

freedomtoRead

CURRENT CENSORSHIP ISSUES IN CANADA

BOOK AND PERIODICAL COUNCIL

2020

VOLUME 36

Seeking the Light



Champion
of Free
Expression
**David
Eby**

Glad Day's
50th
Anniversary

**Kids
Have
Rights
Too!**

Show us what you're doing for Freedom to Read Week!

Here are some of the many highlights from FTRW's 35th anniversary in 2019.



Foreword

DEAR READERS,

Welcome to the 2020 issue of *Freedom to Read*, the annual publication of the Book and Periodical Council's Freedom of Expression Committee. We hope you find the news stories and opinions that we present enlightening and thought provoking. We also hope you find the information and ideas in *Freedom to Read* useful during Freedom to Read Week (February 23–29).

In 2019, while following the news in Canada, we noted continuing challenges to Canadians who seek to exercise their expression rights. But we also noted several triumphs for Canadians who seek to secure those rights and the expression rights of others. We hope you'll join us in celebrating those triumphs.

This year, in our "Front Lines" section, three writers consider challenges to our freedom to read and our freedom to report the news. **Todd Kyle** examines the latest censorship challenges to publications and services in Canada's libraries (page 6). **Grant Buckler** recounts the protracted legal struggles of Justin Brake, a reporter who was charged with three offences in Labrador in 2016 after he had covered a protest (page 8). **Mark Lindenberg** explains the significance of a ruling of Quebec's Court of Appeal for news agencies that post their stories online (page 9).

In our "Spotlight" section, **Mark Leiren-Young** profiles David Eby, the attorney general of British Columbia, who persuaded B.C.'s legislature to pass the Protection of Public Participation Act in 2019. Thanks to Mr. Eby, British Columbians who speak up about public issues enjoy more protection from vindictive, meritless lawsuits that are intended to silence their voices (page 10). Then a trio of writers—**Marcus McCann**, **Jearld F. Moldenhauer** and **Dominique Bernier-Cormier**—presents the 50-year history of Toronto's Glad Day Bookshop. It survived several censorship battles to



become North America's oldest LGBTQ bookstore (page 12).

In our "Perspectives" section, five writers share their views about various challenges to our freedom to read, write and publish. **David Alexander Robertson**, a Cree author, writes about the educational authorities in Alberta who advised against the use of some of his books in public schools (page 14). **Charles Montpetit** summarizes the battles—many of them legal—over expression in Quebec in 2019 (page 15). **Vickery Bowles**, the city librarian of the Toronto Public Library, identifies threats to intellectual freedom in the public libraries and suggests ways to cope with them (page 16).

Jaclyn Law, *Freedom to Read's* editor, interviews Danielle S. McLaughlin, the author of *Freedom of Expression: Deal with It Before You Are Censored*. Together they explore free expression in schools, common myths and more (page 18). Then **Franklin Carter**, our 2019

champion of free expression, reviews *Claws of the Panda*, Jonathan Manthorpe's newest book, which focuses on the threat that the Chinese communist state poses to Canada and the expression rights of Chinese people in Canada (page 20).

In our "Get Involved" section, which begins on page 21, we suggest 21 things that you can do during Canada's Freedom to Read Week in February 2020. We list numerous challenged books and magazines. And we show how you can reach us during Freedom to Read Week or any other time of the year.

Finally, we'd like to thank **Boyd Gordon** and **Gil Martinez** for their impressive designs this year. Mr. Gordon designed the pages that you see in *Freedom to Read*, and Mr. Martinez created this year's beautiful cover art and Freedom to Read Week poster. We hope you admire their artistry as much as we do.

Enjoy reading *Freedom to Read*, and have a happy Freedom to Read Week!

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The following people contributed an incredible amount of time and energy producing the review and poster and maintaining our website: Michelle Arbuckle, Dominique Bernier-Cormier, Franklin Carter, Sandy Crawley, Boyd Gordon, Jaclyn Law, Gil Martinez, Anne McClelland, Scott Mitchell, Marg Anne Morrison, Sandra Richmond, Reanna Sartoretto and Brandi Tanner.

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Phone 416-975-9366
Fax 416-975-1839
Email info@theBPC.ca

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If you require an accessible format of this review, please email publicity@freedomtoread.ca.

EDITOR

JACLYN LAW

CONSULTING EDITOR

FRANKLIN CARTER

DESIGN, boydgordon.design

BOYD GORDON, Designer

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BPC

ANNE MCCLELLAND

CONTRIBUTORS

DOMINIQUE BERNIER-CORMIER, VICKERY BOWLES,
GRANT BUCKLER, FRANKLIN CARTER, RINA HADZIEV,
TODD KYLE, JACLYN LAW, MARK LEIREN-YOUNG,
MARK LINDENBERG, MARCUS McCANN,
ANNE MCCLELLAND, JEARLD F. MOLDENHAUER,
CHARLES MONTPETIT, DAVID ALEXANDER ROBERTSON,
BRANDI TANNER

FACT CHECKERS

JACLYN LAW, REANNA SARTORETTO

LAWYER

SANDRA RICHMOND

STOHN HAY CAFAZZO DEMBROSKI RICHMOND LLP

FREEDOM of EXPRESSION COMMITTEE

KATRINA AFONSO, MICHELLE ARBUCKLE (CO-CHAIR),
RON BROWN, FRANKLIN CARTER, CAILIN COOPER,
SANDY CRAWLEY, TERI DEGLER, PHIL DWYER,
KATE EDWARDS, LESLEY FLETCHER, EMMA HUNTER,
MARK LEIREN-YOUNG, ANNE MCCLELLAND,
MARG ANNE MORRISON (CO-CHAIR)



POSTER and COVER ILLUSTRATION

GIL MARTINEZ, 2019

Gil Martinez (bigguystudio.ca) has more than two decades of design experience and has worked for publishers throughout North America. He has been a member of the Association of Registered Graphic Designers since 2004, and his duties there include portfolio reviews for junior designers. Gil has received the HOW International Design Award, the SoGood Design Award, the Canadian Business Media Award and other awards. He writes about branding and design for financial magazines and wrote a book about calligraphy and typography.

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The Book and Periodical Council (BPC) is the umbrella organization for Canadian associations that are or whose members are primarily involved with the writing, editing, translating, publishing, producing, distributing, lending, marketing, reading and selling of written words.

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Position Statement

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND FREEDOM TO READ

A statement of the basic tenets of the Freedom of Expression Committee of the Book and Periodical Council

“Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms... thought, belief, opinion, and expression.” —*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF ALL

Canadians, and freedom to read is part of that precious heritage. Our Committee, representing member organizations and associations of the Book and Periodical Council, reaffirms its support of this vital principle and opposes all efforts to suppress writing and silence writers. Words and images in their myriad configurations are the substance of free expression.

The freedom to choose what we read does not, however, include the freedom to choose for others. We accept that courts alone have the authority to restrict reading material, a prerogative that cannot be delegated or appropriated. Prior restraint demeans individual responsibility; it is anathema to freedom and democracy.

As writers, editors, publishers, book manufacturers, distributors, retailers and librarians, we abhor arbitrary interpretations of the law and other attempts to limit freedom of expression.

We recognize court judgements; otherwise, we oppose the detention, seizure, destruction or banning of books and periodicals—indeed, any effort to deny, repress or sanitize. Censorship does not protect society; it smothers creativity and precludes open debate of controversial issues.

*Endorsed by the Book and Periodical Council
February 5, 1997. Reaffirmed on February 28, 2017.*

BIENVENUE AUX FRANCOPHONES!

Sur notre site Internet, vous trouverez plusieurs documents qui complètent la présente publication :

- une liste d'ouvrages en français traitant de la censure canadienne;
- une étude bilingue des 58 733 oeuvres retenues aux douanes et des 19 437 interdictions décrétées par l'Unité des importations prohibées de 1985 à 2018;
- une chronologie, divers essais et une compilation de plus de 650 victimes de censure, ainsi que de quelque 1250 titres disponibles en français qui leur ont valu des attaques depuis 1625 au Canada — l'écrivain Charles Montpetit, lui-même frappé de maintes interdictions, relate les faits saillants entourant chacun de ces cas, et invite le public à lui signaler d'autres incidents en prévision d'éventuelles mises à jour.

Tous ces documents sont accessibles grâce aux liens fournis sur notre page d'accueil (freedomtoread.ca), et peuvent être téléchargés sans frais. Bonne lecture!

To Order Reviews and Posters

The Freedom to Read kit (review plus folded poster) may be ordered from the Book and Periodical Council for \$12.50 plus shipping, handling and HST. Orders for 10 kits or more, shipped to a single address, receive a 20% discount and may be accompanied by a purchase order. Flat, rolled, full-colour posters are available for \$12.00 plus shipping, handling and HST (GST/HST#R106801889). All orders are non-refundable.

Book and Periodical Council

192 Spadina Avenue, Suite 107, Toronto, Ontario M5T 2C2

Phone 416-975-9366 | Fax 416-975-1839

Email info@theBPC.ca | Web freedomtoread.ca | theBPC.ca

In the News

True Stories About the Freedom to Speak, Read and Write

by Franklin Carter

Speaker Attracts Noisy Protest in Toronto

When Meghan Murphy delivered a speech in a Toronto library, hundreds of people showed up to protest the event.

Murphy, the founder and editor of *Feminist Current*, spoke to an audience inside a branch of the Toronto Public Library (TPL) on October 29, 2019. She talked about the impact of gender identity politics on the law, society and especially women.

Outside the library, demonstrators—including many members of sexual minorities—protested Murphy’s views about transgender women and the TPL’s decision to give Murphy a place to speak.

Murphy’s critics accused her of promoting transphobia and hate speech. She denied the accusations.

The TPL, which had faced pressure to cancel the event, found no legal reason to cancel and allowed Murphy to speak.

Ontario Court Shuts Down Radical Paper

In Toronto, a judge in the Ontario Court of Justice sentenced two men for wilfully promoting hatred against women and Jews.

On August 29, 2019, Justice Richard Blouin sentenced LeRoy St. Germaine, the publisher of Toronto’s *Your Ward News*, to 12 months of strict house arrest.

A week earlier, on August 22, Justice Blouin sentenced James Sears, the paper’s editor, to one year in prison. He was released on bail.

St. Germaine and Sears, who had been convicted of promoting hatred in January, appealed.

Your Ward News, which billed itself as “the world’s largest anti-Marxist publication,” routinely mocked political correctness, ethnic and sexual minorities, human rights commissions and public figures such as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The paper has ceased publication. Most of its online content has disappeared.

Nova Scotia Seeks to Build Commercial Website in the People’s Republic of China

In 2019, while courting greater trade between Nova Scotia and the People’s Republic of China, Nova Scotia’s government announced a plan to build a “100% China-friendly” website in China.

On August 9, Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), a government agency, asked web designers to submit proposals to build the website. NSBI wants it to attract Chinese investors to Nova Scotia and find sales opportunities in China for Nova Scotia’s businesses.

