

Correspondence Received
November 19, 2019 forward

OPPOSED TO DQST



To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Storytelling

From: Wets-Donna
Sent: November 20, 2019 2:35 PM

Subject: Storytelling

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Donna Morel

Redacted Name

To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Danny Richardson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 7:46 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Danny Richardson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Danny |
| Last Name*: | Richardson |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | I will renew my card. |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | I am very much against drag queens hosting anything involving children or them even reading to children. |

Leah Samson

To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 8:33 PM
To: KL Reference
Subject: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Nanette |
| Last Name*: | Hickey |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Vernon |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | I am a member of Vernon Library. I can not imagine at time when it would be necessary to expose a child to drag queens. They have nothing to do with learning or story time for young children. I am so opposed to this whole idea. Please let kids be kids!!! Nanette Hickey |

Leah Samson

To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Karen Waller using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 20, 2019 12:52 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Karen Waller using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Karen

Last Name*: Waller

Phone Number:


Library Card:

Email*:

Branch:

Subject*: Other

Message*: Public library story times are not the occasions to thrust confusing ideas about identity on children. Having a drag queen present is very non inclusive and intolerant of those whose values oppose this idea, and to target children is very wrong.


To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen Story Time at ORLs

From: Donna K
Sent: November 20, 2019 11:29 AM

Subject: Drag Queen Story Time at ORLs

To whom it may concern:

Being a person who used to work in the health care industry with families and children, I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries. I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, no matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable among us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Sincerely,
Donna Kettleon



To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Margo Revill using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 21, 2019 1:27 PM

To: KL Reference

Subject: This is a response sent by Margo Revill using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Margo |
| Last Name*: | Revill |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | <p>I am opposed and appalled by the recent drag queen story time held at the Kelowna Library! Why must adult entertainment be displayed at the mall? Dress up or dress down? Does diversity include strippers strutting their stuff while reading stories to impressionable young children? KKK, drug addicts and alcoholics are also part of our diverse community with they get a turn to entertain and read stories to young children, while active in their addictions? Yes we care about all people, but some behaviours and actions are not appropriate or acceptable to be hosted by the public library. Dress up or dress down? I find both very offensive to my values and beliefs as a parent. Please rethink what you call diversity and how it may affect vulnerable children. Sincerely Margo</p> |

Leah Samson

To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen Story Time

From: Mark Smith
Sent: November 21, 2019 1:23 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hello,

We would like to express our disagreement and disappointment in the Drag Queen Story Time being allowed in the Okanagan Regional Library's. When making your decisions concerning applicable content for children, please consider the following: Matthew 18:6 "but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Thanks
Mark & Brenda Smith

This is a response sent by Ann Schuster using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



No Reply






Fri 2019-11-22 11:58 AM

Mark as unread

Leah Samson

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Ann |
| Last Name*: | Schuster |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | [REDACTED] |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | I am very much against young children being exposed to cross dressers. Please stop this. |

This is a response sent by Sheila Ploschnik using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

 DELETE  REPLY  REPLY ALL  FORWARD 



No Reply

Fri 2019-11-22 11:57 AM

Mark as unread



First Name*: Sheila

Last Name*: Ploschnik

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints

Message*:

I am just writing in regards to the Drag Queen reading times for the children. I totally do not agree with this action as the children will think this is normal and when it truly is not I would never let any child that would be in my care ever be present for this false teaching. Please reconsider do these times. Thank you so much

Fwd: Voicing my concern

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Wed 2019-11-20 8:41 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

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From: Lana Melnichuk [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 8:15 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Voicing my concern

To Mr. Nettleton;

