _____ Phone No: _____

Do you represent yourself? _____ Organization (please name): _____

1. Item in the Yukon Public Libraries collection that you would like reviewed:

Title: _____ Publication Date: _____

Author/Producer: _____ Call No: _____

Format: _____ Other identifying information: _____

1. What brought this item to your attention?

2. Have you examined the entire item (i.e. read the book, viewed the video, listened to the audio)?

3. What concerns you about this item? (Please be specific; cite pages where applicable.)

(Use the other side or additional pages if necessary)

4. In what part of the Yukon Public Libraries collection would you suggest this item be placed?

5. Are there resource(s) you can suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic or that could convey a similar picture and perspective of the subject treated?

Public Libraries use:

Date received: _____

Library Staff/Location: _____

Date reviewed: _____

Manager of Public Libraries: _____

Decision: _____
