

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Table of contents and Schedule for Review

Policy Section	Library Documentation (In order of appearance in manual)	Policy number	Date of current issue	Date of next review	Notes
Foundation	Strategic Directions	FN-01	2024/06/19		
Board By-laws	Statement of Authority and Powers of the Board	BL-01	2022/01/19		
Board By-laws	Composition of the Board and Officers' Terms of Reference	BL-02	2022/01/19		
Board By-laws	Meetings	BL-03	2022/01/19		
Board By-laws	Amendment of Bylaws	BL-04	2022/01/19		
Governance	Purpose and Duties of the Board (includes Board Code of Conduct)	GOV-01	2022/01/19		
Governance	Board Orientation and Training	GOV-02	2022/01/19		
Governance	Committees of the Board	GOV-03	2022/01/19		
Governance	Planning	GOV-04	2022/01/19		
Governance	Financial Control/Oversight	GOV-05	2022/01/19		
Governance	Board Advocacy	GOV-06	2022/01/19		
Governance	Board-CEO Partnership (Includes Evaluation of the CEO)	GOV-07	2022/01/19		
Governance	Board Evaluation	GOV-08	2022/01/19		
Governance	Succession Planning	GOV-09	2022/01/19		
Library Services	Customer Use	LS-01	2022/05/18		
Library Services	Privacy	LS-02	2022/11/16		
Library Services	Terms of Use For Library Public Internet Services	LS-03	2022/11/16		
Library Services	Collection Policy	LS-04	2023/09/20	2025	
Library Services	Unattended Child Policy	LS-05	2023/11/15	2025	

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Foundation	Policy Number:	FN-01
Policy Title:	Strategic Directions	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	June 19, 2024
		Year of Next Review:	

Mission:

Mississauga Library empowers individuals, fosters community, and inspires lifelong learning by providing access to evolving spaces, services, and information.

Vision:

An informed, connected community where every individual thrives.

Values:

- **Intellectual Freedom:** Upholding the principle of intellectual freedom to ensure individuals have access to information and ideas. We promote diverse viewpoints and foster a culture of open inquiry and curiosity.
- **Literacy and Learning:** Dedicated to promoting literacy in all its forms – from reading skills to digital literacy, information literacy, cultural literacy, and beyond. We provide resources and programs that empower individuals of all ages to build knowledge, skills, and confidence throughout their lives.
- **Equitable Access:** Providing equitable access to resources, services, and experiences. We are dedicated to removing barriers to access and promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion across its offerings and operations.
- **Community Engagement and Connection:** Building meaningful connections by creating opportunities for individuals to come together, share ideas, and engage with their communities.

Click on [Library Masterplan](#) for strategic directions.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Bylaws	Policy Number:	BL-01
Policy Title:	Statement of Authority, Powers and Duties	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

The library board bears legal responsibility for the library by ensuring that it operates in accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P.44. The purpose of this bylaw is to define the legal authority of the board.

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 3 (1), the council of the municipality of Mississauga has established the Mississauga Library by the adoption of Municipal By-Law 2195 on January 2, 1957.
 2. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 3 (3), the Mississauga Library shall be under the direction of the Mississauga Library Board.
 3. The powers and duties of the library board are prescribed in the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P44, to which this bylaw adheres. The role of the library board is to govern the affairs of the library, and in accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 20, the library board:
 - a) shall seek to provide a comprehensive and efficient public library service that reflects the community's unique needs
 - b) shall operate one or more libraries and ensure that they are conducted in accordance with this Act and the regulations
 - c) may operate special services in connection with a library as it considers necessary
 - d) shall fix the times and places for board meetings and the mode of calling and conducting them, and ensure that full and correct minutes are kept
 - e) shall make an annual report to the Minister and make any other reports required by this Act and the regulations or requested by the Minister from time to time
 - f) shall make provision for insuring the board's real and personal property
 - g) shall take proper security for the treasurer
 - h) may appoint such committees as it considers expedient
 4. Under the *Public Libraries Act*, (Section 15(2)), the library board must appoint a Library CEO (in consultation with the Commissioner of Community Services), and it is that person to whom the library board may delegate authority for management of library operations.
 5. The Library is supported by city-wide corporate services offered to all city departments including but not limited to human resources, communications, finance, and information technology.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

6. The Library Board recognizes that the CEO and staff are bound by the policies of the Corporation of the City of Mississauga including but not limited to:

1. Human Resources
 2. Municipal Government
 3. Corporate Administration
 4. Finance & Accounting
 5. Property & Facilities
 6. Public Relations
 7. Community Development
 8. Community Services
 9. Environment & Conservation
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Bylaws	Policy Number:	BL-02
Policy Title:	Composition of the Board and Terms of Reference for Officers	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

Where required, the library board adheres to the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P44 as it relates to the composition of the board and the election and appointment of officers. The purpose of this bylaw is twofold: to guide the council's appointment process for board members and to guide the library board's appointment of its officers. In addition, this bylaw outlines the responsibilities of each of these officers.

Section 1: Composition of the library board

1. While the **Public Libraries Act**, section 9(1) prescribes a board of no fewer than 5 members and gives the municipal council the power to make appointments, the library board endorses a board that consists of at least 5, and no more than 9 members.
 2. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 10(4), municipal council will appoint all board members no later than 60 days after its first regular meeting in each term.
 3. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 10 (2a), municipal council shall not appoint more of its own members to the board than the number that is one less than a majority of the board.
 4. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 10 (3), a board member shall hold office for a term concurrent with the term of the appointing municipal council, or until a successor is appointed.
 5. A board member may be reappointed for one or more terms.
 6. A member seeking re-appointment must follow the same process of application for consideration as for new candidates to the board.
 7. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 13, if any member of the board is disqualified from holding office, the members shall forthwith declare the seat vacant and notify the municipal council accordingly.
 8. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 12, when a vacancy arises in the membership of the board, the municipal council shall promptly appoint a person to fill the vacancy and to hold the office for the unexpired term, except where the unexpired term is less than forty-five days.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Composition of the Board and Terms of Reference for Officers (continued)

Section 2: Officers of the Library Board

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 14, at the first meeting of the new term, members of the library board shall **elect** a chair from among the members.
2. At the first meeting of the new term, members of the library board shall **elect** a vice chair from among the members.
3. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15, the library board shall **appoint** a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), who shall also be secretary and treasurer of the library board, as allowed by the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15(5).
4. If any of the officers retire, step down or are dismissed during his/her term, the library board must immediately elect or appoint a new officer.

Section 3: Terms of Reference for the Board Chair

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P44 section. 14(3), a board shall elect one of its members as chair at its first meeting in a new term.
2. The term of office for the chair of the Mississauga Library shall be for the term of the library board.
3. The chair leads the library board, acts as an official representative of the library, ensures the proper functioning of the board and the proper conduct of board business, in accordance with appropriate legislation, prescribed rules of procedure and the annual work plan adopted by the board.
4. The chair (or designate) will:
 - a) preside at regular and special meetings of the library board
 - i. this responsibility can rotate at the discretion of the board
 - b) set the agenda in consultation with the Library CEO
 - c) ensure that business is dealt with expeditiously and help the library board work as a team
 - d) in accordance with **Public Libraries Act**, section 16(6), vote on all questions
 - e) act as an authorized signing officer of all documents pertaining to board business
 - f) coordinate the CEO evaluation process with the Commissioner of Community Services
 - g) share with the CEO the responsibility for conducting board orientation
 - h) coordinate the library board's evaluation process
 - i) represent the library board, alone or with other members of the library board, at any public or private meetings for the purpose of conducting, promoting or completing the business of the library board
 - j) not commit the library board to any course of action in the absence of the specific authority of the library board
 - k) keep the Vice Chair informed and prepared.