My name is Lana, and I am a mother of five children. I am writing this email to voice my concern over the programming for Drag Queen story times at the Okanagan libraries. I believe that the library should be a neutral and safe environment, particularly for our children. I have been visiting library for years, and enjoyed watching my kids listening to story times at our local library, however with recent event at our library, I don't feel like this safe place is there anymore. I hold a generally very high opinion of our public libraries and know that they provide excellent learning opportunities for the community as a whole. However, I do not support Drag Queen story time, particularly in the manner in which it has been made available to the public. If the libraries decide to continue with this programming, I will find myself and my children excluded from the learning experience and freedom we had at the library. I feel like this one place, should be in our cities where everyone feels welcomed and despite our differences no one forces their beliefs on another. Please consider my kind request,

With best regards

Lana M

Fwd: Drag Queen library reading

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[redacted]@rdos.bc.ca>
Wed 2019-11-20 6:35 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery SA <lavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Theresa Macfarlane <[redacted]@telus.net>
Date: Nov 20, 2019 9:42 AM
Subject: Drag Queen library reading
To: Karla Kozakevich <[redacted]@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Please;

I do not agree that Drag Queens should be reading to children in the public libraries. If parents prefer this to happen it can be done at their own expense and time. Public forum is not a time to test if children have the ability to understand, or decide if this is for their own best interests. Please stop this from taking place in our Library, so we can feel safe to bring our children or grandchildren to be exposed to healthy learning without having to discern sexual differences.

Thank you for allowing me to have the freedom to give my opinion without judgement.

Sincerely;
Kent and Theresa Macfarlane

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Re: STORY TIME

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakev@hondus.ca>
Wed 2019-11-20 7:08 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <lavery@salmonairm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lil Finlayson <lilfinlayson@gmail.com>
Date: Nov 19, 2019 9:59 PM
Subject: Re: STORY TIME
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakev@hondus.ca>
Cc:

Hi Karla,
I am very concerned and would like to go on record that I am quite opposed to, library story time led by cross-dressing persons.
I am not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but am concerned what is the real agenda of and purpose for these story times I thought a library is supposed to be a safe place for all, especially for our young and vulnerable.
I'm not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but what really is the agenda for these questionable story times?
I speak for the love and concern of my young grandchildren... there's enough going on we have to protect our kids from...now it's at the library, and they're just going to read a book... really? If this starts this in the library, what's going to happen next, let them in the schools?
For like many in this city, please note that I strongly denounce these story times with 'sexual preference' overtones.
I am fully opposed to them.
Lil Finlayson

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Telling

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Wed 2019-11-20 7:09 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Dave Elliot <delliot@royallepage.ca>
Date: Nov 20, 2019 6:32 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Telling
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,
As parents, grandparents and former elementary and high school teachers my wife and I are writing to express our displeasure with the possibility that there could be further drag queen story telling sessions at the public library. The library is not the venue for a public relations opportunity for LGBTQ activists. Before giving this activity any credence we believe there needs to be a broader survey of the overall community of Kelowna. As part of that survey, we believe credible input from child psychologists and psychiatrists needs to be available. Your decision as a library board must consider the benefits to the children and not the activist group requesting the drag queen story time book reading. The library needs to be a neutral institution where all people feel welcome where all feel welcome and no particular agenda is being promoted. My wife and I are part of the community that opposes this activity and if your board decides to continue we will be left with no other option but to become politically active and address our concerns at the city council level. We respectfully request that you and the board consider what's best for all children of Kelowna and area and avoid using the library to promote a social and political agenda.

Kind regards,

David and Audrey Elliot

Fwd: Strongly opposed to Drag Queen Story Time for our Children at the Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]@rdos.bc.ca>

Wed 2019-11-20 7:09 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <[REDACTED]@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Karen M. Barkman" <[REDACTED]@provisionofhope@yahoo.ca>

Date: Nov 19, 2019 11:04 PM

Subject: Strongly opposed to Drag Queen Story Time for our Children at the Library

To: Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]@rdos.bc.ca>

Cc:

Dear Karla,

I am a voice for many here in the Okanagan.

We are strongly opposed to having a Drag Queen Story Time for our Children at the Library.

