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**Township of Uxbridge Public Library**  
**POLICY STATEMENTS AND PRACTICES**

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**POLICY NO.: A2-Open Access Policy**

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**OBJECTIVE:** To ensure open access for all library users of the Township of Uxbridge Public Library.

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** November 18, 2004

**MOTION:** 04-70

**DATE OF AMENDMENT AND MOTION:** April 19, 2007 Motion: 07-36; March 3, 2016 Motion: 16-16

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## **Policy Statement**

The Township of Uxbridge Public Library will serve all residents of the Township of Uxbridge. Service will not be denied or abridged because of religious, racial, social, economic, or political status.

## **Policy Practices**

1. Statement of Intellectual Freedom

*Every person in Canada has the fundamental right, as embodied in the Nation's Bill of Rights, to have access to all expressions of knowledge, creativity and intellectual activity, and to express his/her thoughts publicly. This right to intellectual freedom 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 librarians 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*

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*and groups who need them.*

*Libraries should resist all efforts to limit the exercise of those 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.*

2. Durham Region residents holding valid borrower's cards from the other Durham Region Libraries and East Gwillimbury have borrowing privileges and are entitled to services in our libraries.
3. All materials in the Township of Uxbridge Public Libraries are available to all residents of the Township of Uxbridge regardless of age. The Open Access Policy ensures that children have equal rights with adults and may borrow all circulating materials. Library staff will assist people of all ages to find information from the Internet and will identify specific starting points for searches, but cannot censor access to materials or protect users from information they find offensive. Library staff cannot act in place of parents. As with other library services, supervision or restriction of a child's access to Library materials is the responsibility of the parent or legal guardian. It is also the responsibility of the child, whose curiosity is surely tempered by his or her judgment and upbringing.
4. The use of the library or its services may be denied for due cause. Such cause may be failure to return books or to pay penalties, destruction of library property, disturbance of library users or other objectionable conduct on library premises.