Section 4: Terms of Reference of the Vice-Chair

1. The election of vice-chair shall take place at the first meeting for the term of the library board.
 2. In the absence of the board chair, the vice-chair (or designate) will perform the duties of the chair, including presiding at library board meetings.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Composition of the Board and Terms of Reference for Officers (continued)

Section 5: Terms of Reference of the Secretary

1. As permitted by the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15(5), the Chief Executive Officer of the Mississauga Library shall serve as the secretary of the library board.
2. The secretary acts as the record-keeper to the library board. In the absence of the secretary, the library board may appoint one of its members as the acting secretary.
3. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 15(3), the secretary will:
 - a) conduct the board's official correspondence
 - b) keep minutes of every meeting of the board
4. In addition, the secretary will:
 - a) prepare the agenda prior to each board meeting, in cooperation with the chair
 - b) distribute the agenda, with all reports and enclosures, to all board members prior to the relevant board meeting
 - c) distribute the minutes to all board members not less than three days prior to the next board meeting.

Section 6: Terms of Reference of the Treasurer

1. As permitted by the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15(5), the Chief Executive Officer of the Mississauga Library shall serve as the treasurer of the library board.
2. The treasurer shall monitor the financial activities of the library and shall ensure that complete and accurate records are kept in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.
3. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 15(4), the treasurer will:
 - a) receive and account for all the library board's money
 - b) open an account or accounts in the name of the library board in a chartered bank, trust company or credit union approved by the board
 - c) deposit all money received on the library board's behalf to the credit of that account or accounts
 - d) disburse the money as the library board directs
4. The treasurer will act as an authorized signing officer of all documents pertaining to the financial business of the library board.
5. The treasurer will provide the library board with periodic financial reports or as required.

Section 7: Terms of Reference of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15(2), and in conjunction with the City of Mississauga, the library board appoints the chief executive officer who shall attend all board meetings.
 2. The library board delegates the authority for management and operations of services to the chief executive officer.
 3. As a **non-voting** officer of the library board, the CEO:
 - a) acts as the secretary/ treasurer to the library board
 - b) does not vote on board business
 - c) sits ex-officio on all the committees of the library board and acts as a resource person
 - d) presents the library budget to committees of council
 - e) reports directly to the library board on the affairs of the library and makes recommendations he/she considers necessary
 - f) interprets and communicates the board's decisions to the staff
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Bylaws	Policy Number:	BL-03
Policy Title:	Meetings of the Board	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

Board members must meet regularly to ensure the proper governance of the library and to conduct the business of the board. Since the library board 'as a whole' has the authority to act, and not individual members, the board meeting is the major opportunity for the library board to do its work – to make decisions, solve problems, educate board members, and plan and review monitoring or evaluation material submitted by employees. This policy sets procedures to follow for meetings and ensures compliance with the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. chapter P.44.

Section 1: Types of Meetings

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16.1 (2), board meetings will be **open to the public** unless the subject matter being considered falls within the parameters of the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 16.1(4) as stated in point 5 of this section of this bylaw.
 2. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16(1), the library board shall hold at least seven regular meetings in each year and at such other times as it considers necessary.
 3. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 14(1), the **first meeting** shall be called by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the library board, in each new term, upon receipt of the confirmation of appointments from the municipal clerk. This inaugural meeting shall be held as soon as possible after the appointments are made by municipal council. At this first meeting, the CEO oversees the elections of the officers. The elections begin with the position of chair.
 4. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16(2), the chair or any two members of the library board may summon a **special meeting** by giving each member reasonable notice in writing, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called, which shall be the sole business transacted at the meeting.
 5. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16.1(4), a meeting, or part of a meeting may be **closed to the public** if the subject matter being considered is:
 - a) the security of the property of the board
 - b) personal matters about an identifiable individual
 - c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the board
 - d) labour relations or employee negotiations
 - e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the board
 - f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose
 - g) a matter in respect of which a board or committee of a board may hold a closed meeting under another Act
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Meetings of the Board (continued)

Section 1: Types of Meetings (continued)

6. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16.1 (5) and (6), a meeting shall be closed to the public if the subject matter relates to the consideration of a request under the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**, R.S.O. 1990, chapter M.56, if the board or committee of the board is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act. Before holding a meeting or part of a meeting that is to be closed to the public, the library board or committee of the board shall state by resolution:
 - a) the fact of the holding of the closed meeting
 - b) the general nature of the matter to be considered at the closed meeting
7. Board members may attend library board meetings remotely via teleconference or Internet video conferencing call.
 - a) As all board meetings are open to the public, these meetings must be conducted in such a way that all members participating can hear each other, at the same time, and that the public can also hear the deliberations.
 - b) Members who wish to attend in person meetings remotely must give notice two (2) hours before the commencement of the meeting to the Secretary so that the equipment can be made ready
 - c) Meeting minutes will reflect that a member is participating remotely
 - d) Quorum applies to the members attending in person and remotely.

Section 2: Order of Proceedings

1. Parliamentary authority

The rules contained in the current edition of **Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised** shall govern the proceedings of the library board in cases where there are no bylaws of the board in place.

2. Call to order

Meetings shall be **called to order** by the chair on the hour fixed for the meeting. In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair will preside over the meeting.

3. Quorum

In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 16(5), the presence of a majority of the board is necessary for the transaction of business at a meeting.

- a) Where a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes of the hour fixed for a meeting, the secretary shall record the names of the board members present and the meeting shall stand adjourned until the next meeting or until a special meeting is called.
 - b) Nothing in the foregoing shall prohibit the members in attendance for a regular meeting, when no quorum is present, from constituting themselves as a committee dealing with such agenda items as they see fit. However, no decisions taken at such meeting may be executed until ratified by motion at a regular meeting of the library board.
 - c) If notified by a majority of board members of their anticipated absence from a meeting, the secretary shall notify all members of the library board that the meeting is cancelled.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Meetings of the Board (continued)

Section 2: Order of Proceedings (continued)

4. Attendance at meetings

In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 13, should a member be absent for three (3) consecutive meetings, the board, shall:

- a) consider the member disqualified from the board and notify the appointing council that the seat is vacant, or
- b) consider the circumstances of the absence and pass a resolution authorizing that person to continue as a board member

5. Agenda

The agenda focuses the discussion in order to make good use of the library board's time. Meetings of the library board 'as a whole' should not replicate the work of the employees or of the committees. The typical order of business for all regular meetings of the library board shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order & Excused Absences
2. Agenda
3. Delegation/Guest Speaker
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
5. Staff Information Reports
6. New Business
7. Adjournment

6. Voting

- a) All motions at board meetings, except those approving or amending the bylaws, are decided by a majority of votes cast.
- b) A motion to add, amend or remove a bylaw shall require a majority vote of at least two thirds of the members in order to be carried.
- c) In accordance to the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 16(6), the chair or acting chair of the board may vote with the other members of the board upon all questions. Any question on which there is an equality of votes shall be deemed to be negative.

7. Minutes

- a) Once approved, minutes of meetings are the official record of decisions and provide direction for officers and employees in their subsequent actions.
 - b) Minutes are approved at the next meeting of the library board and signed by the chair.
 - c) Minutes (excluding in camera minutes) are public documents and shall be made available to the public.
 - d) Minutes of closed meetings are kept separately and held to be confidential.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Meetings of the Board (continued)

Section 3: Chairing the Meeting

The function of the chair is to act in a leadership role to the library board, ensuring that business is dealt with expeditiously, and to help the library board work as a team. It is the duty of the chair, or designate to:

- a) open meetings of the library board by calling the members to order
- b) open the floor for declarations of conflict of interest
- c) announce the business before the library board in the order in which it is to be acted upon
- d) receive and submit, in the proper manner, all motions presented by the members of the library board
- e) put to vote all motions which are moved and seconded during proceedings, and announce the results
- f) decline to put to vote motions which infringe the rules of procedure
- g) restrain the members, when engaged in debate, within the rules of order
- h) exclude any person from a meeting for improper conduct
- i) enforce the observance of order and decorum among the members
- j) authenticate, by signing, all bylaws, resolutions, and minutes of the library board
- k) instruct the library board on the rules of order
- l) represent and support the library board, declaring its will, and implicitly obeying its decisions in all things
- m) receive all messages and communications on behalf of, and announce them to, the library board
- n) ensure that the decisions of the library board are in conformity with the laws and bylaws governing the activities of the library board

Section 4: Behaviour and Values

The library board values a diversity of opinions and strives to set an environment conducive to exploring ideas. The board members will at the start of the term, set, and agree on, ground rules to guide their deliberations.