We always thought our library was a safe, and neutral place to learn and grow.

This is not a good idea.

Karen Barkman
PROVISION OF HOPE LIBERIA



a Father to the Fatherless, a Defender of Widows, is God in His Holy Dwelling
and from your bounty O God, YOU PROVIDED FOR THE POOR....Ps. 68: 5,6,10

Fwd: Drag Queen story time in library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [redacted]

Wed 2019-11-20 7:08 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) [redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jim Hanet [redacted]
Date: Nov 19, 2019 10:29 PM
Subject: Drag Queen story time in library
To: Karla Kozakevich [redacted]
Cc:

Dear Karla, I do not agree with a special interest group such as someone dressed as a drag queen being invited into the public library to read to the kids for story time and potentially presenting literature promoting their special interest.
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Jim Hanet

Fwd: Drag Queen StoryTime

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@mos.bc.ca>
Wed 2019-11-20 7:06 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gwenith Mercer <gwenithm@yahoo.com>
Date: Nov 19, 2019 9:53 PM
Subject: Drag Queen StoryTime
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@mos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Concerning the Drag Queen Story Time program, I am very concerned about our children in that it will bring much confusion to the minds of our children, and cause confusion about their identities. Children growing up have enough to contend with without having to be exposed to this at such an early age. If Drag Queens want to be Drag Queens, so be it, but our innocent and sensitive children's hearts (who are sponges by the way), should in no way, shape or form be exploited in this matter. Please re-consider having this at the library and take the children's emotional well-being first and foremost in making your decision. I trust you will consider keeping the library free from Drag Queen Story Time program, thus enabling it to be kept a "neutral safe environment for children's programming. Thank-you for your time,
Gwen Mercer

From: Randy Boehm <randylboehm@hotmail.com>

Date: Nov 19, 2019 7:30 PM

Subject: Drag queens

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Cc:

I strongly object to cross dressing men sharing story time with young, vulnerable children.

Thank you

Randall Boehm

Libliss Blind Company

FW: Children's Story telling

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Tue 2019-11-19 2:48 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Karen Omit <komit55@gmail.com>
Sent: November 19, 2019 2:47 PM
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Children's Story telling

Hello,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Karen Omit

Fwd:

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Mon 2019-11-18 5:56 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (S) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marlene White <marlenew689@gmail.com>
Date: Nov 18, 2019 5:55 PM
Subject: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

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Fwd: Drag queen storytime event

✕ DELETE

← REPLY

↶ REPLY ALL

→ FORWARD

⋮



Don Nettleton

Mon 2019-11-18 7:52 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Karina Daniluck <karinadaniluck@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 7:51 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Drag queen storytime event

Hello,

I'm very concerned about the proposed drag queen storytime event for the Okanagan library. Although I am in full support of bringing children together into the library for events and storytelling, I think the subjects and behaviours shown to children should be innocent and neutral; not ideals that are about lifestyles and sexualization.

These ideas are too mature for a child to process understanding them and I think it's inappropriate to suggest they should.

Please understand I don't wish the rights of drag queens to express themselves to be taken away. People should be able to live the lifestyle they choose without discrimination. But the subject matter of introducing this theme and a 1-sided viewpoint on the matter to vulnerable children in a civic facility is taking it too far. I don't think this is right.

I ask that you protect our children by not allowing this drag queen storytelling event.

Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Stop Drag Queen Story Time!

X DELETE

← REPLY

↶ REPLY ALL

→ FORWARD

...



Don Nettleton

Mon 2019-11-18 9:27 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Brenda Jorde <brendajorde@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 8:24 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Stop Drag Queen Story Time!

Dear Don,

After watching the local news the otherday, I was shocked this is actually happening in the library! I cannot fathom why men who desire to dress like women, feel its necessary to get close and personal to children. I find this extremely disturbing and somewhat perverted.

