

Trent Lakes Public Library



Policy Type:	Operational	Policy Number:	OP-06
Policy Title:	Programming	Initial Policy Approval Date:	October 2019
		Last Review/Revision Date:	2022
		Year of Next Review:	2024

Programming supports the library's mission to stimulate imagination and inquiry. Programming provides information, invites public discussion, encourages curiosity and creativity, and promotes literacy and reading. Programming promotes the library's services and resources. This policy defines the provision of programs by Library staff and through co-sponsored or partnership activities.

1. Programs are defined as any group activity offered to the public that staff coordinate, plan and/or present.
2. The Trent Lakes Public Library upholds the principle of intellectual freedom embodied in the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' *Statement of Intellectual Freedom and Libraries*. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the content of the program, or the views expressed by presenters or participants. See ***Intellectual Freedom Policy FN-04***.
3. All programs are designed to be inclusive and safe spaces, providing activities that are innovative, and community driven. The Library may delivery programs that present controversial or opposing points of view. Community members are expected to respect the rights and freedoms of others when expressing concern over any specific program. All expressions of concern should be addressed, in writing, to the CEO of the Library.
4. The library will:
 - a) make available a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints.
 - b) select programs based on the interest and need of the community.
 - c) use programs to promote interest in, and the joy of, reading and literacy.
 - d) make programs available free of charge except for fundraising events to benefit the library (**see Note 1.**)
 - e) limit program attendance based on safe use of space, or when demand for a program requires it.
 - f) make programs open to all, based on a first come, first served basis, either with advanced registration or at the door.
 - g) not offer programming that is purely commercial in nature or intent.
 - h) assess the credibility of any partners involved in delivering programs.
 - i) regularly evaluate the planning and delivery of library programs.
 - j) make available a process for user feedback and expressions of opinions/concerns about programs (**see Note 2.**)
5. The library may:
 - a) offer programs for children, young adults, adults and families.
 - b) participate in cooperative programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions or individuals.
 - c) sponsor programs in the library facility or outside of the library.
 - d) promote programs through brochures, news releases, and the library's website.
 - e) allow presenters to display products or books for purchase.

Trent Lakes Public Library Policy OP-06 (continued)

Related Documents:

- Trent Lakes Public Library. *Intellectual Freedom Policy (FN-04)*
- Trent Lakes Public Library. *Diversity and Inclusion Policy (FN-06)*
- Trent Lakes Public Library. *Code of Conduct (Public) (OP-03)*

Note 1 – The *Public Libraries Act* does not permit a library to charge for residents to borrow circulating materials, but a library board *may* decide to charge for programs or to charge for certain types of programs. Such a decision on charging for programs would be based on deliberations and decisions at the library board table. To be clear, Section 23 of the *Public Libraries Act* reads:

“23 (1) A board shall not make a charge for admission to a public library or for use in the library of the library’s materials. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 23 (1).

Certain library services free

- (2) Every board shall allow the public to,
- (a) reserve and borrow circulating materials that are prescribed or belong to a prescribed class; and
 - (b) use reference and information services as the board considers practicable, without making any charge. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 23 (2).

Fees

- (3) A board may impose such fees as it considers proper for,
- (a) services not referred to in subsections (1) and (2);
 - (b) the use of the parts of a building that are not being used for public library purposes; and
 - (c) the use of library services by persons who do not reside in the area of the board’s jurisdiction. R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44, s. 23 (3).”

Note 2 – The Trent Lakes Public Library recognizes the right of individuals or groups to object to programs based on personal beliefs. However, such objection does not provide any individual or group the right to restrict the freedom of others to participate in library programs.