Board members shall conduct themselves in a way that fosters an equitable, inclusive, and respectful work environment.

Ground rules should include, but are not limited to:

- 1) everyone's opinion counts and should be heard
 - 2) only one conversation at a time
 - 3) no phone calls, texting, or interruptions during meetings
 - 4) comments on ideas are supportive, rather than judgmental
 - 5) everyone will offer insight
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Bylaws	Policy Number:	BL-04
Policy Title:	Amendment of Bylaws	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

Bylaws are the fundamental governing rules of the library board. The purpose of this bylaw is to state the conditions under which bylaws are amended.

1. Bylaws may be amended in response to legislation or when circumstances change.
 2. At a board meeting any member can propose a review or an amendment of a bylaw.
 3. All members of the library board will receive notice and draft of proposed changes prior to the next board meeting at which a motion for amendment may be tabled.
 4. A motion to add, amend or remove a bylaw shall require a majority vote of at least two thirds of the members in order to be carried.
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-01
Policy Title:	Purpose and Duties of the Board	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

Section 1 – Purpose of the Board

The purpose of the library board is to govern the affairs of the public library in service to the community. This policy sets out the work of the library board and the ways in which the library board achieves its purpose.

1. The library board oversees the development of a comprehensive and efficient public library service by:
 - a) developing and expressing the library board's philosophy and values
 - b) contributing to the development of a mission and vision statement, service priorities and long-term strategy also called Future Directions
 - c) establishing the Board's By-Laws and governance policies which define the responsibilities and regulate the work of the Library Board
 - d) delegating authority to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for management of library operations
 - e) providing direction to the CEO through board motions, library-specific policies, and plans
 - f) providing feedback to the CEO through a performance appraisal process
 - g) ensuring the financial stewardship of the library by approving draft budget prior to submission to Council and ensuring that the Budget is aligned with the Strategic Priorities
 - h) reviewing the financial reports and statements to remain informed and understand variances
 - i) advocating for library service
 - j) approving the Collective Agreement
 - k) evaluating results and assessing outcomes and impacts

Section 2 – Duties of the Entire Board

1. The library board governs effectively by:
 - a) setting an annual library board agenda that reflects current goals and strategic issues
 - b) working proactively and making decisions that focus on the library's future and place in the community representing the interests of the community
 - c) providing opportunities for board development and training
 - d) working effectively as a team
 - e) working collaboratively with the Library CEO and the Council
 - f) evaluating the board's performance
 - g) engaging the community in determining responsive and dynamic library service
 - h) behaving with integrity
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

GOV-01 – Purpose and Duties of the Board (continued)

Section 3 – Duties of Individual Board Members

The library board expects its members to understand the extent of their authority and to use it appropriately. This policy sets out the obligations of individual board members. While an individual board member has several responsibilities, outside of a meeting of the library board he or she has no authority to make decisions.

1. Each board member is expected to become a productive participant in exercising the duties of the board as a whole.
2. Individual members of the library board are responsible for exercising a **Duty of Diligence** as follows:
 - a) be informed of legislation under which the library exists, board bylaws, mission, vision, and values
 - b) be informed about the activities of the library and the community and issues that affect the library
 - c) be prepared for all board meetings and
 - d) attend board meetings regularly, contribute from personal and professional experience, and use meeting time productively
3. Individual members of the library board are responsible for exercising a **Duty of Loyalty**, as follows:
 - a) adhere to the regulations of the **Municipal Conflict of Interest Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. M50
 - b) act in the interest of the library members and community over and above other interest group involvement, membership on other boards, council, or personal interest
 - c) speak with “one voice” once a decision is reached and a resolution is passed by the library board
 - d) represent the library positively to the community
4. Individual members of the library board are responsible for exercising a **Duty of Care**, as follows:
 - a) promote a high level of library service
 - b) consider information gathered in preparation for decision making
 - c) offer personal perspective and opinions on issues that are subject to library board discussion and decisions
 - d) show respect for the opinions of others
 - e) assume no authority to make decisions outside of board meetings
 - f) know and respect the distinction in the roles of the library board regarding governance and the employees, management and operations
 - g) refrain from individually directing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the employees
 - h) respect the confidential nature of library service to users while being aware of, and in compliance with, applicable laws governing freedom of information
 - i) resist censorship of library materials by groups or individuals
5. Board members will review and follow the **Mississauga Library Board Code of Conduct** (see **Appendix A**)

Appendix A:

Board Code of Conduct

Within the framework of the Mississauga Library Policy GOV-01, it is the duty of library board members to maintain high ethical standards. This commitment includes the proper use of authority, appropriate decorum in group and individual behavior and respect for others and their contributions to the library. As such:

Respect

Within the framework of the legislative and policy requirements of the Ontario Human Rights Code, and the Respectful Workplace and Workplace Violence Policies, members will fulfill their responsibilities in ensuring that the library is free from discrimination and harassment. No Member shall:

- a) Speak disrespectfully of any member of the Board, staff, or volunteers.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

- b) Use offensive words in meetings of the Board or against any Member.
- c) Speak in a manner that is discriminatory in nature based on an individual's age, colour, ancestry, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, marital status, gender identity/expression, sex, or sexual orientation.

Board meetings

With the understanding that Library Board meetings are public and that their behavior affects the image of the Mississauga Library, Board members shall:

- a) Speak only on the subject being considered.
- b) Follow the decision of the Chair or of the Board on questions of order or procedure or upon the interpretation of the rules of the Board

Use of Library Property and Resources

Members will only use Library facilities, equipment, supplies, services or other resources for the business of the library.

Privacy and Confidential Information

Members will respect the privacy of others and will not disclose or release by any means to any member of the public, any confidential information acquired by virtue of their position within the library. Members will maintain this obligation even after leaving the Board.

Conflict of Interest

Within the legislative framework of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, Board members will act in the public interest and not engage in conflicts of interest, either apparent or real. The duties and responsibilities to the Library should not compete with private interests, financial or otherwise and the interests of family, friends or associated organizations.

Members will not accept payments to make referrals or to act as a paid agent before the Board or Board Committee.

Political Neutrality

Members will not use Library facilities, equipment, supplies, services (including staff services) or any other resources for election campaign or campaign-related activities.

Members will not use a position of authority at the Library to compel staff or volunteers to engage in partisan political activities.

Gifts

Members will not accept or provide any gift or benefit where it may be, or perceived to be, in exchange for favour or influence.

Exceptions:

- Small gifts (cards or edible food items, such as chocolates or cookies)
 - Advertising material (calendars, scratch pads, pens, t-shirts)
 - Any hospitality or gift that has a monetary value under \$100
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-02
Policy Title:	Board Orientation and Training	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

To be effective, library board members must have sufficient knowledge of board governance and issues that are central to the role of the library in the community. This policy sets out the requirements for board orientation and ongoing training.

Section 1 - Orientation

The orientation of board members is necessary in order for there to be a common and shared understanding of the authority and role of the library board.

- 1) Board members shall be given a thorough orientation within two months of their appointment to the library board.
 - 2) The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the board chair shall be responsible for developing an agenda to provide an orientation which shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a) information on the library's strategic directions
 - b) an overview of the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P44
 - c) an overview of the board bylaws and governance policies
 - d) a discussion on the purpose, structure, code of conduct and function of the library board
 - e) a tour of the library facilities when possible
 - f) An overview of programs, services and organizational structure
 - 3) Each board member will receive:
 - a) copies of current Mississauga Library Policies
 - b) the library's current planning document
 - c) a copy and overview of the annual operating plan and the current budget
 - d) an application for library membership
 - e) a copy of the current legislation - *Public Libraries Act R.S.O. 1990*
 - f) a copy of the **Library Board Orientation** materials prepared by the Ontario Library Service
 - g) a copy of **Cut to the Chase: Ontario Public Library Governance at a Glance**. (Ontario Library Boards' Association)
 - 4) Board members will receive training on the accessibility standards set out in the Regulations of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act*, including training on the Human Rights Code as it pertains to persons with disabilities and other relevant Provincial, City and Library policies (e.g. Respectful workplace and Workplace Violence).
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

GOV-02- Board Orientation and Training (continued)

Section 2 – Ongoing Training

Ongoing training ensures that library board members focus on good governance, strategic directions, and policy implications rather than on operational details. This policy ensures that library board members have access to, and avail themselves of, training opportunities.