Children can not understand adult issues such as these. I am asking you stop these female impersonators from influencing children to embrace homosexual or gender-confused identity.

I strongly oppose this!

Brenda Jorde

--

Brenda

FW: Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:25 AM

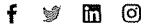
To: ORL Policy,

Bing Maps

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Don Nettleton CPA,CA
Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this e-mail by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error please notify me immediately and delete it.

From: Mike Sheedy
Sent: November 19, 2019 7:09 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour



Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[Redacted], Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness. A Drag Queen states, "This is not about tolerance or anti-bullying,...It is a direct and intentional effort to create gender confusion and doubt among very young children at the very time they need solid guidance and understanding. The intent is to plant a seed to make children more likely to question their sexuality or gender at a later age."

A report from the US documents what everyone should know about the "Drag Queen" indoctrination of children in our public libraries: Where it comes from and how they make it happen. [Read Here?](#)

What does the life of a Drag Queen look like outside of Drag Queen Story hour for children?

- **Drag Queens Exposed**, by Mass Resistance - scroll down 1/4 way, you will be horrified when you discover who Drag Queens are and that 'any' public library would promote this. [Read/view here](#)
- **Homosexuality and Pedophilia** - Homosexuals comprise just 3% of the population, yet are responsible for 33% of all child sexual abuse. They offend against children at 16 times the rate of the normal population.
- **10yr old boy/dressed drag/with naked 'drag queen**
- **8yr old with Drag queen on stage - foul language and exploitation**
- **Sexual Exploitation of Children("CBC" drag kids), 11 yr old drag kid in gay bar and Here ?(child drag "queen")**
- Miss Kitty Litter convicted of **male prostitution**
- **Convicted pedophile**, dressed as a woman, reads to children at public library. Explicit tweets and visits porn sites.
- **Drag Queen depicting suicide**
- **?Convicted of multiple sexual assaults** against young children, William Travis Dees, has also written a lurid article describing his work as a transgender prostitute. And he was photographed at a Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) event carrying a rubber chicken - a symbol used by homosexuals to indicate a sexual preference for young boys. As part of these DQSH events, Dees has served as a "greeter" for young children as they came into the library. Dees was convicted in 2004 of sex crimes against four young children (ages 4, 5, 6, and 8), was jailed, and is listed as a "high risk sex offender."

Drag Queens are also part of a bigoted anti-Catholic group....a national organization of cross-dressing homosexual men called the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The men dress as garish and hideous parodies of Catholic nuns and mock Catholicism. They are a popular feature in gay pride parades and other LGBT events across the country. **They now also do DQSH readings to small children.**

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, [Vancouver, BC](#) - With names like Sister Ethica Slut, Sister Alma Bitches, Sister Bear it All, Sister Kitty Lickentwat, Sister Dunna Giva-fuk, Sister Beatriz cox-muggler, etc. visit schools and libraries. [HERE](#)

What has happened to our society that we have become so morally bankrupt to consider something so blatantly wrong as acceptable and right?

I request that you would pass this information on to the Library Board and reject any and all future Drag Queen story hours and that further steps be taken nationally to shut this down.

Sincerely,

--
from Mike Sheedy

FW: Drag time story hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 9:29 AM

To: ORL Policy;
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Don Nettleton CPA,CA
Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this e-mail by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error please notify me immediately and delete it.

From: wesiemens [redacted]
Sent: November 19, 2019 12:50 AM
To: Don Nettleton [redacted]
Subject: Drag time story hour [redacted]

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours. For the sake of our children's health, please continue to stand strong against this. It grieves us that this minority group expects to be permitted to promote their lifestyle and opinions on children!

[redacted], Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness.

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Drag Queens are also part of a bigoted anti-Catholic group....a national organization of cross-dressing homosexual men called the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The men dress as garish and hideous parodies of Catholic nuns and mock Catholicism. They are a popular feature in gay pride parades and other LGBT events across the country. **They now also do DQSH readings to small children.**

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What has happened to our society that we have become so morally bankrupt to consider something so blatantly wrong as acceptable and right?