The website also had to comply with Chinese government censorship. NSBI required web designers to have the “expertise to navigate China’s digital restrictions.” The website had to be free of links to blocked websites.

Chinese government censors block foreign websites that criticize the People’s Republic. They include the websites of Western news agencies.

Nova Scotia hoped to launch its website in early November 2019.

Prime Minister Trudeau Addresses Internet Threats

In May 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke about the need to counter online threats to society.

Earlier in the year, on March 15, an Australian gunman murdered 51 people and injured dozens more in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. The gunman also transmitted video of his attack in real time on Facebook.

On May 15, Mr. Trudeau, Prime Minister Ardern of New Zealand, President Macron of France and other leaders met in Paris, France, where they announced the Christchurch Call to Action. They “pledged to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online” but also to maintain “fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression.”

On May 16, while still in Paris, Mr. Trudeau announced the Canadian government’s plan to introduce a

charter to counter online hate speech, misinformation and interference with democratic elections. He spoke at VivaTech, a conference of the world’s technology leaders.

On May 29, while attending the Open Government Partnership Summit in Ottawa, Mr.

Trudeau talked about the dangers of regulating social media. Government regulation should be the last resort, he said. Instead, governments should work with technology firms and citizens to curtail the worst aspects of social media.



Prime Minister
Justin Trudeau of Canada

U.S. Library Association Names Most Challenged Book

In 2018, the most frequently challenged book in U.S. public libraries was Alex Gino’s *George*, reported by the American Library Association (ALA). This children’s book tells the fictional story of Melissa, a transgender girl, whom the world sees as George.

Americans who sought to ban *George* believed the book encouraged children to clear their browser histories and use hormones to change their bodies. Other objections included references to “dirty magazines,” male anatomy and a transgender character.

George appeared on the ALA’s list of most frequently challenged books in 2017 and 2016 too, although the book didn’t occupy the top spot.

In 2018, the ALA’s Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 347 challenges to library, school and university materials and services. A few challenges entailed requests to restrict or remove many titles. Throughout the year, 483 books were reported challenged or banned in U.S. public libraries, the ALA said.

SOURCE: PHOTO BY ADAM SCOTT; PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER. © HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF CANADA, 2019

Inclusion v. Censorship

Looking at Challenges to Canadian Libraries in 2018–19

by Todd Kyle

LIBRARIES CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CHALLENGES TO MATERIALS THAT some patrons think depict excessive violence or are sexually explicit, inaccurate or inappropriate for children. People are also concerned about sensitive issues such as racism and sexual assault, and many want libraries to follow suit—even if it means denying fellow users access to different viewpoints.

This lesson is what we learned from the most recent *Annual Challenges Survey*, a project of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations–Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA–FCAB). For the 13th consecutive year, libraries reported challenges that were submitted or expressed by people in their communities to particular library materials, services or policies. In most cases, complainants requested that libraries remove, restrict or prevent access to certain resources.

The survey covered the period from January 2018 to July 2019. (In 2019, the CFLA–FCAB’s Intellectual Freedom Committee changed the collection period from the calendar year to the school year.) Participation in the survey is voluntary, and the results should not be considered comprehensive. Nevertheless, they provide an interesting reflection of social trends and Canadians’ changing views.

While many challenges reflected relatively conservative views and conveyed objections to sexual or violent content, an increasing number of challenges seemed to come from a desire for equity, diversity and inclusion. Content viewed as racist, hateful or insufficiently sympathetic toward a marginalized group—and, in particular, content viewed as perpetuating stereotypes of Indigenous peoples—was the subject of roughly 12 challenges. The survey results reflect a degree of political polarization; you could say that libraries are not untouched by the ongoing culture wars.

As reported in last year’s *Freedom to Read* review, the 2017 survey featured many challenges received via social

media. Many people opposed speakers at public libraries. Although 115 titles, services and policies were challenged, the number of individual complainants exceeded 700.

For 2018–19, libraries reported a total of 96 challenges to 69 titles, services and policies. Unlike challenges in 2017, challenges in 2018–19 were largely made through informal complaints to staff or formal request-for-reconsideration submissions. A large portion (62.5%) were challenges to materials, including books, movies and magazines. A smaller portion (37.5%) were challenges concerning library services (including programs and a room rental policy), Internet access and user privacy concerns.

Most challenges were filed by individual patrons, but a few were submitted by library staff and local groups. One was filed by a politician, and one was even filed by the library itself. (It felt that a program planned in partnership with a community group did not provide balanced viewpoints.) As in 2017, public libraries were the main target of challenges; more than 98% of complaints occurred there.

The actions requested by complainants and the responses of the libraries bear examination. Most complaints requested the removal of the material or cancellation of the program in question, but some requested relocation of, restriction of, or warnings on the material. Other complaints requested changes to policy. While the survey did not ask libraries to indicate their responses, 14 shared this information. The most common action was no action: libraries, usually after professional consideration, retained the

material, program or policy, and informed the complainant. Other actions included relocating or restricting an item or changing a policy.

The reasons for the challenges reflect interesting changes in contemporary Canadians’ views and recent social trends.

On the more conservative side, interesting examples of challenges include two objections to library events featuring drag queens reading stories to young children. This type of program has become common across North America in recent years. It has been lauded for promoting inclusion and diversity, but it has also sparked vehement objections from citizens and politicians, particularly in the United States.

One complainant stated that the programs were “introducing a divergent sexual lifestyle to impressionable children in the guise of reading with a princess.” The same patron said, “Drag queens belong in nightclubs, not public libraries.” Another challenge, received from a politician, likened the program to “child abuse.” The programs were not cancelled.

A speaker at a public library event was the subject of negative Facebook comments and one email complaint. Anita Sarkeesian is a feminist who has received considerable harassment online for her critique of video game culture. One comment even used the emoji for vomiting. The program went ahead as scheduled.

On the other side of the culture wars, challenges came from more liberal, equity-oriented viewpoints.

A French-language children’s picture book, *Les papas de Violette* by Émilie Chazerand, was challenged because, in the complainant’s opinion, it was not progressive enough in its depiction of a family with two fathers.

A library patron challenged the book *It IS About Islam: Exposing the Truth About ISIS, Al Qaeda, Iran, and the*



In January 2018, Anita Sarkeesian spoke at the Edmonton Public Library about online harassment.

Caliphate by conservative commentator Glenn Beck because the patron felt the content was Islamophobic. Another patron challenged *The God Delusion* by atheist Richard Dawkins because, the patron claimed, the author had elsewhere expressed objectionable views on other topics. An even broader challenge (one of two likely inspired by the #MeToo movement) demanded that all material written or performed by comedian Bill Cosby, who had recently been convicted of sexual assault, be removed because he was a “serial rapist.” All three incidents reflect a trend to challenge materials not so much for their content but for the actions and reputation of their creators.

Charges of racism against Indigenous people were levelled in five complaints; they may reflect growing public awareness of Indigenous issues. In all cases, the challenged materials were for children, and the complaints focused on images that were said to perpetuate stereotypes. For example, the picture book *A Time to Keep* by Tasha Tudor (published in 1977) was challenged because of an image of a child dressed as an Indigenous person

pretending to scalp another character. The Disney DVD *Pocahontas* was challenged; the complainant said it was “inappropriate as it relates to the depiction of Indigenous people.”

The charge of racism—in this case anti-Black—was also levelled against a library screening of the film *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The complainant pointed out that several schools have stopped using the book that the film is based on.

Speaker challenges were relatively infrequent, but a significant one—likely prompted by the #MeToo movement—occurred. A library received two emailed complaints about an event that featured defence lawyer Marie Henein. The complainants objected to Henein’s defence of disgraced former broadcaster Jian Ghomeshi; they didn’t want her made into an inappropriate “source of forward thinking, specifically in regard to victims of sexual abuse.”


Some challenges raised questions that parallel other trends and controversies in Canadian society. A challenge was mounted against the book *The Unvaccinated Child: A Treatment Guide for Parents and Caregivers* by Judith Thompson and others; the

complainant indicated that the book contained inaccurate scientific information. In another challenge, a library patron felt that the magazine *China Today* was biased, giving an almost propagandized view of modern China. In both challenges, the patrons wanted the materials removed from the library.

In a reflection of a recent push for “the right to be forgotten” and more online privacy, a patron asked that her birth announcement, which contained her date of birth and her parents’ names, be removed from a digitized page of the local newspaper that the library had made available online.

Finally, in a reflection of increasing demands for sensitivity toward sacred practices, a religious group requested the removal of the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book, because it could not be treated with proper respect in a library setting.

Although we don’t have complete data about how libraries responded to the complaints that they reported, we may reasonably presume that libraries continue to try to be as inclusive as possible. They rarely remove a challenged item or cancel a challenged event, and only sometimes restrict or relocate materials to give users more guidance. Ideally, libraries take challenges as opportunities to open a dialogue with their patrons about diversity and the role of libraries and to communicate how intellectual freedom benefits everyone. Many libraries also take the opportunity to reconsider challenged materials in light of their collection or programming policies.

In the future, the balance between including a broad set of viewpoints—including those that might be controversial or unpopular—and ensuring that patrons do not feel their human rights are diminished will present a challenge to libraries in Canada. 

Todd Kyle is the vice-chair of the CFLA–FCAB. Email him at tkyle@newmarketpl.ca. Special thanks go to Rina Hadziev, the executive director of the Centre for Equitable Library Access, for compiling and analyzing the survey results.

Find More Survey Results

Results of the *Annual Challenges Survey* dating back to 2006 are available on the website of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations–Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA–FCAB). Visit cfla-fcab.ca/en/programs/intellectual-freedom-challenges-survey/. You can also email info@cfla-fcab.ca.

Still Fighting for Press Freedom

Journalist Justin Brake's Legal Battle Enters Its Fourth Year

by Grant Buckler

ON OCTOBER 22, 2016, JUSTIN Brake was covering protests at the Muskrat Falls hydroelectric project in Labrador for the online news agency *The Independent*. When protesters broke a lock and entered the property of provincial Crown corporation Nalcor Energy, Brake followed his story, entering with the protesters.

A previous court order already barred protesters from the site, but three days later, a provincial Supreme Court judge issued another, naming Brake as well as the protesters. The order did not identify Brake as a journalist. He left the site that day. But Brake's departure didn't stop him from facing criminal charges of mischief and disobeying a court order and a civil contempt charge.

Three years later, one criminal charge remains outstanding—even though the Newfoundland and Labrador Court of Appeal dismissed the civil charge in March 2019. The court ruled that Brake was doing his job and added that historic underrepresentation of Indigenous people in the news media—most of the protesters were Indigenous—made media freedom to cover Indigenous land issues especially important.

Press freedom and media groups hailed the decision. Many believed that

after the civil charge disappeared, the criminal charges would follow. It wasn't that easy. In September, Brake's lawyer filed a challenge under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, asking for both charges to be dropped. In early November, the Crown dropped the charge of disobeying a court order, but Provincial Court Judge Phyllis Harris reserved judgment on Brake's lawyer's request to drop the mischief charge. A decision is expected in December 2019.