1. To ensure ongoing education, the library board will:
 - a) schedule time for board training
 - b) maintain a membership in the Ontario Library Association and the Ontario Library Boards' Association
 - c) assign a representative who will attend the Board Assembly meetings and report back to the library board
 - d) support Board members attendance at relevant conferences annually as feasible
 2. The library board will receive information from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) about training and networking offered by various organizations in Ontario.
 3. The cost of any training must be approved by the library board before it is undertaken.
 4. Board members will report on their participation in training events.
 5. In the first year of its term, the library board will review and discuss sections of the ***Library Board Development*** materials, prepared by Ontario Library Service.
 6. Board members are encouraged to participate in training opportunities that include, but are not limited to:
 - a) effective governance
 - b) planning
 - c) advocacy
 - d) decision making
 - e) finance
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-03
Policy Title:	Committees of the Board	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

The library board may use ad hoc committees to further its work. This policy ensures that the library board establishes terms of reference and specific duties for each of these committees, as the need arises.

1. Committees report directly to the library board and have no authority other than to draft recommendations or prepare alternatives for the library board's consideration.
 2. Committees operate for defined periods of time and have a specific purpose which must be described in written terms of reference.
 3. Ad hoc committees coordinate the work, do the research, and draft the documents to be reviewed and adopted by the library board as a whole.
 4. An ad hoc committee that is established by the library board may include non-board members.
 5. Meetings of committees may be called by the chair of the committee or by a majority of the members of a committee.
 6. Committees shall not supervise or direct employees.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-04
Policy Title:	Planning	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

The library board shall maintain an effective planning process for the library in order to fulfill its mandate under the **Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, c. P44**, s. 20(a): This policy establishes a formal planning process.

1. The planning process ensures that:
 - a) the vision of the library board is realized
 - b) the library is able to respond to changing needs and trends in the community
 - c) key decision makers in the community make a long-term commitment to library services
 - d) services available elsewhere in the community are not unnecessarily duplicated
 - e) library funds are responsibly expended in a deliberate and accountable manner
 - f) continuity of services is maintained regardless of personnel changes in the board or employees
 2. To this end, the library board shall actively participate in the master planning process for the Library, resulting in a 5 year strategic plan commonly referred to as Future Directions. This includes the reviewing and assessment of:
 - a) client needs in the community served by the library
 - b) the services of the library in the light of client needs and feedback
 - c) the priorities of the municipality
 - d) current board strategic planning documents: mission statement, goals and objectives
 3. The library board shall report to the community on the library's progress in fulfilling its plan by means of:
 - i. an annual update
 - ii. presentations to Council, service groups and community organizations
 4. The library board shall ensure public information and communication about the planning process and the plan are accessible to persons with disabilities.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-05
Policy Title:	Financial Control/Oversight	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

The board is accountable for ensuring the financial stewardship of the library by approving draft budget prior to submission to Council and ensuring that the Budget is aligned with the Strategic Priorities.

Section 1: Accountability

1. Financial year

The financial year of the Mississauga Library shall terminate on the 31st day of December in each year.

2. Bank accounts

In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P44 s. 15(4b), the treasurer will open an account or accounts in the name of the board in a chartered bank, trust company or credit union.

3. Signing officers

- a) The board shall appoint at least two signing officers, one of which will be the treasurer.
- b) All cheques or other orders for the payment of money in the name of the Mississauga Public Library Board shall be signed by two signing officers.
- c) The CEO (or designate) shall be the signing officer for contracts with vendors and granting agencies.

4. Budget

In alignment with the City's mandate

- a) The CEO or designate in consultation with the board shall develop an annual operating budget showing potential revenue from all sources (province, local, donations, self-generated) and proposed expenses for library operations.
- b) The CEO (or designate) in consultation with the board shall prepare a long-term capital budget which supports the library's approved long-term goals.
- c) The Annual Operating and Capital budgets shall be approved at a meeting of the library board.

5. Forecasts

- a) In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 24(1), the CEO (or designate) shall submit to council, annually on or before the date and in the form specified by council, forecasts of all sums required during the year for the purposes of the board. The CEO (or designate) shall submit the forecasts to the board in a timely fashion in accordance with the City's timelines.
 - b) The CEO (or designate) will provide sufficient information to support the estimates.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

GOV-05 – Financial Control / Oversight (continued)

Section 2: Financial Responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

1. The Library CEO will be the treasurer for the library board, working with designated staff to maintain and report on library finances.
2. The CEO (or designate) will submit a copy of the audited financial statement to the provincial Ministry responsible for libraries as part of the requirements to complete the Public Library Operating Grant application, if required or upon Ministry request.
3. The CEO (or designate) is authorized to operate the library within the approved library budget and shall authorize payments of all invoices and payroll within the budgeted amounts.
4. The CEO (or designate) may apply for, bind, and report on any grants deemed appropriate for the operations of the library.
5. The CEO (or designate) may accept donations of cash, in-kind, or materials to support the operations of the library.

Section 3: Financial Monitoring

1. The board monitors the finances to ensure that the ongoing financial position of the library is consistent with the priorities approved by the board. The board shall monitor the financial report as presented by the treasurer, on a regular basis in accordance with the City's timelines.
2. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, s. 24(7), the accounts of the board shall be audited, by a person appointed under section 296 of the **Municipal Act**, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and submitted to the council annually on or before the date specified by the council.
3. An audit may also be undertaken, upon the death, resignation, dismissal or other termination of the treasurer of the board, and at such other times as the board shall direct.

Section 4: Authorization of Reserve Accounts

1. The CEO (or designate) may request the annual roll-over of any unused funds or interest into an Operating Reserve Account. Such requests are approved by the City's Treasurer. The library reserve accounts may not include annual provincial funding which must be spent on library services in the fiscal year received.

Section 5: Funds from the Disposal of Assets and Tangible Capital Assets

1. The CEO (or designate) will ensure the disposal of assets is in alignment with the prescribed City policy.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type: **Governance**

Policy Number: **GOV-06**

Policy Title: **Board Advocacy**

Initial Policy Approval Date: January 19, 2022

Last Review/Revision Date:

Year of Next Review:

The library board must ensure that the community is aware of the importance of the library and that funding bodies fully understand the important role which the library plays in the community. Through its advocacy work, the library board seeks to promote the profile of the library and enhance its importance to the community. This policy sets out the advocacy responsibilities of the library board.

1. The board chair (or delegate) shall be the official spokesperson for the Mississauga Library on issues approved by the library board.
 2. In pursuing its advocacy activities, the library board shall:
 - a) inform council of the needs of the community, the development of library services, plans and achievements by means of reports
 - b) meet with council as needed to review progress and discuss pertinent issues
 - c) participate regularly in activities that build relationships with individuals and organizations that share interests with those of the Mississauga Library
 - d) identify and respond to issues, concerns and government policies that may directly or indirectly affect the Mississauga Library and ensure that government decision-makers at all levels are aware of the value of the library and its benefit to individuals and to the community
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-07
Policy Title:	Board-CEO Partnership	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

In keeping with the Public Libraries Act, RSO 1990, c.P.44, other relevant laws, and good governance practices, the library board has accountability for the operations of the library. The Board has a model of governance that focuses its attention on setting strategic direction and not on the day-to-day operations of the library.

The Board delegates the day-to-day management of library operations to the Library CEO. The Library CEO also has accountability to the City Commissioner, and therefore the CEO has a dual reporting relationship. This policy outlines the nature of the library board's relationship with the Library CEO.

Section 1 – Delegation of Authority to CEO

1. In accordance with the **Public Libraries Act**, section 15(2), the library board appoints a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who shall have general supervision over, and direction of, the operations of the Library and its employees. The library board will work together with the municipality to recruit, hire and evaluate the CEO.
2. As the Library CEO is the link to library operations, the library board directs the Library CEO through:
 - a) approved written policies
 - b) approved budgets and plans

Only official decisions of the full library board are binding on the Library CEO. Decisions or instructions of individual board members are not binding on the Library CEO.