I request that you would pass this information on to the Library Board and reject any and all future Drag Queen story hours and that further steps be taken nationally to shut this down.

Sincerely,
Elsie & Walter Siemens

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

FW: Kelowna Library Event:

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:30 AM

To: ORL Policy;

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Don Nettleton CPA, CA

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this e-mail by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error please notify me immediately and delete it.

From: trb10438 [Redacted]
Sent: November 19, 2019 12:15 AM
To: Don Nettleton [Redacted]
Subject: Kelowna Library Event:

Mr. Don Nettleton
Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3P6

Dear Sir:

Thank you for taking a stand against the 'Drag Queen Story' hours!

[Redacted] Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness.

FW: hi

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:32 AM

To: ORL Policy;

Bing Maps

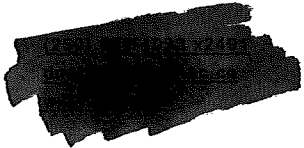
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Don Nettleton CPA,CA

Chief Executive Officer

Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



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From: Lotte Meissner <lotte@meissner.com>

Sent: November 18, 2019 11:12 PM

To: Don Nettleton <dnettleton@orl.bc.ca>

Subject: hi

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I don't think this is not so a good idea, if I may say so. Please do not give any one group a privilege over another. Please remain neutral because we have so many culture and religion in the area.

Thank you,

Lotte

FW: Children's program

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 9:58 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

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Don Nettleton CPA,CA
Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada

250-860-4033 x240
d.nettleton@orl.bc.ca
www.orl.bc.ca

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-----Original Message-----

From: doreen munro <doreenmunro622@gmail.com>
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:55 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Children's program

Re drag queen reading hour:

This is to oppose the drag Queen reading hour for children at our OKANAGAN public library.

We do not need to confuse children as to who they are by bringing ideas and lifestyles beyond their maturity level.

We as a community ought to look at raising really great adults who walk in clarity. Their job is to be kids. When they are old enough to discern these adult issues hopefully we have prepared them to know how to think not what to think. So focus on who you are as opposed to sexual identity when this is way beyond their interest grid. And a subtle manipulation to teach what to believe.

Protect our children

Protect our futures

Doreen Munro

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Children programming :

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 10:53 AM

To: ORL Policy;

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Don Nettleton CPA,CA

Chief Executive Officer

Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



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From: Warren Munro [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:04 AM
To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: Children programming :

Dear Don Nettleton

Re: the up roar concerning The Drag Queen Children Story time .
I am of the opinion that our children should be allowed to be kids first, innocent unencumbered with adult concerns, able to enjoy a fun filled story time with out the controversy of their sexual identity.. It will come soon enough. The Roll of the library is not to promote these issues to preschool and elementary children it is for the parents to educate . They are kids first don't take that innocence away .
Warren Munro [REDACTED]

FW: Drag Queen Story time in Okanogan libraries

X DELETE ← REPLY ↶ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

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Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 11:40 AM

To: ORL Policy;

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Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce & Jocelyn [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 11:06 AM
To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story time in Okanogan libraries

November 12, 2019

To whom it may concern,

When I heard that the ORL was allowing grown men to dress in drag and to read stories to children, I was shocked!

Our public libraries should be a safe neutral place where families can go to read without being subjected to and indoctrinated

with "alternative lifestyles" and politically motivated adult agendas.
If a grown man wants to prance around in woman's clothing I believe

he has that right to do so in private. Doing so in front of innocent children is confusing and abusive when they are vulnerable and unable to determine the underlying sexual motivation in such an action. As a regular user of the ORL and a grandparent who takes grandchildren to the ORL, I will cease and desist using it's facilities if such bizarre and blatant indoctrination continues. I will do my utmost to convince everyone I know to do likewise.

