



FUTURE LIBRARIANS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Who We Are

Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom, or FLIF, is a student organization at the University of Alberta. As graduate students pursuing Master's degrees in Library and Information Studies, the group's mission is to encourage freedom of expression and social responsibility, while rejecting censorship, within the library and information studies field and beyond.

Created by:

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Find us at:

Email: flif.uoa@gmail.com
 Instagram: [@flif.uofa](https://www.instagram.com/flif.uofa)
 Bluesky: [@flifuofa.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/flifuofa.bsky.social)

Update on Book Donations:

After collecting ~600 donated books at our book drive this past spring, we have so far donated 474 books to local organizations! These organizations include the Rehabilitation Hospital at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, EPL's Mill Woods branch, WE Seniors in Sherwood Park, the Queen Alexandra Lodge GEF Senior's residence, and the Bissell Centre's Childcare Centre, Hope Terrace, and Thrift Shop! Thank you again to all of our donors for helping us make a difference!

Upcoming Event:

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Join the Greater Edmonton Library Association and Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom in the fight against the Government of Alberta's threats to school libraries.

When: Monday, October 6th, 2025, 5:30-8:30 P.M.

Where: Stanley A. Milner Library, Civic Employees Rooms 1, 2, 3, 7 Sir Winston Churchill Sq NW, Edmonton, AB.

What: Board games, refreshments, community, and letter writing. Learn more about GELA and FLIF, become a GELA member, and/or sign up for the FLIF newsletter.

Who: Librarians, library workers, educators, concerned Albertans, anyone!

Questions? Email us!
 GELA: gelaedmonton@gmail.com
 FLIF: flif.uoa@gmail.com

GE LA GREATER EDMONTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION **FLIF**

Can't make it or not in the Edmonton area? Write to your MLA anyway! So that we may keep track of our campaign, please complete this **google form** to let us know that you sent your letter! If you want to help make even more of a difference, encourage your friends, family, and colleagues to send letters of their own, and let us know!

Local News

New Alberta school books order bans explicit images of sexual acts

By: Janet French

Following the uproar from the Edmonton Public School's list of 226 removed materials, Alberta Education and Childcare Minister, Demetrios Nicolaides, reevaluated the original rules of the ministerial order issued in July. This reevaluation led to the removal of "written passage" and the inclusion of "visual depiction" to allow for classic literary works to persist in school libraries, while clearing the shelves of all inappropriate material. However, because of these changes, school employees now have to restart the process of formulating lists of books to be removed by January 5th.

Additional Information

- [Survey response from the school library standards engagement](#)
- ['Vicious compliance': Alberta premier decries Edmonton Public Schools' banned book list by Nicholas Frew](#)

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Are we on a slippery slope toward book bans?

By: Kristine Wilkinson

In light of Alberta's ministerial order, Wilkinson reflects on the importance of fostering a sense of voice in youth and emphasizes that choice is an important aspect of reading and learning.

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A shadow war on libraries

By: Grant LaFleche, Rachel Ward, and Mark Kelley

Through the experiences of the small Alberta town of Valleyview, the authors discuss the attack on 2SLGBTQ+ material in libraries as the province is impacted by the messages of youth corruption by schools and libraries from the Take Back Alberta movement. The proposal to close Valleyview's library and move it into a soon-to-be-built school complex has created a divide in this town, one that has made many 2SLGBTQ+ adults and youth feel uncomfortable and unwelcome.

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[Watch the Documentary on YouTube](#)

National News

Open Letter of Concern to New Brunswick Ministry of Education” and “Open Letter to BC Ministry of Education”

By: Joseph Jeffery, Chair of Canadian School Libraries

1. [Read More](#) 2. [Read More](#)

Both of these open letters from the chair of Canadian School Libraries address funding cuts to Canadian schools and how this negatively affects school libraries.

Also see this CBC Article: [Library limbo: Families fear impact of library cuts this fall](#)

How the Ford government is accelerating the decline of school libraries

By: Kunal Chaudhary

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Speaking with a former teacher librarian and the executive director of the Ontario Library Association, Chaudhary outlines how funding cuts and budget restructuring has affected schools, school libraries, and school library professionals in Ontario, and how the Ontario Library Association is responding.

Book banning in Canada is quiet, systemic, and more effective than ever

By: Ira Wells

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While touching on a brief history of book banning in North America, Wells discusses a recent “weeding” project in Ontario’s Peel Region, which contains 257 schools. Wells describes the idea of “consensus censorship,” and digs into the heavily debated topics of what constitutes weeding vs. banning or non-selection vs. banning in school and public libraries.

I help librarians handle book bans. Here’s why it’s getting worse.

By: Richard Beaudry

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Beaudry is a former school librarian, the former president of the Canadian School Libraries, a member of the Centre of Free Expression, and now works as the coordinator of the Teacher Librarianship program at UBC. Beaudry discusses how parental concerns and demands from parents to remove certain books from school libraries has proven to be a threat to school library collections in recent years.

International News

Interactive map reveals book ban hotspots and nearby Little Free Library locations

By: Margret Aldrich

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In partnership with the ALA and PEN America, the Little Free Library (LFL) has recently updated its Book Ban Map to address elevated concerns about book banning in the United States. The map now identifies areas in the U.S. where bans are increasing, as well as LFL locations where readers can freely access banned books. Click [here](#) to view the interactive map.

New state laws are fueling a surge in book bans

By: Elizabeth Harris

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Harris reports on an increase in book banning and censorship in U.S. public schools since 2021, one cause of which stems from new state legislation in Florida and Iowa that has led to more than 8,000 bans in the last few years. Although challenges of unique titles decreased between 2023 and 2024, the ALA itself has been increasingly targeted by parental rights advocates.

Banned: School librarians shushed over LGBT+ books

By: Katie Dancey-Downs

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In this investigative piece, the true extent of LGBT+ book censorship in U.K. public school libraries is revealed. Dancey-Downs and the team at Index on Censorship found that more than half of the school librarians they surveyed were asked to remove books with LGBT+ content or self-censored due to fears of conflict with parents or school administration.

Cover to cover: An analysis of titles banned in the 23-24 school year

By: Madison Markham and Tasslyn Magnusson

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As part of an in-depth investigation by PEN America, Markham and Magnusson examine the scope of book banning in U.S. public schools. They provide a comprehensive demographic breakdown of affected characters, titles, grade levels, genres, content, and themes in the 2023-2024 school year.

Scholarly Spotlight

Steele, J. E. (2018). **Censorship of library collections: An analysis using gatekeeping theory.** *Collection Management*, 43(4), 229–248.

Abstract from Publisher:

“One pressing issue in libraries today is the censorship of information. This theoretical essay uses Kurt Lewin’s gatekeeping theory to examine the decision-makers as well as the different pressures and constraints that are at issue in decisions regarding challenges and censorship attempts that occur in regards to library collections. Knowing who the decision-makers, or gatekeepers, are in the decision-making process, whether it is library boards, library directors, or public officials, is crucial to the understanding of censorship in public libraries. Without a clear understanding of the function of gates and gatekeepers in the decision-making process, libraries may allow unintended censorship of ideas and information to persist.”

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FLIF

We appreciate feedback. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

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