3. Within this delegation of authority for operational matters, the CEO will:
 - a) take, or approve, lawful actions in the name of the library
 - b) take actions consistent with the board's mission, vision, values, and policies
 - c) be responsible for the employment and management of all library employees
 - d) be responsible for the performance evaluation and appraisal of all library employees
 - e) design, implement and manage all operational practices and activities
 - f) draft budgets and financial reports for the board's consideration
 4. The CEO will ensure that the library board remains informed on significant library matters and will provide assurance that the library activities are compliant with legal and fiscal obligations.
 5. The CEO is given authority to take such action as necessary to operate the library in compliance within these policies. Therefore, the CEO has authority to create library policies that are consistent with the Board's values and are in alignment with the municipality's policies. The CEO retains authority over library operations and staff unless such authority is suspended under federal or provincial legislation.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

GOV-07 – Board-CEO Partnership (continued)

Section 2: Board support for the CEO

A board-CEO partnership, rooted in mutual trust and respect, is crucial to the proper governance and overall well-being of the library. In the same way the library board relies on the CEO for the information, professional expertise, and administrative support it needs to be successful, the success of the library CEO depends on support from the board. This support includes:

1. an understanding of and appreciation for the breadth, depth, and complexity of the CEO's responsibilities
2. a willingness to be the public face of decisions that may be unpopular with some stakeholders
3. a collaborative process for establishing mutually agreed-upon annual objectives based on the vision and strategic directions of the board
4. a performance appraisal process that provides constructive feedback and direction for improving performance
5. a commitment to invest in ongoing training and development for the CEO.

Section 3: Evaluation of the CEO

It is the library board's responsibility to work with the municipality to appoint a qualified and competent individual as the Library's Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The library board and the municipality jointly oversee the performance of the CEO and support the CEO's development. As part of this process the library board, municipality and the CEO engage in annual performance appraisal, planning and review. This process facilitates communication between the library board, the municipality and the CEO while ensuring that the Board's and municipality's priorities are achieved. This policy also sets out the basis for the CEO evaluation.

1. The CEO's performance will be evaluated after the first six months for a new hire, and annually thereafter. To complete this task, the library board shall:
 - a) develop, with the CEO, performance objectives based on the current strategic priorities of the library board
 - b) appraise the CEO's performance based on the job description, his/her progress towards achieving the board's priorities, and his/her compliance with board policies and relevant competencies.
 2. Information collected to assess the performance of the CEO may include:
 - a) the annual report from the CEO on outcomes of the previous year's objectives and actions
 - b) data on library performance measures such as circulation, membership, program statistics, collection development, etc.
 - c) regular monthly reports provided by the CEO to the Board
 3. The board chair will ensure that the CEO evaluation process takes place and will work with the municipality to do so. The full board will be able to participate, and the final results will be reported to the board.
 4. If the CEO's performance needs improvement, the library board must clearly state where progress must be made and will:
 - a) offer training and/or mentoring opportunities to address specific issues
 - b) re-evaluate the performance of the CEO after a six-month period.
-

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-08
Policy Title:	Board Evaluation	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

The library board will monitor its own effectiveness in fulfilling its major responsibilities and achieving strategic goals. The evaluation process identifies key areas for board improvement and the requisite follow-up action. This policy ensures that the library board assesses its own performance, behaviour and effectiveness.

1. The library board will evaluate its effectiveness on an annual basis.
2. The chair is responsible for managing the process of the evaluation.
3. The library board evaluates itself in the areas of:
 - a. Governance/Policy making
 - b. Community relations and services
 - c. Finance
 - d. Personnel
 - e. Legislative requirements (formerly Legal)
 - f. Advocacy
4. To facilitate the evaluation process, the library board will develop an annual work plan in February of each year
5. In January of the following year, the library board will evaluate its success in completing the work plan.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Mississauga Library

Policy Type:	Governance	Policy Number:	GOV-09
Policy Title:	Succession Planning	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 19, 2022
		Last Review/Revision Date:	
		Year of Next Review:	

An effective board is comprised of people who collectively have the knowledge, the skills and background necessary to provide strategic oversight and lead the library in the realization of its vision. Municipal council appoints members to the library board. This policy sets out the requirements for recruiting board members and planning for board succession.

The library board recognizes that the **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, c. P44, s. 10(4) requires that the council appoint library board members. To support the appointment process, the library board will:

- a) develop a legacy document to support the incoming board and its members
 - b) undertake a review of the board's effectiveness in governing and accomplishing the strategic plan
 - c) solicit input from the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - d) develop a board member's position description to highlight qualities and desired skills make recommendations to Council highlighting preferred qualities and skills of future board members
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Library Services	Policy Number:	LS-01
Policy Title:	Customer Use	Initial Policy Approval Date:	
		Last Review/Revision Date:	May 18, 2022
		Year of Next Review:	

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*. The Director, Library is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy.

Section 2: Purpose

This Policy outlines terms of customer use for the Mississauga Library to ensure fair and equitable access, removing barriers to library spaces, materials and services.

Section 3: Terms of Use

1. Mississauga Library provides free access to public areas within library facilities during approved open-hours.
 - a) Customers are expected to abide by a Code of Conduct developed by Mississauga Library when using library facilities
 - b) Facilities and rooms not used for general library purposes may be rented by individuals or groups, subject to terms and conditions set out by the Mississauga Library and City of Mississauga
2. The library does not charge for the borrowing of library materials for library card holders.
3. In-library use of materials, and information services are free to the public.
4. Additional services may be offered for a pre-determined fee.
5. Reasonable limitations may be implemented on borrowing and use of space and services for the purposes of:
 - a) ensuring materials, services and spaces are widely and equitably available to customers
 - b) maximizing use of collections and services
 - c) retrieving overdue materials and assessing penalties for lateness or loss

Section 4: Library Membership

1. Library membership is free of charge for individuals who live, work, attend school, or own property in the city of Mississauga.
 - a) Appropriate identification and/or documentation is required to obtain a free library card
 - b) Non-residents who do not work, attend school or own property in Mississauga, may obtain a library card by paying a non-refundable annual fee as approved by the Mississauga Public Library Board.
 2. Cardholders are responsible for notifying the library as soon as possible if a card is lost or stolen. The cardholder is responsible for all activity (including materials borrowed and any accrued fees) on a library account before the loss or theft of the library card is reported to the library.
 3. Cardholders are required to periodically renew Library membership in order to maintain active status.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Section 5: Library Fees & Charges

1. Library fees and charges are established annually through City of Mississauga by-law and approved by the Mississauga Public Library Board.
 2. Customers may be prevented from checking out or renewing physical items when outstanding fees remain on their account. Customers are expected to promptly pay these fees in full.
 3. The library may employ the use of a collection agency to recover lost items and unpaid fees.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Library Services	Policy Number:	LS-02
Policy Title:	Privacy	Initial Policy Approval Date:	December 16, 2015
		Last Review/Revision Date:	November 16, 2022
		Year of Next Review:	

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*. The CEO/Director of Library Service is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy. The CEO ensures that the policy with respect to collection, use and disclosure of information is adhered to and shall keep the Board informed of its compliance to the Act.

Section 2: Purpose

Mississauga Library must comply with the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).

The purpose of this policy is to provide general information on the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). Detailed information related to the library's compliance with the Act is available from the library's Head of Privacy.

Section 3: Scope

All employees and appointed officials must comply with the provisions of the Act, and are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the requirements of the Act in relation to their particular duties. For more information on responsibilities with respect to the library personnel, refer to the library's written guidelines.

Section 4: Definitions

A "record" is any information, regardless of physical form or characteristics, and may include correspondence, memoranda, and all electronic data, including e-mail.

"Personal information" includes:

- race, national or ethnic origin, religion, age, gender, marital or family status;
- education, medical, criminal or employment history;
- identifying numbers, address;
- an individual's personal opinions except where they relate to another individual.

Section 4: Purpose of the Act

The Act provides individuals with a right of access to certain records under the custody or control of the library, in accordance with the principles that:

- information should be available to the public;
- necessary exemptions from the right of access should be limited and specific; and
- decisions on the disclosure of information should be reviewed independently of the institution controlling the information.

