 Commission scolaire English-Montréal English Montreal School Board		
POLICY:	RESOURCE MATERIALS - SELECTION	CODE: PS-10
Origin:	Pedagogical Services	
Authority:	Resolution #93-06-23-8.1	
Reference(s):		

POLICY STATEMENT

The mission of the MC/MR Resource Centre shall be to support the EMSB in its commitment to provide an environment that will enable all students to realize their potential regardless of race, religion, or gender. It shall be the function of the MC/MR Resource Centre to provide resource materials for the EMSB community (teachers, administrators, and consultants) which support the implementation of a multicultural/multiracial approach to education.

The MC/MR Resource Centre shall be administered by the Board's professional librarian who shall be responsible for carrying out the following:


1. provide professional development materials which will promote both a multicultural/multiracial and an anti-racist approach to education;
2. provide teaching resources which will facilitate the implementation of a multicultural/multiracial and an anti-racist approach to education in the schools of the EMSB;
3. take a leading role in promoting resource materials which are free of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination;
4. promote and facilitate the sharing of multicultural/multiracial resource materials within the EMSB library system;
5. provide resource materials which foster critical thinking on controversial issues.

The professional librarian shall be responsible for coordinating the selection of resource materials and making the recommendations for purchase.

The overall objective to be considered in the selection of resource materials shall be the needs of the EMSB community in fulfilling its commitment to a multicultural/multiracial and an anti-racist approach to education. Specific criteria for the selection and purchase of library materials shall include the following:

1. Materials shall be developed by authors/producers/publishers with recognized competence in the area of MC/MR and anti-racist education.
2. Materials shall realistically represent the many religious, racial and ethnic groups in the EMSB community and in our society.
3. The primary subject areas to be covered in the selection of library materials are:
 - a. Multicultural/multiracial education
 - b. Intercultural education
 - c. Anti-racist education
 - d. Race and ethnic relations
 - e. Racism and discrimination
 - f. Human rights
 - g. Ethnic studies
 - h. Social integration
 - i. Immigration (causes and effects).
4. Materials which motivate users to examine their own attitudes and behaviours shall be provided.
5. Materials shall be selected to present all points of view regarding controversial issues.
6. Emphasis shall be placed on Canadian published materials where appropriate.
7. Physical format shall include books, vertical file materials, journals, newspapers, audio-visual materials¹ and machine-readable data files.

¹ The previewing and selection of audiovisual material shall be carried out in conjunction with the Board's a.v. film library.

		Commission scolaire English-Montréal English Montreal School Board
PROCEDURE:	RESOURCE MATERIALS - SELECTION	CODE: PS-10.P
Origin:	Pedagogical Services	
Reference(s):		

PURPOSE

To outline the procedures for the selection of MC/MR Resource Centre materials and to describe the procedures for resolving disputes regarding the selection of resource materials.

PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION

In selecting resource materials for purchase, the librarian performs the following:

1. evaluates the existing collection on an ongoing basis;
2. consults Board policies and recommendations stemming from the Advisory Committee on Curriculum and Learning Resources;
3. prepares aids for selection, such as professional journals, books and recommended book lists;
4. confers with teachers, consultants and MC/MR Education Services personnel, teachers and consultants for selection recommendations;
5. consults the Director of Community Services for final purchase;
6. evaluates gift materials according to the selection criteria outlined above;
7. withdraws inappropriate, irrelevant and/or dated materials from the collection.

PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CHALLENGED MATERIALS

1. Users of the MC/MR Resource Centre may raise objection to materials in the collection, despite the fact that the individuals selecting such materials are qualified to make the selection.

2. Upon receiving a complaint regarding specific library material, the librarian shall attempt to resolve the issue informally. If the matter cannot be resolved informally, the steps listed below shall be taken:
 - a. The complainant is invited to file objections on the attached form (Request for Reconsideration of Resource Materials – Appendix A).
 - b. A copy of the completed form is forwarded to the Director of the Community Services Department.
 - c. The MC/MR Resource Centre librarian, the Director of Community Services, Director of Pedagogical Services, and other appropriate EMSB personnel shall establish a Reconsideration Committee.
3. The Reconsideration Committee shall:
 - a. weigh the strengths and weaknesses based on the material as a whole and not a passage or sections in isolation;
 - b. discuss the challenged material and judge whether it conforms to the criteria of selection as outlined in the MC/MR Resource Centre's Selection Policy;
 - c. decide whether or not the item should be retained or withdrawn from the collection.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Although challenges to the selection of the library materials are a democratic right of individuals, the principles of the freedom to read/listen/view shall be defended as well. (See attached 'Statement on Intellectual Freedom', Canadian Library Association – Appendix B.)
2. Access to challenged material shall not necessarily be restricted during the reconsideration period.
3. A decision to withdraw challenged material shall not be interpreted as a judgment of irresponsibility on the part of the professionals involved in the original selection and/or use of the material.

APPENDIX A



Commission scolaire English-Montréal
English Montreal School Board

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF RESOURCE MATERIALS

Please complete and return to the MC/MR Resource Centre librarian.

Request initiated by: _____

Telephone no.: _____ Address: _____

Representing: _____

Self: _____ Group: _____

Organization (specify): _____

MATERIAL QUESTIONED

Book

Author: _____ Title: _____

Publisher: _____ Publ. Date: _____

Hardcover _____ or Softcover _____

Non-Book

Type of media: _____
(journal, video, pamphlet, etc.)

Title: _____

Publisher or producer: _____

1. Did you read (see, hear) this resource material in its entirety? _____

If not, what parts? _____

2. To what do you object? Please be specific - cite pages, passages, etc.

3. What do you think might result from the use of this resource material?

4. What do you consider to be the positive qualities of this resource material?

5. What action do you recommend that the Resource Centre take regarding this material?

Date: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

APPENDIX B

Canadian Library Association

Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom²

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.

Approved by Canadian Library Association Council on June 27, 1974, and amended on November 17, 1983 and on November 18, 1985.

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