Commenting in August, before one criminal charge was dropped, Peter Jacobsen, a Toronto media lawyer and chair of Canadian Journalists for Free Expression's Canadian Issues Committee, said it was "very hard to understand" the Crown's decision to proceed with criminal charges in light of the Court of Appeal's decision. Jacobsen added that Brake "was exercising his constitutional right, as a journalist," to cover a conflict between Indigenous people and the Crown.

That's why the case is so important, said Karyn Pugliese, national director and president of the Canadian Association of Journalists, in an interview. "We've got to be able to be present, and we've got to be able to report."

When he arrived with the protesters, Brake said, Nalcor workers were on the site. Some media outlets reported concerns voiced by Nalcor about its workers' safety. Brake reported from inside that—despite some workers' concerns about losing work and pay—the scene was peaceful, even friendly. He added that his presence could have helped keep it that way. "We know from history that when there aren't journalists present, police have actually shot and killed Indigenous protesters."

"He should absolutely not be treated as a criminal for doing his job," said Daphne Pellegrino, North America advocacy manager for Reporters Without Borders in Washington, D.C., in an interview.


Even if Brake is ultimately acquitted, she said, "the fact that the charges were even brought against him certainly has a chilling effect on other journalists."

Pugliese—who was for a time Brake's boss after he moved from *The Independent* to the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, where she was executive director of news and current affairs until August 2019—said that effect has already happened. Speaking of her time at APTN, she said, "things my reporters were doing every single day were suddenly changed."

And Brake's case isn't the only one. "We have been noticing a pattern of police pushing on access," said Pugliese. For example, John Hueston and Brett Hueston, publisher and editor respectively of the *Aylmer Express*, an Ontario community newspaper, were arrested and charged while on the scene of a car accident in June 2017. They were investigating the possibility that the accident had resulted from a police chase. They were acquitted in October 2018.

And Thomas Rohner, an Iqaluit journalist, was banned from visiting jails in Nunavut in December 2018 after writing critical stories about the Baffin Correctional Centre. The ban was lifted in May.

In those cases, attempts to use the law to curb journalistic access ultimately failed. Brake hopes for the same result. He is optimistic that the dismissal of the civil charge and its strong statement of the importance of press freedom will be the case's lasting legacy.

"I know that what I did was journalism, and if anyone wants to try to criminalize that journalism, then that's not good for democracy," Brake said. "But I also think they're going to come out on the wrong side of history." 

Grant Buckler is a retired journalist who volunteers for Canadian Journalists for Free Expression and J-Source. He lives in Kingston, Ont.



Justin Brake

PHOTO: JAMIE PASHAGUNSKUM/APTN

“An Insurmountable Obstacle”

A Quebec Court Interprets the Province’s Press Act

by Mark Lindenberg

EARLY IN 2019, QUEBEC’S Court of Appeal ruled unanimously that the Quebec Press Act, which was written in 1929 to protect the reputations of citizens and the freedom of newspapers, does not protect articles published on the Internet.

On February 18, the court’s judges—Allan R. Hilton, Simon Ruel and Suzanne Gagné—rendered their verdict on a dispute named *Guimont v. Bussières*. The ruling surprised some observers who noted that the courts of appeal in Ontario and Prince Edward Island had ruled to extend the protection of their press acts to news articles on the Internet.

How did Quebec’s Court of Appeal reach its conclusion?

newspaper and who wishes to claim damages” the ability to sue, as long as the plaintiff does so “within the three months following the publication of such article” or up to three months after becoming aware of the article and as long as damages are claimed within one year following the article’s publication.

Claiming that the 2012 article “contained defamatory statements, misinformation and, on the whole, even incited hatred toward the plaintiffs,” Roch and Constance Guimont sued Gesca—the owners of *lapresse.ca*—as well as *Le Soleil* and reporter Ian Bussières for \$500,000 in Quebec’s Superior Court.

They argued that Section 9 of the act applied: “No newspaper may avail itself of the provisions of [the] Act ... when the party who deems himself injured is accused by the newspaper of a criminal offence.” The judge rejected the suit because he could find no such accusation in the article and because the claim fell under Section 2 of the Press Act. The Guimonts appealed.

In the Court of Appeal, Justice Suzanne Gagné rejected the appeal. “Does the Press Act apply to an article published on a 24-hour news website?” she wrote. “One must conclude that it does not. The definition of the word ‘newspaper’... [is] an insurmountable obstacle.”

In the Newspaper Declaration Act, a “newspaper” must be “in detached pieces.” The paper medium is important to the legal definition and the court’s decision.

Were the Press Act of 1929 to apply to 24-hour news websites, Justice Gagné wrote, it could enable radio or television stations to avail themselves of the act’s provisions. Giving such a wide scope to the act, and the protections it

contains, would distort the legislators’ intention, she wrote in the ruling.


The Court of Appeal decided that the Press Act (and its three-month deadline) applied to the newspaper but not to online news.

Because publications on the Internet remain more easily accessible than those in print, “plaintiffs would now have up to a year, [after gaining] knowledge of the article, to sue,” said Mark Bantey, a lawyer based in Montreal.

Bantey noted that, because of the ruling, the “protections set out in Sections 3, 4 and 8 would no longer be available [to news articles on the Internet].” Respectively, these allow the “newspaper to rectify or retract the article complained of,” address the limits of liability and permit the injured party to exercise the right to reply to any retraction.

Peter Black—a newspaper columnist, former CBC journalist and Quebec City resident—expressed surprise that the legislature had not debated and updated the Press Act earlier. “The digital shift [from television and printed news to the Internet] has been happening for at least 20 years,” he said. “This is clearly an example of law needing to catch up with the rapidly changing reality of digital media.”

Justice Gagné and her colleagues, aware of the limits of the law, say: “In the digital and social media era, the Press Act and the Newspaper Declaration Act no doubt need an update, but it is up to legislators to see to that” and to “decide what protection to grant digital media and to stipulate the procedures necessary for its implementation.”

In the meantime, the only way to contest the ruling is by appealing to the Supreme Court of Canada, Bantey said. 

Mark Lindenberg is a writer, translator and editor based in Quebec. Visit

LindenbergInk.com.



PHOTO: SYLVAIN BROUSSEAU
VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
(LICENSED UNDER CC-BY-SA 3.0)

Quebec’s Court of Appeal ruled on the dispute in Quebec City.

In 2012, Quebec City’s *Le Soleil* newspaper published an article, written by Ian Bussières, about the rejection of a \$1 million lawsuit that Roch Guimont brought against Quebec City in 2011. Four years and nine months after the article’s publication, in June 2016, Guimont and his mother, Constance Guimont, discovered the article online, at *lapresse.ca*.

Section 2 of the Press Act affords “[e]very person who deems himself injured by an article published in a

Champion of Free Expression

David Eby on British Columbia's New Anti-SLAPP Law

by Mark Leiren-Young

IN 2005, DAVID EBY WAS STARTING his legal career when he was threatened with a lawsuit over comments that he'd made about a death. The police were involved. Eby was working for the Pivot Legal Society—a Vancouver-based organization formed to use legal means “to address the root causes of poverty and social exclusion”—and he was certain his comments were true. “I got a defamation threat from the police commissioner and withdrew my comments, but refused to apologize.”

Eby learned two vital lessons.

“One was positive in that I learned to be extremely careful to back up everything that I said 100% with documentary proof,” says Eby. “The second piece that I took away from it was wow: it was remarkably easy for that office to shut down our comment.”

Eby is now British Columbia's attorney general, and the Book and Periodical Council has named him its 2020 champion of free expression for passing a law that will make it a lot harder to shut down those types of comments.

One of the most effective and insidious forms of censorship is making it impossible to tell a story. The threat of suing for defamation is often enough to scare off journalists—or their employers—before they've published a word.

These threats—which are also used to silence non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups and activists—are known as strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

Eby explains the concept: “It's a lawsuit that's filed to silence somebody on a

matter of public interest.” The deterrent in SLAPPs usually has less to do with the chance of losing the lawsuit than the cost of fighting it.

In British Columbia, environmental groups and activists are regularly threatened with SLAPPs—or hit with SLAPP suits—for challenging projects such as pipelines, mines and fish farms.

Leaning back in a chair at the head of a boardroom table in the B.C. government's cabinet office overlooking the Vancouver waterfront, the lanky (six foot seven inch) 43-year-old smiles and laughs often as he talks about his history with free expression issues.

Eby is one of British Columbia's brightest political stars. When the B.C. NDP was looking for a new leader after an unexpected election loss in 2013, Eby was considered the top contender. The leadership race coincided with

Eby's impending fatherhood, and he backed John Horgan for the job. When Horgan became premier in 2017, Eby was named attorney general.

Eby is originally from Kitchener, Ont. His mother was a teacher and his father was a personal injury lawyer. At a university protest, Eby watched lawyers teach activists how to deal with being arrested and was inspired to go to law school. He was also inspired to write *The Arrest Handbook: A Guide to Your Rights*.

Eby studied law at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia before he worked for Pivot from 2003 to 2008. He was called to the bar in 2005. After leaving Pivot, Eby spent four years as executive director of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA), where he worked on numerous freedom of expression cases.

The organization was on the front lines of censorship battles between Canada Customs and Little Sister's Book and Art Emporium, Vancouver's gay and lesbian bookstore. The BCCLA and Little Sister's fought their first court battle to stop government book seizures at the border in 1994.

Eby was also at the BCCLA for some strange free expression fights that took place during the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

“We did a lot of work around the Olympics and free expression—in particular anti-Olympic speech—so people wouldn't be subject to trademark litigation or threats because they had a restaurant that was called Olympic Pizza or they used the Olympic rings in their protest signs,” he says.

While at the BCCLA, Eby fielded so many requests



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



to fight SLAPPs that the association began championing the creation of anti-SLAPP legislation.

B.C.'s NDP government passed Canada's original anti-SLAPP law in 2001. After the party was ousted from government later that year, the B.C. Liberals overturned the legislation. Eby says the 2001 law was flawed. "You had to actually show that the person who was suing you had a bad motive ... which is obviously a very difficult thing to prove."

In 2019, Eby's Protection of Public Participation Act addressed that flaw. He used older, related legislation in Ontario as a guideline.

In 2019, B.C.'s legislature unanimously passed Eby's law. This achievement is almost unheard of in British Columbia, where it's challenging to get the opposing parties to agree on the weather.

It likely helped that several of Canada's most eminent jurists—including two former federal Supreme Court justices—wrote an open letter advocating anti-SLAPP legislation. Another open letter which supported the legislation was signed by writers' organizations such as PEN Canada and the Writers' Union of Canada, more than two dozen environmental groups, the BCCLA, Amnesty International Canada and the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs.

The new law allows journalists to argue that they are speaking out on a matter of public importance and that the harm in allowing a lawsuit to go ahead outweighs the benefit to the public.