While providing these rights of access, the Act also protects the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information about themselves.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Section 5: Protection of Privacy

The Act addresses the collection, use, disclosure and retention of personal information by the library and denies access to personal information to anyone other than the person to whom it relates, with certain specific exemptions. It is the responsibility of the library to ensure that all records systems adequately protect personal privacy.

1. Collection of Personal Information

The library may collect personal information only if the information is required for the administration of a library service, program or activity. For example, the library may ask for date of birth to determine eligibility for the Junior or Youth borrowing privilege, but may not ask for date of birth if age is not a factor in receiving a service or participating in a program.

An exception may be made if the individual consents to providing the information. For example, the library may collect an individual's name and address for the purpose of marketing a library program or service, provided consent has been given. As a general rule, personal information may only be collected directly from the individual. Personal information that has been collected on a form is subject to the library's file retention regulations.

2. Access to Personal Information

Personal information must not be used or disclosed except:

- where the individual has consented to its use or disclosure;
- for the purpose for which the information was obtained, or for a consistent purpose; or
- where staff members need the information in the performance of their duties.
- Where permitted under Section 32 of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

It is the responsibility of each library branch or department to ensure that access to personal information is restricted to those having a legitimate business need for the information. For example, hard copy records containing personal information can be kept in locked file cabinets, and electronic records can be protected by requiring a user name and password.

3. Personal Information Banks

A Personal Information Bank is a collection of personal information that is organized and capable of being retrieved using an individual's name or an identifying number or detail assigned to the individual. The library maintains a directory of its Personal Information Banks. Personal Information Banks must be kept up to date. Branches and departments are responsible for ensuring that the Head of Privacy is advised of any changes to Personal Information Banks.

4. Freedom of Information

Every person has a legal right of access to the library's records, unless a specific exemption has been provided for under the Act. In accordance with the Act, the library may refuse to disclose the following types of records:

- draft reports, records of closed meetings
- advice or recommendations
- solicitor-client privilege
- economic or other interests
- law enforcement
- danger to safety or health
- published information
- limitations on access to own personal information

In accordance with the Act, the library must refuse to disclose the following types of records:

- relations with governments
 - third party information
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

- personal information

5. Requests for Information

The Director of Library Service is responsible for all decisions related to the granting or denying of requests under the Act. Staff should refer all questions about whether a specific request should be processed under the Act to the library's Head of Privacy. All formal, written requests under the Act *must* be forwarded to the Head of Privacy. No other employee may grant or deny access to a record that has been requested under the Act. There is a \$5,000 fine for the willful disclosure of information in contravention of the Act.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Library Services	Policy Number:	LS-03
Policy Title:	Terms of Use For Library Public Internet Services	Initial Policy Approval Date:	January 20, 2016
		Last Review/Revision Date:	November 16, 2022
		Year of Next Review:	

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*. The Director, Library is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy.

Section 2: Purpose

The Mississauga Library System (the Library) provides library services to meet the life-long informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of all Mississauga citizens. In support of this purpose, the Library provides public internet services to users of all ages. Library public internet services includes access to the internet through Wireless Mississauga at library locations, the use of library public computers, and Chromebooks and laptops available to use at the Library. Customers can also borrow Chromebooks and Wireless Hotspots for use outside the library.

The Library requires that customers using these services respect these Terms of Use guidelines and accept them prior to borrowing or logging into Library devices.

The Library invites customers to make use of the Internet and our public computers, subject to the following responsibilities:

Section 3: Responsibilities of Customers Using Library Public Internet Services

- Library Internet workstations are located in a public environment shared by customers of all ages. Customers should be considerate about what they are viewing in a public space.
 - Customers using internet services in a public space should respect the privacy of others by refraining from observing or commenting on what is being viewed by other users.
 - Internet users will be respectful of others and their behaviour should not be disruptive or threatening.
 - Internet users are responsible for the sites they select. Customers cannot access illegal materials or violate copyright laws on public computers, Chromebooks or on devices accessed through Library Hotspots or Wireless Mississauga. Customers who violate provincial and federal laws are responsible for their own actions and could be subject to legal action by relevant authorities.
 - Children are entitled to access all information and facilities in the Library. As with other library materials, the library supports the right and responsibility of parents or legal guardians to determine and monitor their children's use of the Internet, library materials and resources.
 - Customers will not alter Library hardware or software in any way. Altering includes damaging equipment, interfering with network integrity or security, changing workstation configurations and downloading or installing software.
 - Customers will ensure that they are not acting maliciously towards others using Library provided Internet Services including but not limited to:
 - Sending spam or threatening emails to others
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

- Participating in any hacking activity to gain access or spread malicious code including such things as viruses, worms etc.
- Attempting to access files, passwords, or data belonging to other users.
- Customers will respect the borrowing and use rules provided by staff for use in the branch and at home. Customers may be asked to discontinue use of these services one time or for an extended period of time if they aren't following the guidelines

Section 4: Internet Content

Customers are encouraged to evaluate the information they locate on the Internet for its reliability and accuracy, and be careful about how they use it. Some information found on the Internet may not be accurate, complete, or current. The Library is not responsible or liable for the content or quality of material retrieved and the actions and decisions customers make as a result of this information.

Section 5: Internet Privacy

It is important to note that the Internet is not a secure medium and third parties may be able to obtain information about user activities. Customers should be careful about the type of activities that they participate in on public networks. The Library assumes no responsibility or liability for the security or privacy of online transactions. The City, as the owner of Wireless Mississauga, does not monitor individual internet usage, except in cases where we are compelled by law to do so. The City may, however, monitor the overall system usage for the purposes of ensuring network performance, measuring resource usage or for the purposes of maintaining security.

Section 6: Internet Filtering

Public networks may have content filters applied in order to promote safe and private use of the Internet. As filters are not 100% effective, customers should be aware that the Library is not responsible or liable for content that may or may not be blocked by the content filters.

Section 7: Compliance with Laws

Customers using public internet are subject to federal, provincial and municipal laws including the Criminal Code regarding obscenity, child pornography, incitement of hate and sedition. Customers must also ensure when copying or distributing material found on the Internet that they do not violate copyright or other intellectual property rights. The Library is not responsible or liable for such activities. Use of Library workstations, Chromebooks, Wireless Mississauga or Hotspots for illegal or unethical purposes is not permitted and may result in civil and/or criminal prosecution. Customers using Library Public Internet Access Services agree to comply with all laws and regulations applicable to their library use including but not limited to, the laws already referred to in this paragraph and all confidentiality, privacy and security laws.

Section 8: Library Not Liable

Customers assume personal liability for any damages, direct or indirect, arising from any access to or use of the library computers and Internet.

The Library provides Internet access as a privilege. The Library reserves the right to terminate a public internet session or access to computers at any time if the access does not follow its rules and regulations. Misuse of the Internet may result in any or all of the following: expulsion from the Library, loss of library privileges, or civil and/or criminal prosecution.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Library Services	Policy Number:	LS-04
Policy Title:	Collection Policy	Initial Policy Approval Date:	
		Last Review/Revision Date:	September 20, 2023
		Year of Next Review:	2025

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*. The Director, Library is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy.

Section 2: Purpose

To provide library customers and staff with a statement of philosophy and the key objectives respecting the selection, de-selection, and access to the collection of the Mississauga Library.

Section 3: Selection Goal

The Library's goal in the provision of library materials is to maintain a diverse, balanced and responsive collection to serve the cultural, recreational, educational and information needs of the Mississauga community, as defined by the Library's mission statement and strategic priorities. The Library collection exists to enhance the lives of residents by enabling lifelong learning and to promote a culture of reading.

Section 4: Policy Overview

The Mississauga Library recognizes all significant legislation relating to the Collection Policy including the *Ontario Public Library Act*, the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*, and the *Canadian Copyright Act*.

The Mississauga Library endorses the following statements:

- Canadian Federation of Library Associations' *Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom* which states: "All persons in Canada have the fundamental right ... to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the constitution and the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian Society as the foundation for freedom of conscience, thought, belief and informed citizenship." (Appendix 1)
- Ontario Library Association's *Statement of the Intellectual Rights of the Individual*. (Appendix 2)
- Ontario Library Association's *Position on Children's Rights in the Public Library*. (Appendix 3)
- Ontario Library Association's *Position on Teen Rights in the Public Library*. (Appendix 4)

The ultimate responsibility for the Library collection lies with the Director, Library Services, acting in accordance with the general policies established by the Library Board. In practice, this authority is delegated to the Manager, Collections and Materials Handling.