Please do the right thing and disallow any cross dressing confused individuals from accessing the public library's clientele.

Dr. Bruce Adamson

FW: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ↶ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread

 Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:28 AM

To: ORL Policy,

1 attachment

Drag Queen
~ JPG

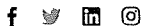
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Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

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OKANAGAN REGIONAL
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From: d_murray [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 6:06 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[REDACTED] Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness.

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- **Homosexuality and Pedophilia** - Homosexuals comprise just 3% of the population, yet are responsible for 33% of all child sexual abuse. They offend against children at 16 times the rate of the normal population.
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Sincerely,


Further resources:

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Exposing the Driving Force Behind the LGBTQ Political Movement.
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FW: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

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 Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:28 AM

To: ORL Policy,
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Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada




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From: Julia Poole
Sent: November 19, 2019 5:35 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story Hours. As an educator, I support your stand and the following information. The Drag Queen Story Hour is a type of indoctrination and the proposal to host this activity is not to promote freedom of speech but a lifestyle that we need to protect our children.

, Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend the freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suining the city of Houston to stop this madness.

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Sincerely,
Julia Poole

Julia Poole
Educational Consultant

FW: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

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 Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:31 AM

To: ORL Policy,
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Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

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OKANAGAN REGIONAL
LIBRARY



This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this e-mail by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error please notify me immediately and delete it.

From: lesandmargt [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 11:39 PM
To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[REDACTED] Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

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Sincerely,
Marguerite Tulett

Further resources:

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Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:32 AM

To: ORL Policy,

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Don Nettleton CPA, CA
Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada



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From: Barb Churcher
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:36 PM
To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

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Sincerely,

Barb Churcher

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The Rising Concerns and Opposition to LGBTQ Political Extremism
<https://action4canada.com/lgbtq-extremism/>

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

No Reply
November 19, 2019 12:10 PM

[REDACTED]
This is a response sent by john revill using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: john

Last Name*: revill

Phone Number: [REDACTED]
778-214-0111

Library Card: [REDACTED]
231-22003-0000

Email*: [REDACTED]
revill@okanaganlibrary.com

Branch: Westbank

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I saw on the news some cross dressers promoting there behavior in a library program for children.This is not right,not age appropriate,to plant seeds of gender confusion,it is also an interference on the parents as it involves moral issues.

[REDACTED]

From: Esther Huston [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 1:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: drag queen story time

As a resident of [REDACTED] I am deeply disappointed and concerned over the Okanagan Libraries decision to host events such as drag queen story time for children. While those making the decision to host such events may deem them as acceptable for young children, there are many who do not share their views.

I am of a congenial mindset of that of the CEO, Don Nettleton, who stated the following. This excerpt is taken from an article entitled 'Drag Queen Story Time' debate in Kelowna, by Kimberly Davidson of Global News on November 15, 2019.

"The CEO of the Okanagan Regional Library, Don Nettleton, sent a memo to the library board, urging it to enact policy to make sure children's programming is "safe, professional, and deemed acceptable by the bulk of society." It read in part: The announced program, while claiming to be promoting diversity and acceptance will be offensive to a significant segment of our society."

My sentiments also echo those expressed below, in the letter written by Karen Barkman (Provision of Hope)

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Karen Barkman
Provision of Hope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: debbie Penner <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: November 19, 2019 1:54 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag queens

Do we have a shortage of people wanting to read to the kids? To have grown men dress up as dolls. There has got to be another way. Please reconsider this idea. This is not a good idea. Thank you!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Leah Samson

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 2:07 PM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: This is a response sent by Dianne Enns using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Dianne

Last Name*: Enns

Phone Number: (250) 230-4150

Library Card: 25132007374300

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Other

Message*:

I would like to go on record to protest against transgender activists reading stories to children in the ORL. I don't have anything against transgender people, but having them involved in story hour at the library strikes me as pushing some kind of political agenda. Can't the library just be a neutral place that provides literature and other resources for the community without having to "re-educate" us all in the latest progressive idea that is trending at the moment? Thanks for providing the services you do. It would be difficult to overstate the value of a community library. And ORL is one of the best!

