



June 2, 2026

Ms. Leslie Weir
Librarian and Archivist of Canada
Library and Archives Canada
550 de la Cité Boulevard,
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Letter of Appreciation - LAC Intellectual Freedom Statement

Dear Ms. Weir

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ex Libris Association to congratulate LAC on the recent release of its first [Intellectual Freedom Statement](#).

The Ex Libris Association's nearly 250 members are people who have spent an important part of their working life in libraries, archives, museums, publishing houses, and adjunct fields, and who are attracted to current or historical issues related to those institutions.

Our members were impressed with the scope of the statement. It covers diversity in its commitment to ensuring that its collections, programming and digital presence reflect and amplify *"the varied histories and voices of Canada."* It supports LAC's efforts to make its collections as accessible as possible through a variety of methods, both in-person and digital. It stresses basic tenants of intellectual freedom by stating that *"LAC does not restrict access to items in its collections based on a user's intentions"* nor does it *"restrict access to collections based on the potential sensitivity of their content."*

Further the statement recognizes *"Indigenous data sovereignty and works collaboratively with Indigenous rights holders to ensure culturally informed and respectful access to records relating to their heritage and history."*

% Faculty of Information, University of Toronto,
140 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5S 3G6
<http://www.exlibris.ca>

Finally, it affirms LAC's commitment to this fundamental library value by its statement that it *"stands with libraries, archives, and other organizations across Canada and around the world in their commitment to intellectual freedom and opposition to censorship."*

At a time when intellectual freedom is under threat from school boards and provincial governments willing to override their constituents' right to access collections and programs that reflect a diversity of views and cultures, it is particularly critical that our national library and archives stand up in defence of that right.

We are grateful then for LAC's decision to release this statement at this time in Canada's history.

Sincerely,



David I. Harvie MLS CD
President
Ex Libris Association

DH/dt