Where appropriate, the Mississauga Library participates in resource sharing initiatives and consortium purchasing to provide the greatest access to library materials.

Section 5: Collection Scope

The Collection Policy applies to all materials in all formats that form part of the Library's collections and are made available to the

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

community. The focus of the collection is on new and recently published works. Emerging formats and technologies may be added and declining ones retired where appropriate and given available resources.

- The Library recognizes the need to provide information in both of Canada's official languages and will provide informational and recreational materials in the French language. Junior material will be collected to support children in French immersion program.
- The Library may provide materials and resources in languages other than English and French for which there is evident demand. The decision to establish or discontinue a language collection is based on census data, available budget, and other supporting statistical evidence.
- The Library has a particular interest in local history and in works by local authors, illustrators and artists, but is not under any obligation to add to its collection everything about the area or produced by local authors, illustrators or artists.
- The Library acknowledges the responsibility for the maintenance of a collection of local history material. Rare, out-of-print, and non-print materials, as well as recent publications relating to the development of Mississauga, will be collected.
- Selection is influenced by the existence of other local specialized resources. It is not effective to duplicate specialized material for which there are only occasional demands. The Library's interlibrary loan services may be used to fill these needs.
- Materials whose subject treatment goes beyond the university undergraduate level will, in most cases, not be considered appropriate to the goals of the Library's collection unless they are the only materials available to meet community demand.

The Library does not attempt to purchase textbooks or other resources used in schools, colleges and universities, except when they provide the best coverage in a subject and are also useful to the general public.

Section 6: Collection Access

The Mississauga Library recognizes that the ultimate right and responsibility for the choice and use of materials rests with the individual user.

- Films rated "R" or "18A" and Games rated "M" are limited to customers 18 years of age or older.

Responsibility for children's use of materials rest with their parents and legal guardians. No materials are excluded from selection because they may come into the possession of a child.

Section 7: Evaluation of Materials

To build and to maintain the Library's collection, materials must be measured by objective quality guidelines. All acquisitions are considered in terms of the following standards which include relevance, quality and timeliness. Customers are welcome to [suggest a title](#) and these will be evaluated using the same selection criteria. Not all library suggestions will be added to the collection.

Legal, medical and other professional materials will be acquired only to the extent that they are useful to the average reader. The Library does not cater to nor discriminate against any religion. Selection is made on the basis of the authoritativeness of the presentation of creed, history or philosophy, and manner in presenting a way of life. It should be understood that there may be limitations to the number of books selected to represent any religion, group or sect.

The Library has a particular interest in local history and in works by local authors, illustrators and artists, but is not under any obligation to add to its collection everything about the area or produced by local authors, illustrators or artists. The Library occasionally receives requests from authors to add their self-published books. Although this type of publishing is experiencing rapid growth, these books often do not meet the selection requirements for inclusion as outlined in the Collection Policy.

- a. Fictional material will be reviewed on a case by case basis as per the criteria listed in the policy.
 - b. Staff will exercise their professional judgement when considering non-fiction material. Works that purport to be authoritative
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

(e.g. scientific) in nature must comply with the policy, for example:

- Quality, clarity, comprehensiveness and accuracy of the work
- Reputation, skill, competence and purpose of the originator of the work.

The Mississauga Library appreciates offers to donate materials and encourages donations to be directed to the Friends of the Mississauga Library, which can be dropped off at any location. Donated materials are not added to the Library's collection.

All materials will be evaluated using the same criteria. An item need not meet all the criteria in order to be acceptable. If there is considerable topical interest in the subject and a manifest public desire to read and judge the book first-hand, a title may be included which is not considered accurate, according to expert opinion. No items have universal acceptance and no item is automatically included or excluded from the library collection only because it contains frank or coarse language or deals with controversial topics.

Materials are selected:

- To satisfy the information and recreational needs and interests of the Mississauga community
- To support literacy and encourage lifelong learning
- To expand knowledge by providing a wide range of materials and viewpoints
- To collect and preserve materials which illustrate the growth and development of the City of Mississauga, celebrate its history and heritage or which pertain in whole or in part to activities within the geographic boundaries of the City of Mississauga.

Criteria for selection:

- Popular or anticipated demand and current trends
- Represents interests and composition of the community
- Quality, clarity, comprehensiveness and accuracy of the work
- Relation to existing collection and other items on a subject
- Authority, reputation, qualifications or purpose of the author, artist, publisher, or producer
- Attention of critics, reviewers, and the public
- Timeliness or permanence of the work
- Suitability of physical and digital form for library use
- Cost, availability and collection budget
- Accessibility of items in other libraries, for free via the internet, or from other easily and freely accessible resources

Section 8: Reconsideration of Materials

Mississauga Library System acknowledges that original, critical, unconventional, and even controversial ideas are essential to a democratic society and the enrichment of human understanding. The presence of any material in the Library's collection does not indicate an endorsement of its content or viewpoint.

The Library does not keep, acquire or purchase material that Canadian courts have found to be obscene, hate propaganda or seditious.

No materials are excluded because of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, citizenship, creed, marital status, disability, or sexual orientation.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Selection of items cannot be influenced by any anticipated approval or disapproval of its intellectual content by sectors of the community. While people have the right to reject for themselves items of which they do not approve, they do not have the right to restrict the freedom of others.

If a customer feels that an item in the collection falls outside the criteria outlined in this policy, they are invited to complete a [Request for Reconsideration of Materials](#) form. Once a completed form is received, the Manager, Collections and Materials Handling will convene an independent committee of professional employees to assess the item and provide a formal response. Individuals can appeal this decision in writing to the Director, Library Services. Appeals will be reviewed by the Library Leadership Team, with a final decision by the Director.

Some of the Library's digital content is provided using third-party vendors. The Library subscribes to services in which the third-party vendor, and not Library staff, determines the specific titles or materials made available through the service. In these circumstances, the Library is unable to reconsider specific materials that Library users object to, but may inform the third-party vendor of user concerns and/or take these concerns into consideration in determining whether to continue using the vendor.

Section 9: Collection Maintenance

Selected materials are regularly assessed for their condition, accuracy, currency and usage, within the context of the Library's collection and their relevance to Library customers. The withdrawal of materials from the collection is conducted by knowledgeable staff and according to written guidelines, as a necessary means to maintain the vitality, size and scope of the collection. Material of local historical importance and interest is retained where the content has enduring worth to the community.

APPENDIX 1: Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom

Approved by Executive Council ~ June 27, 1974; Amended November 17, 1983; and November 18, 1985

All persons in Canada have the fundamental right, as embodied in the nation's Bill of Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express their thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom, under the law, is essential to the health and development of Canadian society. Libraries have a basic responsibility for the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, libraries shall acquire and make available the widest variety of materials.

It is the responsibility of libraries to guarantee the right of free expression by making available all the library's public facilities and services to all individuals and groups who need them.

Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Both employees and employers in libraries have a duty, in addition to their institutional responsibilities, to uphold these principles.

APPENDIX 2: Ontario Library Association, Statement on Intellectual Freedom and the Intellectual Rights of the Individual

Introduction

The Ontario Library Association and its divisions are committed to the fundamental rights of intellectual freedom, the freedom to read and freedom of the press, as embodied in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Ontario Libraries have the important responsibility to facilitate expressions of knowledge, creativity, ideas, and opinion, even when viewed as unconventional or unpopular.

The Ontario Library Association declares its acceptance of the following principles for libraries:

1. Equitable access to library service to the public is based upon the right of the citizen, under the protection of the law, to judge individually on questions of politics, religion and morality.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

2. Intellectual freedom requires freedom to critically examine and create other ideas, opinions, views, and philosophy of life, other than those currently approved by the local community or by society in general and including those ideas and interpretations which may be unconventional, uncommon or unpopular.
3. The free traffic in ideas and opinions is essential to the health and growth of a free society and that the freedom to read, listen, view, and create is fundamental to such free traffic.
4. Library governance ensures that the principles of intellectual freedom and expression of thought are upheld.