Fwd: Okanagan Regional Libraries/Drag Queen Story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [redacted]
Tue 2019-11-19 1:02 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lawry (SA) [redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Debarah Bulford [redacted]
Date: Nov 19, 2019 1:01 PM
Subject: Okanagan Regional Libraries/Drag Queen Story time
To: Karla Kozakevich [redacted]
Cc:

Greetings Karla

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an idealogical game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Thank you and please consider my email Debarah Bulford

Fwd: Drag queen story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich

Fri 2019-11-22 12:05 PM

[REDACTED]

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA)

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: espielman

[REDACTED]

Date: Nov 22, 2019 11:28 AM

Subject: Drag queen story time

To: Karla Kozakevich

[REDACTED]

Cc: Karen Barkman

I read the newspaper account of this past Wednesday meeting and can honestly say I am shocked at your response to ORL CEO Nettleton's view that "drag queen story hour is divisive", is to demand "sensitivity training" by him and senior staff!

That view is punitive and like a political indoctrination camp was for people who do not think like you do but hold to a different view.

So tell me, do you allow an "aryan nations story time" or "hells angels story time" or "Antifa story time" or any other story time? are you the arbiter of all truth?

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton

Wed 2019-11-20 9:34 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Helen Scharton [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 20, 2019 8:52 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

To Mr. Nettleton,

it has come to my attention that the public libraries are now hosting drag queen story times. As a mother of 4 children, I take my children to the library and it would be shocking, to say the least, for me and especially my children to come across one of those story times lead by drag queens.

This is a public library and should listen to all the public, not just the ones who are ok with this. There are many out there who are against this and I would no longer be interested in taking my children to the library if this becomes a normal thing.

Please also consider the voices of those who are against this and make the library once again a place where parents and children can feel safe and enjoy the many excellent resources you offer.

Sincerely,
Helen Scharton

Fwd: You Have My Support

✕ DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Thu 2019-11-21 8:12 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Eric Kirstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 8:10 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: You Have My Support

Good morning Mr. Nettleton,

I want to express my appreciation for your stance on the Drag Queen issue and am very sorry to see the trouble you're being put through due to that stance. Everybody who I've heard voice and opinion on this matter is very much against the pushing of sexualized performance art being presented to children and, quite unfortunately, are developing a palpable anger toward the LGBT community for pushing this agenda. I believe this is another step toward a fierce social division that is starting to take place and am saddened that the library board does not have the foresight to see that. It is surreal for me to see the emergence, here in Canada, of the old communist struggle session tactics that were used in Mao's China. Once again, I am very sorry to hear that you are being subjected to this. Much of our city is feeling very demoralized this morning. I hope, somehow, this ends in an outcome that is satisfactory for everybody. At this point, I'm not sure how that can happen.

FW: Bill Introduced to BAN Child Participation In Drag Queen Shows

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 9:02 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Bing Maps

+ Get more apps

Don Nettleton CPA,CA

Chief Executive Officer

Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada

(250) 860-4033 x2491

dnettleton@orl.bc.ca

www.orl.bc.ca



This e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this e-mail by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this e-mail in error please notify me immediately and delete it.

From: Brad Salzberg
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:44 AM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Bill Introduced to BAN Child Participation in Drag Queen Shows

<https://capforcanada.com/bill-introduced-to-ban-child-participation-in-drag-queen-shows/>

Lawmakers in Ohio are taking a stand against the **sexualization of children** by introducing new legislation that would **ban drag shows and other sexually-suggestive performances from using minors.**

A perfectly reasonable and responsible decision based upon maintaining safety for American children. Youth and teenagers should not be utilized for purposes of promoting transgenderism, nor should they be **brain-washed** by LGBT forces **scoping out** potential trans-children during **"Drag Queen Story Hour."**

Unfortunately, here in Canada, our government and media disagree. Or at the very least, they **withhold** all commentary regarding the illicit **trans-for-children** industry.