The court is supposed to look at a question, Eby says. "Is this journalism, or is this just an expletive-laden blog post that has no reasonable chance of being true, or is this speech that should be protected against these kinds of lawsuits?"

The law doesn't consider whether a story is true or defamatory.


"The idea is to re-weight the scales to say, We think it's more important that there be free and open discourse about these things—even if it means that someone's reputation is briefly or slightly or temporarily or even permanently affected by it—because it's more important to have freewheeling debate than it is to restrict people in advance of speaking about important issues in a democracy," Eby says.

Often the threat of a lawsuit is just a threat, but the targeted person or group can't afford the cost of calling the bluff. "The reality is a lot of letters get written and very few lawsuits actually get filed," says Eby. "My hope is that the legislation gives some more confidence to people who receive these threatening letters."

One challenge for any law dealing with journalism in the age of social

media and truthiness is defining journalism. "There's nothing in the act that says this has to be a capital *J* journalist and a capital *P* publication," says Eby.

"There is a lot of free speech in Canada, but this defamation piece was a notable exception. People with means, who are motivated, could really shut down negative news stories or people who were saying things that they didn't like about them on the Internet," says Eby. There wasn't "any kind of counterbalance."

But things have changed. "[We can] say, 'Hold on a sec. Is this a proper use of the courts to shut down this kind of speech?' I think we've got that now." 

Mark Leiren-Young (leiren-young.com) is an author, playwright, satirist and host of the Skaana podcast about ocean issues. His most recent book is *Orcas Everywhere*. Mark first joined the Book and Periodical Council's Freedom of Expression Committee to represent the Playwrights Union of Canada in 1999. He now represents the Writers' Union of Canada.

B.C.'s Protection of Public Participation Act

Under the law, which received royal assent on March 25, 2019, a defendant may apply to the court to dismiss a lawsuit because it impinges on the defendant's ability to speak freely on a matter of public interest.

If the court agrees, then it will dismiss the lawsuit, unless the plaintiff can satisfy the court that the harm that the plaintiff would likely suffer as a result of the defendant's speech would outweigh the public interest in protecting it.

The act further protects public participation by allowing the court to fully indemnify the defendants for costs.

Fifty Years of Defending Queer Expression

Glad Day Bookshop Celebrates a Milestone Anniversary

by Marcus McCann

This article was adapted from a speech that Marcus McCann gave at Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto on February 27, 2019, during Freedom to Read Week.

GLAD DAY IS AN INTERESTING place to talk about censorship. Three of its staff have been convicted of criminal obscenity for stocking queer material. The first was Kevin Orr in 1983. Orr was charged with possession of obscene material—two magazines named *The Leathermen* and *Come Watch*—for the purpose of sale. He was found guilty on March 4, 1983, and granted a conditional discharge with two years' probation.

John Scythes and Thomas Frank Ivison, Glad Day's owner and manager, respectively, were later convicted in the 1990s for distributing *Bad Attitude*, a lesbian erotic magazine with BDSM themes.

However, Glad Day did not set out to be a hero of freedom of expression. The battles came to the bookstore, not the other way around.

A police officer came to Glad Day to rifle through its wares. In the case of *Bad Attitude*, the police confiscated the magazine on site and then waited almost a month to return and lay charges. Scythes, Ivison and Glad Day were charged on April 30, 1992, and all were convicted on February 16, 1993. There was no jail time, but the store was fined \$200 and got a criminal record.

Another important site of resistance, from a legal standpoint, was the Canadian border. Once again, Glad Day did not seek a fight over the seizure of imported books. Canada Customs had a watch list which included many gay and lesbian bookstores. During the 1980s, there were 400 to 500 seizures at the border. Tom Warner, author of *Never Going Back: A History of Queer Activism in Canada* and a former Ontario human rights commissioner, estimates that 75% of

books bound for gay and lesbian bookstores in 1990 were detained.

Glad Day challenged these confiscations in what became a 20-year legal battle. In 1987, the bookstore successfully challenged the seizure of *The Joy of Gay Sex*. The District Court of

PUBLISHED BY FIRESIDE/SIMON AND SCHUSTER, 1978

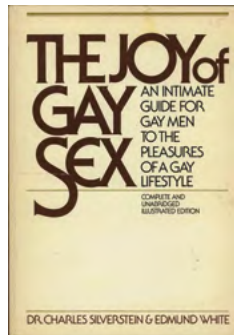


Image courtesy of Jerald F. Moldenhauer

Ontario found that anal sex was integral to gay men's sex. Judge Bruce Hawkins wrote: "To write about homosexual practices without

dealing with anal intercourse would be equivalent to writing a history of music and omitting Mozart."

Another area where Glad Day had a legal impact was film censorship. Glad Day successfully challenged a section of the Theatres Act which required films to be submitted to the censor board before they could be shown or distributed in Ontario. The Ontario Superior Court of Justice found that it was incredibly invasive to require folks to show their films to the government before they could be released.

One lesson of these legal battles is that censorship is never about whether anyone should be able to read or see something. It's about *who* can read or see it. Customs officials: yes. Willing audience: no. Judges and lawyers: yes. Public: no.


A poignant example: under the Theatres Act, films had to be vetted. The government had to set up a whole office of bureaucrats who watched films all day. They were allowed, even required,

to watch anything and everything. Only the public wasn't allowed to.

A second lesson: we cannot care about the passage of books but not people at the border. The border continues to be a site of terror and torment for many: transgender and non-binary, non-status, Muslim and HIV-positive people. Border reform is urgently needed.

Finally, these battles highlight the fact that sexuality is an important part of expression that is often censored. Sexual expression, especially queer expression, can break down the sexual monolith, provide examples of benign sexual variation and alleviate the loneliness of desire. Sexual expression is an integral part of human flourishing. This is the unfinished business of decisions like the *Bad Attitude* case.

Approximately half of the most often challenged books in Canadian libraries are non-sexual LGBTQ-themed books: children's books with queer and trans characters or themes. For me, this lays it bare: any idea that LGBTQ people can "clean up," presenting only non-sexual images and being safe from censorship, is bogus. Our lives continue to be so offensive that any depiction of them is still worthy of censorship.

I take this history as a call to vigorously defend queer expression from state oppression: the seizure of books, magazines and films; fines; and the risk of jail time. We must defend freedom of expression, but note: such a defence does not mean that we owe our adversaries a platform to attack us, and we need not refrain from criticizing them when they say stupid things in public. I have no doubt that Glad Day will continue to be a part of this vital story. 

Marcus McCann is an employment and human rights lawyer who owns part of Glad Day Bookshop. Visit gladdaybookshop.com.



PHOTO: JACLYN LAW

A Message from Glad Day's Founder

Glad Day Bookshop, as well as all other gay and lesbian bookshops, helped create a community. As homosexuals, most of us grew up as isolated individuals, without the support of family or like-minded people. Literature, therefore, played a unique role in connecting us to each other and giving us a voice in society. Together we have been able to change our circumstances and alter the course of political and social evolution in the societies where we have been able to organize.

For about a decade, the Canadian government sought to destroy Glad Day and the other gay and lesbian bookshops by banning much of our literature and seizing, even destroying, thousands of gay books, magazines, films and greeting cards. At the time, I called it cultural genocide. The terminology shocked many who didn't understand how literature played a major role in not only bringing us together as a community, but in helping us forge the political muscle necessary to change laws and bring about greater social equality. In addition, gay studies have given us depth and perspective in understanding the forces behind our oppression as well as the history of countless individual gays and lesbians and their contributions to society.

Glad Day may have begun out of a backpack full of books carried on a bicycle, but it was my dream to one day be able to purchase a building to help give the bookstore more permanence. That dream was shattered by the censorship wars set into motion by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his notorious Memorandum D9-1-1.*

It is nothing short of an amazing dream that Glad Day has survived to celebrate its 50th birthday. This incredible endurance and ability to adapt proves, more than anything, its importance to Toronto's lesbian and gay communities.

My congratulations to all who have helped make this possible!

Jearld F. Moldenhauer

*Memorandum D9-1-1 is a Canadian government document. It explains a section of the Customs Tariff. Customs officers use the memorandum to determine which imported publications are obscene and illegal. For many years, the memorandum prohibited publications with homosexual themes.

1970 Jearld Moldenhauer founds Glad Day because of the lack of gay literature in Toronto bookstores. He initially sells books out of his backpack. Moldenhauer eventually sets up shop in an apartment at 65 Kendal Avenue.

1981 Glad Day moves to 598A Yonge Street, where patrons must walk up a flight of stairs to reach the second-storey retail space.

April 21, 1982 Kevin Orr, a young employee, is charged by a senior morality officer with possession of obscene material—two magazines named *The Leathermen* and *Come Watch*—for the purpose of sale. Orr is convicted later of criminal obscenity, but the decision is overturned on appeal.

March 5, 1986 Canadian customs officials seize and detain *The Joy of Gay Sex*, which Glad Day was importing from the United States. Officials say the book is obscene according to Section 159(8) of the Criminal Code.

March 20, 1987 Glad Day successfully appeals the seizure of *The Joy of Gay Sex*. Judge Bruce Hawkins rules that the book is not obscene under the law.

1991 Moldenhauer sells Glad Day to John Scythes.

April 30, 1992 Almost a month after seizing the lesbian magazine *Bad Attitude* from Glad Day, police charge owner John Scythes, manager Thomas Frank Ivison and Glad Day itself with possession and sale of obscene material.

February 16, 1993 Scythes, Ivison and Glad Day are found guilty by Justice C.H. Paris of the Ontario Court. The store is fined \$200.

March 1, 1996 *Breaking the Surface*, the autobiography of Olympic diver Greg Louganis, becomes the first gay book on the bestseller list of *The New York Times*. Former Glad Day manager Scott Dagostino recalls that the bookstore was “selling cartons of it.”

January 21, 2002 Scythes and Glad Day are convicted under the Theatres Act for

distributing a film that had not been approved by the Ontario Film Review Board.

April 30, 2004 Scythes and Glad Day successfully appeal their conviction. Justice Russell Juriansz of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice finds that “the statutory scheme that requires the Board’s approval before films can be distributed or exhibited in Ontario violates the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom’s [sic] guarantee of freedom of expression.”

March 29, 2009 When New York City’s Oscar Wilde Bookshop closes, Glad Day becomes the oldest surviving LGBTQ bookstore in North America.

2011 Faced with declining sales, Scythes puts Glad Day up for sale. In February 2012, a group of 22 community members purchases the store to save it from going under.

July 2016 Glad Day moves to a bright, wheelchair-accessible space in Toronto’s Church-Wellesley Village. The store also functions as a café, bar and events venue.

2019 Glad Day celebrates its 50th anniversary.

—Dominique Bernier-Cormier



Further Reading

Bad Attitude/s on Trial: Pornography, Feminism, and the Butler Decision by Brenda Cossman, Shannon Bell, Lise Gotell and Becki L. Ross examines conflicts over pornography within Canadian feminism as well as the growing public and legal influence of anti-pornography feminism. Originally published in 1997, it was reprinted in 2017 as part of the University of Toronto Press’s Canada 150 Collection.