Library Service, Collections and Resources

5. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and to implement it consistently in the selection of books, periodicals, films, recordings, and other materials including the provision of access to electronic sources of information and access to the internet. Materials are not excluded from library collections based on race, place of birth, origin, ethnic origin, ethnicity, citizenship, age, creed, disability, family structure, sex, and sexual orientation.
6. It is part of the library's service to its public to resist any attempt by any individual or group within the community it serves to abrogate, censor or curtail access to information, the freedom to read, view, listen or participate by demanding the removal of, or restrictions to library information sources in any format.

Library Programming, Events, and Space Bookings

7. It is the responsibility of libraries to maintain the right of intellectual freedom and expression by implementing it consistently when hosting programs and events within the public space of the library including rented public space by individuals and community organizations.
8. Libraries create welcoming community spaces where community members are free from discrimination and may engage in peaceful assembly. Libraries may cancel or deny permits to individuals or organizations when speech or displays are used in a way that is unlawful.

Applicable legislation:

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: Section 2(b) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication".

Criminal Code: Section 63 pertains to Unlawful Assemblies and Riots. Section 297 pertains to defamatory libel. Section 318 pertains to hate propaganda.

Ontario Human Rights Code: Sub-section 13 pertains to infringing on freedom from discrimination.

APPENDIX 3: The Ontario Library Association Position on Children's Rights in the Library

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting November 1998

Children in public libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom.
 2. Equal access to the full range of services and materials available to other users.
 3. A full range of materials, services and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their needs.
 4. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.
 5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.
 6. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in children's services.
-

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

7. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service from birth through the transition to adult user.
8. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of children's services.
9. Library policies written to include the needs of the child.

Appendix 4: Teen's Rights in the Public Library

Adopted at the Ontario Library Association Annual General Meeting June 2010

Goals for Library Services for Teens:

Young people are valuable members of our library community who deserve the same respect, dignity and human rights as all library members. This document provides a framework for developing library services to teens that meet the educational, informational, and cultural and leisure needs of young people in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Each public library has a different community to serve and therefore different priorities and needs. Although specific services for teens have not been well established in all libraries, these goals are created in the belief that young adulthood is a unique life stage and that young adults are entitled to the same quality of library services offered to other age groups in the population. (Adapted from the IFLA Guidelines for Library Services for Young Adults, 2006 and the YALSA Guidelines for Library Services to Teens, Ages 12-18, 2006.)

The goal of library services for teens is to assist with the transition from children's services to adult services and to provide access to both resources and an environment that meets the needs of young people for intellectual, emotional and social development. Specifically these needs are based on the unique seven developmental needs of adolescents and the five core values of quality service to teens:

7 Developmental Needs of Teens	5 Core Values of Service to Teens
Physical activity Competence and achievement Self definition Creative expression Positive social Interaction with Peers and Adults Structure and Clear Limits Meaningful Participation	Respecting and responding to unique YA needs Providing equal access Empowering Youth through participation Engaging Teens in active collaboration Supporting healthy youth development

Excerpted from: Dorman, G. (1981). *The Middle Grades Assessment Program: User's Manual*. Carrboro, NC: Center for Early Adolescence.

Core Values excerpted from Jones, P. (2002). *New directions for library service to young adults*. Chicago: American Library Association.

Teens in Ontario Public Libraries have the right to:

1. Intellectual freedom

The library establishes clear policy statements concerning the right to free access by young adults to library resources and information sources; and respect for the rights of young adults to select materials appropriate to their needs without censorship. The library's teen collection, policies and services should be consistent with the concepts of intellectual freedom defined by the CLA, OLA and Ontario Human Rights code.

2. Equal access to the full range of materials, services, and programs specifically designed and developed to meet their unique needs.

The Library integrates library service to teens into the overall plan, budget and service program for the library. Library service to

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

teens is integrated with those offered to other user groups.

3. Adequate funding for collections and services related to population, use and local community needs.

The Library incorporates funding for materials and services for teens in the library operating budget and ensures there is equitable distribution of resources to support programs and services for young adults.

4. Collections that specifically meet the needs of teens.

The Library provides a wide spectrum of current materials of interest to young adults to encourage lifelong learning, literacy, reading motivation, and reader development. The library endeavors to develop collections that encourage leisure reading, support homework and school success and responds to gender and cultural diversity. The library provides unfettered access to technology including social networking, licensed databases, and other online library resources for teens.

5. A library environment that complements their physical and developmental stages.

The Library provides identifiable spaces for teens that are separate from children's spaces where possible, reflects their lifestyle and allows for teens to use this library space for leisure or study, either independently or in groups.

6. Welcoming, respectful, supportive service at every service point.

The Library promotes friendly, positive, non-biased customer interactions with teens, providing staff development and training and ensures that services for teens embrace cultural and gender diversity and economic differences. Library staff will endeavor to respect the teen's need for privacy and nonjudgmental service and assist young adults in acquiring the skills to effectively access all library resources and become information literate.

7. Library Programs and Services appropriate for Teens

The Library fosters youth development by providing programs for teens that contribute to literacy, life-long learning and healthy youth development. The library endeavors to provide volunteer opportunities for helping others through community service hours including participating on Library Advisory Boards, and other projects that help develop a sense of responsibility and community involvement. The library's teen services initiatives are effectively managed according to best practices in the field of Youth Services.

8. Trained and knowledgeable staff specializing in teen services.

Library staff is knowledgeable about adolescent development and age appropriate resources for young adults inclusive of those with special needs. The library provides services by teen specialists as well as by others who are trained to serve teens.)

9. An advocate who will speak on their behalf to the library administration, library board, municipal council and community to make people aware of the goals of teen services. The Library works in partnership with other community agencies and organizations to support all aspects of healthy, successful youth development.

10. Library policies are written to include the needs of the youth.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Policy Type:	Library Services	Policy Number:	LS-05
Policy Title:	Unattended Children	Initial Policy Approval Date:	
		Last Review/Revision Date:	November 1, 2023
		Year of Next Review:	2025

Section 1: Policy Statement

The Mississauga Public Library Board enacts the following Policy according to the *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.44*.

The Director, Library is responsible for the administration of this policy and may develop required operational procedures for the library under this policy.

Responsibility for the welfare and behaviour of children using the Library rests with the parent or caregiver of the child. This policy is in alignment with the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017.

Section 2: Purpose

This policy outlines the parent or caregiver supervision requirements for children in Mississauga Libraries.

Section 3: Supervision of Children in the Library

Library staff cannot assume responsibility for the welfare of children left unattended in the library.

Parent or caregiver is responsible for following:

- Children under the age of 10 must not be left unattended at any time
- Children under the age of 12 must not be left in charge of other children
- Any person 12 years of age or older who is providing supervision to someone under the age of 10 must remain with the child, and be aware of and responsive to their needs at all times

Section 4: Supervision of Children in Library Programs

Parent or caregiver is responsible for following:

- Children aged 5 and younger who are attending programs must be accompanied by their parent or caregiver
- Where indicated, children between the ages of 6 and 10 years may attend a program without their parent or caregiver; the parent or caregiver must remain in the library building and be accessible to the child at all times
- Where indicated, parent or caregiver must attend programs with children

Section 5: Unattended Children in the Library

If a child is left unattended at Mississauga libraries, library staff will check in with the child, and contact parent/guardian and/or the appropriate authorities (e.g. Peel Children's Aid Society) as necessary.

If a child is found unattended at closing time, during emergency closings, or in the event of an emergency situation, library staff will attempt to contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted, staff will notify the police. Staff will remain with the child until police arrive. Library staff will not transport or take the child away from the library building.

Mississauga Library Board Governance Policies

Section 6: Parent or Caregiver Requirements in Ontario

- [Peel Children's Aid Society \(CAS\) Home Alone](#)
 - Available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Hindi, Polish, Punjabi, Spanish, Tagalog, Tamil, Urdu, and Vietnamese at <https://www.peelcas.org/about-us/publications/multi-lingual>
 - [Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect – It's Your Duty: Responsibilities under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
 - [Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017](#)
-