“Not Recommended”

What It’s Like When a School Board Rejects Your Work

by David Alexander Robertson

MAYBE I’D BEEN SPOILED.

For 10 years, my books usually avoided controversy, although some of them dealt with heavy subjects. My picture book, graphic novels and young-adult novels met kids at their level because I worked with educators, Indigenous Elders and cultural advisers to ensure the content was accurate, age appropriate and culturally sensitive.

My books are used in classrooms and school libraries across Canada. My picture book and graphic novels get the most use, and that was always the plan. Images and words make a powerful team that allows students to draw meaning and generate empathy. That’s important in this business of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

In the fall of 2018, I learned of a book review website created by Edmonton Public Schools. The website listed books to weed out of school libraries and classrooms. The books were primarily by Indigenous writers. My graphic novel series *7 Generations: A*

Plains Cree Saga—a four-part epic that follows one Cree family over three centuries—along with several other books were “not recommended” for use. For *7 Generations*, the reviewers had multiple concerns: “The graphic novel series contains sensitive subject matter and visual inferencing of abuse regarding residential schools. These titles are not independent reads as they require pre- and post-conversations with students regarding the legacy of residential schools and therefore not recommended.”

A growing number of Indigenous creators are writing important *own voices* stories that help make a teacher’s job (for example, having pre- and post-conversations with students) a bit easier. *Own voices* refers to marginalized characters who are written by authors from the marginalized group; they have lived experience. It’s counterproductive to have administrative bodies ostensibly take these valuable resources away. While Edmonton Public Schools didn’t intend to suggest these books be made unavailable, that’s what happened. One teacher who asked to remain anonymous messaged me. He was told to stop teaching *Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story*, another book of mine, because it appeared on a similar list created by Alberta Education, the provincial ministry of education.

It would’ve been easy to get upset, but I’ve been doing this work long enough to know the reason these things happen. I, and others, have more work to do. It’s a question of readiness, and the answer can be found in the history of representation.

When I was a kid, I read comics. Historically, Indigenous representation

in comics could be boiled down to stereotypes perpetuated by popular culture. The Dead Indian. The Noble Savage. The Savage Indian. These representations influenced perceptions, and they still exist today. The most effective response is making accurate depictions available. Representations of truth were not readily available when I was a kid. They are now, and we need to give them to, not take them away from, children of all ages.

Edmonton Public Schools took the list down due to public pressure. It felt like a small victory, but it was just a band-aid on a gaping wound. It’s said that overcoming the impact of historical trauma, as it pertains to the treatment of Indigenous people, will take seven generations. Because we still live in colonial Canada,

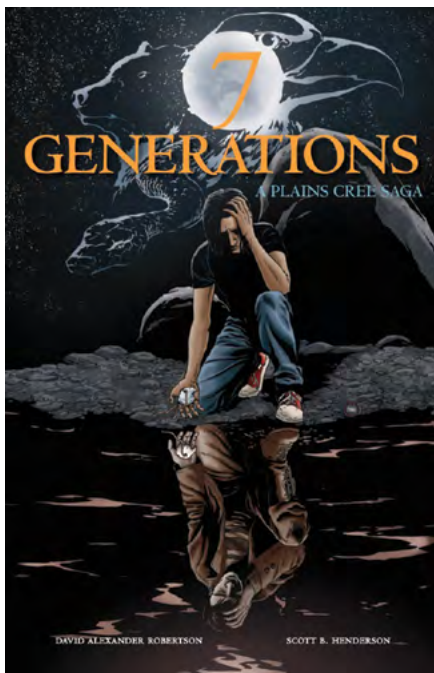
the clock has yet to start. A gaping wound needs time to heal. And there is more work to do than take a list down.

This work needs to happen at the grassroots by Canadians who recognize that they have a role in reconciliation and take meaningful action toward collective healing. This can be as simple as placing an *own voices* book in the hands of kids and showing them truths that have long been ignored, so they can make better decisions for us in the future. 🌸

David A. Robertson (darobertson.ca) is the author of books for young readers. They include *When We Were Alone*, which won a 2017 Governor General’s Literary Award and was nominated for the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award. A sought-after speaker and educator, David is a member of Norway House Cree Nation and lives in Winnipeg.



PHOTO: AMBER GREEN



Meanwhile in Quebec...

The Quebecor Year

by Charles Montpetit

THIS IS ODD: EVERY ITEM OF our 2019 roundup is tied to media empire Quebecor, whose flagships are the daily *Journal de Montréal* and the TVA network. It all makes for a wild, irony-riddled ride, so hey, let's jump right in.

April *Le Journal de Montréal's* long-running lawsuit against the parody website *Journal de Murréal* ends when the court orders the site to shed its name and turn over its ad revenues. In September, *Murréal* founder Janick Murray-Hall is allowed to appeal the decision, but he nevertheless shuts down his operations.

April The Montreal bookstore Le port de tête cancels a public discussion with controversial *Journal de Montréal* columnist Mathieu Bock-Côté because of online chatter about "disrupting" the performance. The event is eventually held, undisturbed, in another bookstore. Bock-Côté uses the opportunity to promote his book *L'empire du politiquement correct* (The Empire of the Politically Correct).

April Minutes before the NHL play-offs begin, Quebecor cuts the feed of the TVA Sports channel to its rival Bell TV, depriving the latter's customers of their hockey fix. Bell gets an injunction to restore the signal; Bell

then claims that Quebecor's move is part of a defamation campaign and sues for \$150 million in compensation. Quebecor calls this action a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) and an attack on its "right to expression."

May Another controversial *Journal de Montréal* contributor, Richard Martineau, drops his own \$350,000 SLAPP suit against the parody website *Ricochet*, which had published a mock obituary about him, along with cartoons depicting dogs peeing on his grave and God throwing the columnist's body into heaven's trash bin. Martineau explains that he's backing off to avoid stoking the "polarized climate."

July Quebecor owner Pierre Karl Péladeau sues rival news site *La Presse* and its columnist Hugo Dumas for \$500,000 over a story which stated that the mogul's ex-wife, Julie Snyder, had been fired as host of the hit show *Star académie* on TVA. Péladeau argues that her contract had simply not been renewed. *La Presse* issues a correction and apologizes.

August When six failing dailies file for creditor protection, Péladeau offers to buy them all, but he is criticized by MNA Catherine Dorion for attempting to create a near-monopoly of outlets that will promote his many business ventures. In the following weeks, many of Quebecor's current columnists take turns ridiculing her, thereby proving her point about the perils of convergence.

Aaaand we're outta room, folks. We'll try for diversity next year, I promise. 

Charles Montpetit is the Book and Periodical Council's champion of free expression for 2017.

The True Horror of Horror Fiction

In March 2019, the author of the Aurora Award-nominated horror novel *Hansel et Gretel*, Yvan Godbout, is arrested, along with his publisher at Éditions AdA, Nycolas Doucet, because the police believe that Godbout's book is juvenile pornography. The entire stock is seized, and stores are urged to stop selling it.

News items mention that the novel contains a "very explicit" assault on a nine-year-old, but the scene is in fact limited to a single paragraph, which commenters deem tamer than other authors' writings. In this instance, most of the page focuses on the narrator's outrage, and the perpetrator is immediately punished. Clearly, the book does not advocate sex with a child or depict such acts as its dominant feature (either of which is a requirement for a conviction).

More to the point, the affair is reminiscent of the 2012 case which the Crown failed to make—at great cost to taxpayers—against special-effects artist Rémy Couture. Both accusations stemmed from a single complaint, and no actual person was harmed in either instance. As some have observed, the current prosecution is akin to arresting *Game of Thrones* author George R.R. Martin for murder.

Despite the police's best efforts to contain distribution, at least 33 copies of Godbout's book remain available to the citizenry—in Quebec's public libraries.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Public Libraries Rise to Meet 21st-Century Challenges

by Vickery Bowles

This article was adapted from a speech that Vickery Bowles gave at Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto on February 27, 2019, during Freedom to Read Week.

To the Members of the Toronto Public Library Board:

In our annual report of a year ago we presented a statement of our faith in the public library as the pivot of democracy. That faith remains. It can be restated by saying that if a community is permitted to think (and democracy rests its case on this) it must have books; and books mean libraries; and libraries, for most of us, mean public libraries. We still believe with full sincerity that the job of book provision for the fundamental purpose of making it possible for ourselves to think, to think with intellectual honesty, to think with informed minds, remains the primary job of public libraries—even in war time. Without this the rest becomes futility.

—Charles R. Sanderson, *Reading in Toronto 1942: Being the Fifty-ninth Annual Report of the Toronto Public Library Board for the Year 1942*

IN THE MIDST OF A WORLD WAR being fought to protect democratic freedoms, Chief Librarian Charles Sanderson wrote about the enduring role of public libraries as the pivot of democracy. In 1942, making books freely available supported intellectual freedom. So much has changed between then and now. In the fast-paced world of the 21st century, intellectual freedom becomes even more complex. While books are still essential, the Internet offers a wealth of information, the media deliver news as it happens, publishers and producers of content proliferate, and algorithms segment and filter people's online experiences. And with this complexity, more challenges to our democratic values appear throughout the world.

Sanderson speaks to the important role of public libraries in making it possible for us to think with intellectual honesty and informed minds, even in wartime. In the digital age, public libraries have core capabilities and responsibilities to respond to

intellectual freedom challenges.

Public libraries are well positioned to provide leadership in their communities and beyond because they help democratize the modern world, support literacy and a literate population, and offer free and open access to diverse information and ideas. To walk into a public space—to freely attend a program, use a computer, use the study and lounge space, borrow a book or conduct research on any topic with the support of professional staff—is one of the most significant acts of intellectual freedom imaginable.

In his book *Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization, and the Decline of Civic Life*, sociology

professor Eric Klinenberg recognizes the important role of libraries as a shared, equitable public space that bridges divides and promotes civic engagement. “The accessible physical space of the library is not the only factor that makes it work well as social infrastructure. The institution’s extensive programming, organized by professional staff that upholds the principled commitment to openness and inclusivity, fosters social cohesion among clients who might otherwise keep to themselves,” he writes.

Challenges to intellectual freedom are on the rise. They happen not only on university campuses, where controversial speakers are challenged, but also to journalists who face opposition to a free press and to the users of social media platforms that collect and use personal data. Libraries also regularly face intellectual freedom challenges. They affect not just physical books and other materials in our collections, where libraries historically have faced the most challenges. Challenges also affect meeting spaces rented by outside groups to host controversial speakers and events, library programs whose speakers or topics some find offensive, and content found on the Internet on library computers.

Added to this complexity is a different kind of challenge to the core principles of intellectual freedom: the proliferation of *misinformation* that is so easily distributed on digital platforms. Perhaps an even more significant threat is artificial intelligence; its machine-learning algorithms shape not

// In the digital age, public libraries have core capabilities and responsibilities to respond to intellectual freedom challenges. //

only people’s online experiences but also opinions, beliefs, judgments and—perhaps—even election results.

So how do public libraries respond? They review policies that support intellectual freedom within the context of the freedom of expression provisions in Section 2(b) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The public libraries also review the policies to make it clear to the public that

- objections from customers about news or magazine articles that are part of an online subscription cannot be considered; instead, library staff may inform the publisher of the concerns or consider a different subscription service;
- the Internet is unregulated; it conveys information and opinions that range from reliable and authoritative to controversial or extremely offensive; and
- challenges to library programs and community room bookings are covered by the same intellectual freedom principles that cover collections.


Protection of data privacy is an issue everywhere. Public library leaders focus attention on data privacy and cybersecurity in public libraries to protect library data as well as teach data privacy as part of digital literacy.



PHOTO: SUSAN YIN, UNSPLASH

Libraries also develop programs that address the importance of civil debate in a democratic society. At the Toronto Public Library, we talk about the library as a civic commons where people may come together as Torontonians, but also as global citizens, to discuss and debate issues. We have, for example, developed an 18-month series of programs called On Civil Society. We challenge participants to get out of their bubbles to think about and explore issues from others’ perspectives.

Public libraries are also expanding their digital literacy offerings to respond to developments in artificial intelligence and machine learning to help people understand how algorithms shape their digital privacy, online experiences and access to information. Public libraries are a trusted community resource, so they are ideally placed to give judgment-free guidance on the evolving complexity of digital environments.

These activities and approaches are not what many people think of when they consider the public libraries’ support of intellectual freedom. In Sanderson’s day, the job meant making books freely available to all. In the 21st century, the job is more complex. It is even more critical for all of us to stand up for intellectual freedom in other ways. We must maintain *our faith* in the core values of free expression and personal privacy. 

Vickery Bowles is the city librarian of the Toronto Public Library. She is also the board chair for the Urban Libraries Council which has its headquarters in Washington, D.C. She has defended intellectual freedom while responding to challenges to collections, room bookings and programs. In 2018, she was awarded the Ontario Library Association’s Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award.

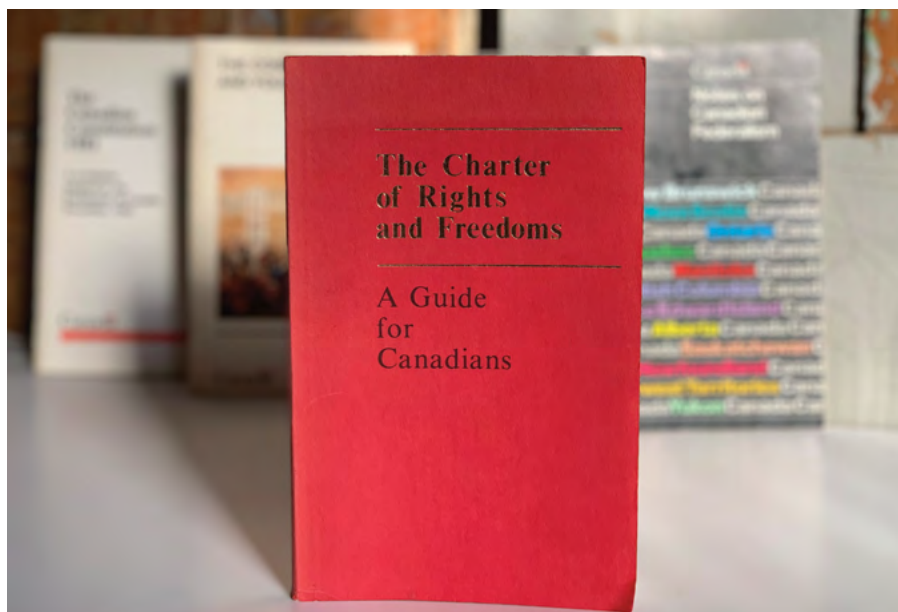


PHOTO: BOYD GORDON

Kids Have Freedom of Expression Rights Too!

Q&A with Author Danielle S. McLaughlin

by Jaclyn Law

What is your right to freedom of expression, and how is it limited by laws, rules and customs? Danielle S. McLaughlin, civil liberties advocate and former director of education for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and Canadian Civil Liberties Education Trust, explores these questions in her new kids' book, *Freedom of Expression: Deal with It Before You Are Censored* (James Lorimer & Company, 2019). We talked to McLaughlin about free expression in schools, common myths and more.

Q How did this book come about?

A *Deal with It!* is a series that helps young people with topics like bullying and racism and resolving conflicts. Jim Turk, director of Ryerson University's Centre for Free Expression [in Toronto], recommended me to the publisher.

Q Are you concerned about free expression in schools?

A Absolutely. Many students and teachers have faced consequences, without good reason, for expressing their views or creating art or wearing certain clothing. Schools, in particular, feel they can handle controversial issues by banning something. If we say nobody gets to do such and such, it may look like it could solve the problem, but it rarely does anything like it, and often it makes things significantly worse.

In my first book, *That's Not Fair! Getting to Know Your Rights and Freedoms*, I discussed three questions people should ask whenever they are thinking about creating a restriction, particularly on expression: Why are you doing it? If you don't have a good purpose, forget it. Will your restriction actually achieve your purpose? Frequently, it doesn't. And, most important, what else will it do—what are the side effects?

For example, cellphone bans in schools: that's very much a freedom of expression issue in schools. Why do it? To prevent distraction and cyberbullying. Will that work? Some jurisdictions that have these bans have had to rescind them, because the amount of time teachers spent on trying to control cellphone use was eating into class time. Cyberbullying happens mostly outside of school, so banning phones in class doesn't help. And kids who use their phones [to cope with] learning disabilities have had to out themselves to get an exemption. Not everyone is comfortable with explaining what sort of disability they live with. Cellphone bans are an example of the overreach we see so often in schools.

Q *That's Not Fair!* is a book and video series for kids aged seven to 11. Why is it important to learn about expression rights so early?

A As soon as a kid says, "That's not fair," which happens around age two and a half, we have a prime opportunity to get them involved in democratic action. At that age, kids will say "that's not fair" for virtually anything, but if they understand that people have different views on fairness, I think, over a long period of time, we could avoid the kind of thing we're seeing, specifically in the United States:

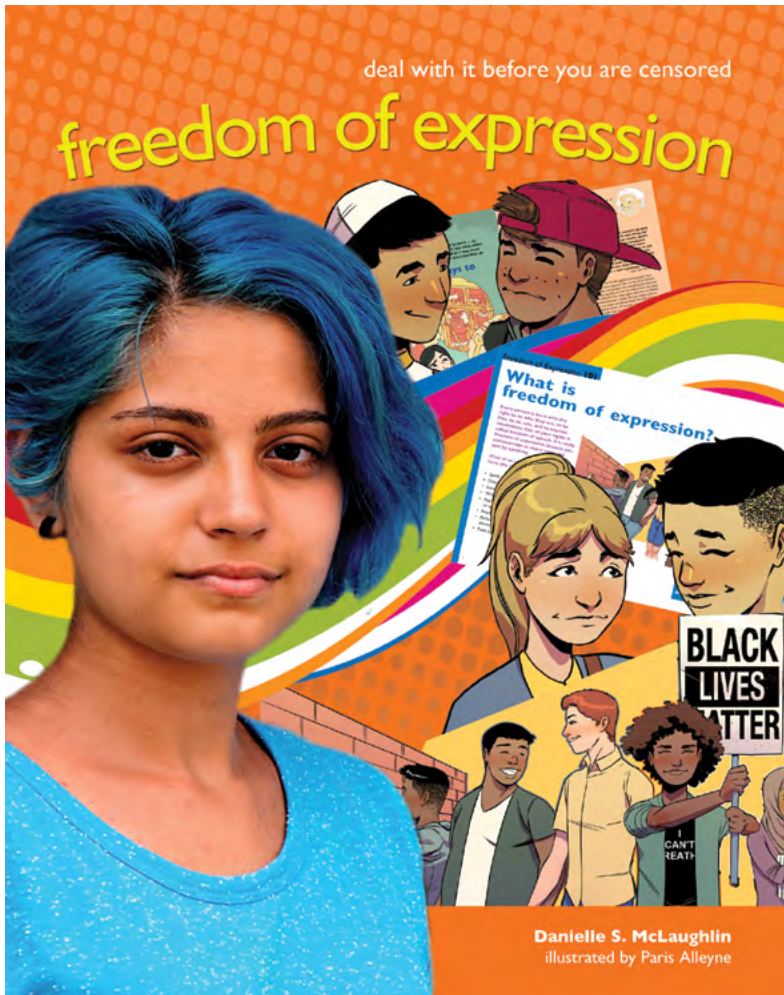
people are so polarized, they have no opportunity to listen to what others think. We have to be prepared to listen, even at a very young age, to ideas that don't necessarily resonate with us. When we give everyone a chance to express what they think, there may be something that surprises you.

Q In *Freedom of Expression*, you explore three viewpoints: "The Censor," "The Speechmaker" and "The Witness." Why did you follow this structure?

A All the books in the series have this structure, and I think these are the primary roles in any conflict.



PHOTO: RUBENMCCLAUGHLIN



The censor wants everybody to be nice and argues that if we stop any expression that's controversial or could offend somebody, everything will be peaceful and fine, and we know that's not true. The speechmaker doesn't think carefully before opening their mouth. Just because you have the right of freedom of expression doesn't mean it's always a good idea. You need to think critically about what you say, and when and where you say it. And the witness,

or the bystander, is often the one who doesn't know what to do.

Q You also discuss myths about free expression. What are some common ones?

A Many kids think you can go to jail for saying bad stuff—for swearing or being racist. People also think that if you hear someone make a racist joke, or you

see an offensive image, you should be able to call the police. That's a misconception.

Another myth—one I find very troubling—is what Alan Borovoy used to call “naive cynicism.” People believe you can't do anything anyway; there's no point in protesting because it's never done any good. On the whole, if you speak to kids, teachers, almost anybody, they think protest never changed anything. But if you look at history, it's one of the few things that ever did. And, of course, there's the opposite view: I can say anything I want to, there are no restrictions, we live in a free country. That's not true, either.

Q What's your next project?

A I'd like to speak in public libraries about freedom of expression, particularly freedom to read. Many people think freedom of expression has one direction—you get to say whatever you want—but what comes *into* you is also part of it. If somebody bans a book and you don't get to read it, your freedom of expression has been limited. Kids need to understand that.

It's vital that, from a very young age, kids start understanding that they have rights. Those rights don't kick in when they turn 18: they are born with those rights and they include freedom of expression. While they will be limited depending on circumstances of where, when and how, kids have the same rights as adults, with the exception of the right to vote. 🌸

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

// We have to be prepared to listen, even at a very young age, to ideas that don't necessarily resonate with us. When we give everyone a chance to express what they think, there may be something that surprises you. //

Book Profile

Claws of the Panda: Beijing's Campaign of Influence and Intimidation in Canada

By Jonathan Manthorpe (Cormorant Books, 2019)

Reviewed by Franklin Carter

The panda in the title of Jonathan Manthorpe's book is the People's Republic of China. When viewed uncritically, the country looks benign. But China is a mature totalitarian society of 1.4 billion people. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has governed the nation for 70 years, and China's military force is one of the largest in the world. This panda has claws. It can be dangerous.

Just how much of a danger the communist Chinese pose to Canadians—including Canadians of Chinese ancestry—is the theme of *Claws of the Panda*.

Manthorpe is qualified to assess the danger. He worked as a foreign correspondent for almost four decades. In 1993, he went to Hong Kong to cover Asian affairs. In 2005, he published a book—*Forbidden Nation: A History of Taiwan*—about the small non-communist Chinese state. While preparing *Claws*, he consulted more than 30 scholarly books, diplomats' memoirs and government reports about China.

Claws covers the most important political and economic aspects of the relationship between China and Canada. The book also shows how Chinese “agents of influence” have infiltrated Canadian universities and how wealthy

Chinese launder their money in Canada through real estate purchases. The book also explains how the CCP has spread propaganda, spied on people and tried to influence politicians.

The CCP takes a special interest in the Chinese diaspora. Fifty million Chinese emigrants and foreign residents live outside China, and 1.56 million of them live in Canada. The CCP sees this population “as an asset to be marshalled in the promotion of China's political interests,” Manthorpe writes. But the CCP also knows that many people in the diaspora oppose China's regime, so the CCP tries to bring them into line.

The Overseas Chinese Affairs Office (OCAO) of the State Council fosters closer ties between China and Chinese people in Canada through trade and membership in Chinese cultural and hometown associations. The CCP and the OCAO want the Chinese in Canada to trust and support China's regime.

The CCP also seeks to promote a positive image of China through the Chinese-language media. *The China Press*, a newspaper that the CCP founded in New York, sells in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal. Manthorpe describes these newspapers as “cheerleaders for the CCP regime.” Cable and digital outlets transmit Chinese state TV and radio into the homes of Chinese people in Canada.

The CCP also tries to influence news and opinions in the privately owned Chinese-language media in Canada. Manthorpe writes: “The CCP has found that publishers of Chinese-language media can easily be encouraged to self-censor. This is done by either offering business advantages in China or, if the publisher proves recalcitrant, threatening harm to his or her businesses in Canada and China or to relatives in China.”

Reporters receive threats too. In 2010, Tao Wang, a reporter who

worked for New Tang Dynasty TV in Vancouver, told *The Vancouver Sun* that he had received phone calls from state security officials in China. They ordered him to stop his “illegal activities” in Canada. When Wang ignored them, state security shut down his medical equipment business in China.

But threats, a whitewashed Chinese-language media and the inducements of the OCAO fail to secure the loyalty or compliance of many Chinese people—and Tibetans and Uighurs—in Canada. Some join associations that promote political reform and human rights in China. The CCP regards these activists as enemies.

In fact, the CCP refers to them as the “five poisonous groups”: the advocates of independence for Tibet and Xinjiang (home of the Uighurs), the defenders of an independent Taiwan, the advocates of democratic reform in China and, finally, the adherents of Falun Gong, a spiritual group. The CCP seeks to identify and silence as many activists as possible.

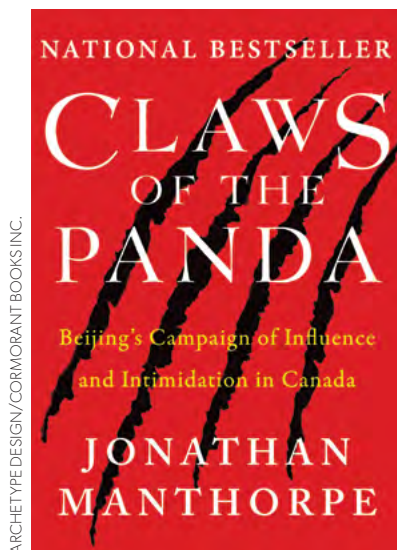
In Canada, the Chinese regime's critics and opponents are followed and watched. They receive abusive late-night phone calls and malware on their computers. They are defamed on social media and misrepresented in fake letters sent to MPs. They are harassed at universities and anti-CCP demonstrations. Their relatives in China are threatened.

Manthorpe reports the stories of a few activists—Sheng Xue, Mehmet Tohti, Anastasia Lin and Xie Weidong—who, despite the pressure, refused to back down.

Claws of the Panda appeared in bookstores in February 2019, just weeks after the Meng Wanzhou affair instigated a deterioration in government relations between China and Canada. The publication of this important book couldn't be timelier.



Franklin Carter is an editor in Toronto.



21 Things You Can Do

THIS YEAR, FREEDOM TO READ WEEK (FTRW) RUNS FROM February 23 to 29. How will you celebrate your freedom to read? Whether you're a teacher, librarian, student, bookseller or lover of the written word, try these ideas for activities in your classroom or community.

GET SOCIAL

TWEET: Tweet out one challenged book or magazine a day and include the hashtag [#FTRWeek](#).

BOOKSTAGRAM YOUR INSTAGRAM: Create beautiful themed photos of your favourite challenged books and share with the hashtag [#bookstagram](#). Don't forget to follow and tag us [@bookandperiodicalcouncil!](#)

FACEBOOK PROFILE FRAME: Add our custom Freedom to Read Week frame to your Facebook profile photo to show everyone you're celebrating. Simply go to [facebook.com/profilepicframes](#) and search for Freedom to Read Week.

SPREAD THE WORD: Get in touch with other libraries, schools, bookstores and organizations to help promote their FTRW events and activities. Share them online and on our [freedomtoread.ca](#) events page.

HOLD A PHOTO CONTEST: Invite people to submit a photo with the theme of Freedom to Read Week on social media. A banned-book bundle makes a great prize!

BECOME A FRIEND OF FTRW: Head to [change.org/p/support-freedom-to-read](#) to sign our Friend of FTRW statement and pledge your commitment to every Canadian's freedom to read.

ATTEND AN FTRW EVENT: Go offline and check out your local libraries and community spaces to participate in their Freedom to Read Week activities.

PLAN AN EVENT

POP-UP READINGS: Set up a speaker podium where people can read aloud from censored materials. Broadcast the event on Facebook Live, YouTube Live or another app to spread the word.

DISPLAY BOOKS: Organize a book display by genre or theme. You could have a display of censored young-adult fiction or books challenged for offensive language.

INVITE SPEAKERS: Invite an author, librarian, publisher, lawyer, journalist or teacher to speak about freedom of expression. Prepare questions for the guest.

FREEDOM TO READ TRIVIA: Host a trivia event at your school, library or home. Head to [freedomtoread.ca/links-and-resources](#) for ideas to help you create questions about censorship and challenged works.

MOVIE NIGHT: Many challenged books have been made into movies, and many have been challenged. Invite friends to get together and watch one.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Teachers, have your students read short passages from their favourite challenged books during morning announcements throughout Freedom to Read Week.

HOST A LIVE PODCAST: Invite an audience to participate in an interactive discussion about the importance of freedom of expression. Share the recorded podcast on social media.

DIY

GUESS THE BOOK CONTEST: Wrap books in brown paper, write a clue on the paper, and have people guess which book it is. You can also photocopy a few pages of each book, cut the copies into strips and place them in a jar for people to draw and guess.

HOST A PAINTING CLASS: Provide a selection of challenged books and painting supplies. Let the covers be the inspiration for the art.

CAGED BOOKS: Create a cage using chicken wire and caution tape, and display challenged books and magazines inside.

GET CAUGHT READING: Create a mugshot backdrop. Library patrons can have their picture taken with a banned or challenged book or magazine.

BLACKOUT POETRY: Photocopy a page from your favourite challenged book or magazine. Then strike out some of the text with a black marker to make a poem from the remaining visible text.

CREATE A DIGITAL MAP: Create an interactive map that highlights where books and magazines have been censored. Check out our map of 30 challenged publications at [freedomtoread.ca/censorship-in-canada/30-challenged-publications](#) for inspiration.

MAKE A TIMELINE: Show the history of book challenges or book burnings. Your timeline could be a poster, a banner or a chalk drawing on pavement. View our "35 Years of Freedom of Expression in Canada" timeline at [freedomtoread.ca/links-and-resources/timeline](#).

Challenged Books and Magazines

THIS LIST FEATURES SELECTED TITLES THAT HAVE BEEN CHALLENGED in Canada over the past six decades. The information was voluntarily submitted by publicly funded libraries and acquired through our own research. We've also included Canadian titles that have been challenged in other countries. To find even more challenged titles and learn why they were challenged, please see the challenged works list at freedomtoread.ca and the intellectual freedom challenges surveys at cfla-fcab.ca.

Children's Books

- Alligators All Around: An Alphabet* Maurice Sendak
- And Tango Makes Three* Justin Richardson AND Peter Parnell, ILLUSTRATOR Henry Cole
- Asha's Mums* Rosamund Elwin AND Michele Paule, ILLUSTRATOR Dawn Lee
- Battle Bunny* Jon Scieszka AND Mac Barnett, ILLUSTRATOR Matthew Myers
- Bedtime for Frances* Russell Hoban, ILLUSTRATOR Garth Williams
- Bone Dog* Eric Rohmann
- Christmas Tapestry* Patricia Polacco
- Danny and the Dinosaur* Syd Hoff
- Donovan's Big Day* Lesléa Newman, ILLUSTRATOR Mike Dutton
- The Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo* Sue Denim, ILLUSTRATOR Dav Pilkey
- Girls' Life Head-to-Toe Guide to You* EDITORS Sarah Wassner Flynn AND Karen Bokram
- Good Families Don't* Robert Munsch, ILLUSTRATOR Alan Daniel
- Hop on Pop* Dr. Seuss
- Lizzy's Lion* Dennis Lee
- Matthew and the Midnight Flood* Allen Morgan
- Maxine's Tree* Diane Léger, ILLUSTRATOR Dar Churcher
- Miss Mousie's Blind Date* Tim Beiser, ILLUSTRATOR Rachel Berman
- Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*² Christine Baldacchino, ILLUSTRATOR Isabelle Malenfant
- My First Ramadan* Karen Katz
- The Sissy Duckling* Harvey Fierstein, ILLUSTRATOR Henry Cole

- Sleeping Dragons All Around* Sheree Fitch, ILLUSTRATOR Michele Nidenoff
- Spooky ABC* Eve Merriam, ILLUSTRATOR Lane Smith
- 10,000 Dresses* Marcus Ewert, ILLUSTRATOR Rex Ray
- The Travels of Babar* Jean de Brunhoff
- Two Dumb Ducks* Maxwell Eaton III
- The Waiting Dog* Carolyn Beck, ILLUSTRATOR Andrew Beck
- Zeke Pippin* William Steig

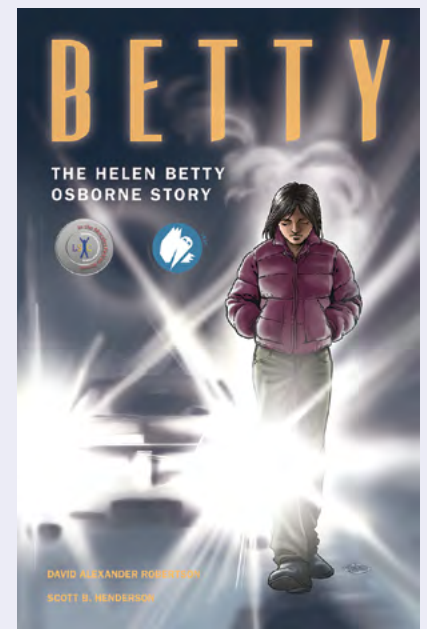
Young-Adult Books

- As She Grows* Lesley Anne Cowan
- Boy O'Boy* Brian Doyle
- Bridge to Terabithia* Katherine Paterson
- The Catcher in the Rye* J.D. Salinger
- Daniel Half Human* David Chotjewitz, TRANSLATOR Doris Orgel
- Docteur Dog* Babette Cole
- Fear Street series* R.L. Stein
- Goosebumps series* R.L. Stein
- The Harry Potter series*¹ J.K. Rowling
- His Dark Materials series* Philip Pullman
- The Lesser Blessed* Richard Van Camp
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower* Stephen Chbosky
- Power Play* Eric Walters
- La première fois* EDITOR Charles Montpetit
- The Shepherd's Granddaughter* Anne Laurel Carter
- Summer Moon* Jan DeLima
- Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak* Deborah Ellis
- To Kill a Mockingbird* Harper Lee
- Trouble Is a Friend of Mine* Stephanie Tromly

- Underground to Canada* Barbara Smucker
- When Everything Feels Like the Movies*⁵ Raziel Reid
- Wherever Nina Lies* Lynn Weingarten

Graphic Novels

- Battling Boy* Paul Pope



BETTY: THE HELEN BETTY OSBORNE STORY

By David Alexander Robertson
Illustrated by Scott B. Henderson

Written for students in grades 9–12, *Betty* recounts the true story of a young Cree woman who was murdered in Manitoba in 1971.

In 2018, *Betty's* author, David Alexander Robertson, learned that his graphic novel was on a list of books that were “not recommended” by Alberta’s ministry of education. *Betty* had been read in classrooms for a while.

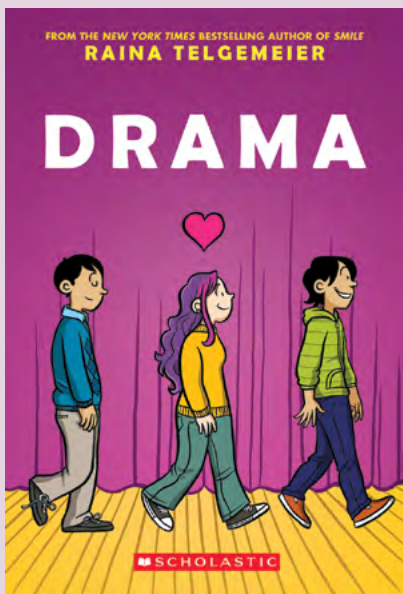
Some of Robertson’s other books have faced school-board challenges as well. Turn to page 14 for details.

- Blankets* Craig Thompson
- Cage of Eden series, vols. 4 & 5* Yoshinobu Yamada

Graphic Novels (continued)

Darth Maul: Sith Apprentice

Jo Casey AND Catherine Saunders



DRAMA

By Raina Telgemeier

In this award-winning graphic novel for tweens, a middle-school class puts on a theatre production. The storyline includes same-sex crushes and an onstage kiss between two boys.

In January 2019, the Ottawa Catholic School Board removed *Drama* from its elementary school libraries. The board had received complaints from parents about the LGBTQ content.

Drama is also one of the books most frequently banned in the United States.

The Graveyard Book, vols. 1 & 2Neil Gaiman,
ILLUSTRATOR P. Craig RussellLove & Rockets series Gilbert Hernandez
AND Jaime Hernandez*Les Nombrils* Marc Delafontaine
AND Maryse Dubuc*Path of the Warrior* Richard Van Camp7 Generations: A Plains Cree Saga series
David Alexander Robertson,
ILLUSTRATOR Scott B. Henderson*Tales from the Farm* Jeff Lemire*This One Summer*² Mariko Tamaki,
ILLUSTRATOR Jillian Tamaki*The Three Musketeers* Alexandre Dumas,
ADAPTED BY Morvan, Dufranne,
Rubén AND Galopin

Fiction

American Gods Neil Gaiman*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*
Mordecai Richler*Arvida* Samuel Archibald*The Book of Negroes*⁴ Lawrence Hill*Canadian Poetry: The Modern Era*
EDITOR John Newlove*Claim Me* (The Stark Trilogy, Book 2)
J. Kenner*Close Range: Wyoming Stories* Annie Proulx*Contes pour buveurs attardés*
Michel Tremblay*The Diviners* Margaret Laurence*Fire and Ice* Anne Stuart*Foxfire: Confessions of a Girl Gang*
Joyce Carol Oates*The Giver* Lois Lowry*Go the F**k to Sleep* Adam Mansbach,
ILLUSTRATOR Ricardo Cortés*The Handmaid's Tale* Margaret Atwood*How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets*
Garth Stein*Lady Chatterley's Lover* D.H. Lawrence*Lives of Girls and Women* Alice Munro*Lolita* Vladimir Nabokov*Maria Monk* Sylvie Ouellette*Marvel's The Avengers Encyclopedia*
Matt Forbeck AND Daniel Wallace*Murphy's Law* Colin Bateman*Of Mice and Men* John Steinbeck*Roger Sudden* Thomas H. Raddall*The Satanic Verses* Salman Rushdie*Such a Long Journey*³ Rohinton Mistry*Such Is My Beloved* Morley Callaghan*Three Day Road* Joseph Boyden*The Three Incestuous Sisters*
Audrey Niffenegger*The Troop: A Novel of Terror* Nick Cutter*Warlord* Ted Bell*The Wars* Timothy Findley*The Young in One Another's Arms* Jane Rule

Non-Fiction

Caring for Your Baby and Young Child
Steven P. Shelov*Chicken Soup for the Unsinkable Soul*
Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen
AND Heather McNamara*Deadly Sins* Thomas Pynchon AND others*Earth (The Book): A Visitor's Guide to the
Human Race* Jon Stewart*The Facts on Halloween* John Ankerberg,
John Weldon AND Dillon Burroughs*Fifty Mighty Men* Grant MacEwan*The Joy of Gay Sex* Dr. Charles Silverstein
AND Edmund White*A Practical Guide to Children's Health*
Kate Tietje*Pride: Celebrating Diversity & Community*
Robin Stevenson*Rise to Greatness: The History of Canada
from the Vikings to the Present*
Conrad Black*Robert Mapplethorpe: The Photographs*
Paul Martineau AND Britt Salvesen*The Way I Am* Eminem*What I Meant to Say: The Private
Lives of Men* EDITOR Ian Brown

Magazines

<i>Allure</i>	<i>NOW</i>
<i>Cosmopolitan</i>	<i>Rolling Stone</i>
<i>Details</i>	<i>Self</i>
<i>Esquire</i>	<i>Seventeen</i>
<i>Glamour</i>	<i>Sports Illustrated</i>
<i>GQ</i>	<i>Teen Vogue</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>US Weekly</i>
<i>Maclean's</i>	<i>Women's Health</i>
<i>Men's Fitness</i>	

Canadian Publications

¹challenged in the United States and Canada²challenged in the United States³challenged in India⁴challenged in the Netherlands⁵The author received a Governor General's Literary Award for this book. The award, not the book, was challenged.

Join the Conversation

How to Reach Us During Freedom to Read Week

We keep the conversation going about Freedom to Read Week through our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Our website at freedomtoread.ca includes a list of challenged materials, news stories about censorship, clip art and banners, an interactive events page, resources for educators and even more ideas for participating in Freedom to Read Week.



SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Once a month, we email a newsletter that includes stories about censorship, ideas for getting involved with Freedom to Read Week and a list of events and campaigns in your area. To subscribe, visit our website or Facebook page.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page includes news about censorship and challenged books as well as ideas for the defence of the freedom to read. Like our page at facebook.com/FreedomToReadWeek. Send us news stories and updates about what's happening in your neighbourhood, and we'll post them on our timeline.



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Year round, the [@Freedom_to_Read](https://twitter.com/Freedom_to_Read) Twitter account is your best source for news about freedom of expression and censorship issues in Canada and abroad. Use the hashtags [#FTRWeek](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FTRWeek) and [#FreedomToRead](https://twitter.com/hashtag/FreedomToRead) to have your say!



TAG US ON INSTAGRAM

We love to see what you're up to during Freedom to Read Week. Don't forget to take lots of photos and follow and tag us [@bookandperiodicalcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/bookandperiodicalcouncil).



ASK US A QUESTION

If you have any questions about Freedom to Read Week or freedom of expression in Canada, please email us at info@freedomtoread.ca.



Hold an Event

Anyone can host a Freedom to Read Week event! Visit our website at freedomtoread.ca/events to find ideas and information about events across Canada. A great way to start your event is by reading this welcome message:

// This event is part of Freedom to Read Week, an annual program of the Book and Periodical Council. Freedom to Read Week celebrates intellectual freedom, raises awareness of censorship and promotes access to books, magazines and information in Canada. To find more information, visit freedomtoread.ca or follow [@Freedom_to_Read](https://twitter.com/Freedom_to_Read) on Twitter. //

Support Freedom to Read

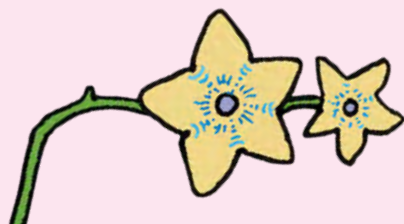
Donate to the Book and Periodical Council at freedomtoread.ca/support-freedom-to-read. Your donation makes it possible for the BPC to publicize free expression issues, promote Freedom to Read Week and publish our resource kit, campaign poster and bookmark.

Please note: we thank all donors for their contributions, but we are unable to give charitable tax receipts.

ILLUSTRATIONS (DETAILS): GIL MARTINEZ, 2019



ILLUSTRATIONS (DETAILS): GIL MARTINEZ, 2019



Share your posts: #freedomtoread #FTRWeek
Don't forget to follow and tag us @bookandperiodicalcouncil




Photocopy
and colour me!



ILLUSTRATION (DETAIL): GIL MARTINEZ, 2019

Freedom to Read Week: February 23–29, 2020

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-  @Freedom_to_Read
-  @bookandperiodicalcouncil

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