Who are these curious political players? Minister of Status of Women, **MP Maryam**

[REDACTED]

From: Anthony Abma [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 1:59 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Protest Kelowna library re Drag Queen Story Hour
Attachments: Drag Queen Story Time 4.jpg

Importance: High

To the Board of the Okanagan Regional Library:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries which is being supported by Monica Gaucher, Okanagan Regional Library's public services director.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a public, civic facility, I believe the management of the ORL have a moral obligation to ensure the safety of citizens who are most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children.

Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization of "gender confused people" when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, events like is being proposed with the "Drag Queen Story telling" confuses and manipulates the young, immature minds of children.

As mature adults, we have a responsibility to protect them – which is what is expected of Okanagan Regional Library staff who serve a cross section of the public.

It is actually appalling that Monica Gaucher would even be allowed to **suggest** this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak - rather than the safety and security of our children. While the Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" - nothing could be further from the truth. This is about promoting their own personal agenda about sexualizing children and grooming them.

Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal - is completely unacceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suining the city of Houston to stop this madness. I hope that litigation is not necessary to stop this nonsense at the ORL.

A Drag Queen states, "**This is not about tolerance or anti-bullying,...** *It is a direct and intentional effort to create gender confusion and doubt among very young children at the very time they need solid guidance and understanding. The intent is to plant a seed to make children more likely to question their sexuality or gender at a later age.*

A report from the US documents what everyone should know about the "Drag Queen" indoctrination of children in our public libraries: Where it comes from and how they make it happen. [Read Here?](#)

What does the life of a Drag Queen look like? Drag Queen Story hour for children?

- **Drag Queens Exposed**, by Mass Resistance - scroll down will be horrified when you discover who Drag Queens are and that 'any' public library would do this. [Read/view here](#)
- **Homosexuality and Pedophilia** - Homosexuals comprise just 3% of the population, yet are responsible for 33% of all child sexual abuse. They offend against children at 16 times the rate of the normal population.
- [10yr old boy/dressed drag/with naked 'drag queen](#)
- [8yr old with Drag queen on stage - foul language and exploitation](#)
- [Sexual Exploitation of Children\("CBC" drag kids\), 11 yr old drag kid in gay bar and Here ?\(child drag "queen"\)](#)
- Miss Kitty Litter convicted of [male prostitution](#)
- [Convicted pedophile](#), dressed as a woman, reads to children at public library. Explicit tweets and visits porn sites.
- Drag Queen [depicting suicide](#)
- [?Convicted of multiple sexual assaults](#) against young children, William Travis Dees, has also written a lurid article describing his work as a transgender prostitute. And he was photographed at a Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH) event carrying a rubber chicken – a symbol used by homosexuals to indicate a sexual preference for young boys. As part of these DQSH events, Dees has served as a "greeter" for young children as they came into the library. Dees was convicted in 2004 of sex crimes against four young children (ages 4, 5, 6, and 8), was jailed, and is listed as a "high risk sex offender."

Drag Queens are also part of a bigoted anti-Catholic group....a national organization of cross-dressing homosexual men called the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The men dress as garish and hideous parodies of Catholic nuns and mock Catholicism. They are a popular feature in gay pride parades and other LGBT events across the country. **They now also do DQSH readings to small children.**

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, [Vancouver, BC](#) - With names like Sister Ethica Slut, Sister Alma Bitches, Sister Bear it All, Sister Kitty Lickentwat, Sister Dunna Giva-fuk, Sister Beatriz cox-mugger, etc. visit schools and libraries. [HERE](#)

What has happened to our society that we have become so morally bankrupt to consider something so blatantly wrong - as acceptable and right?

I request that you would pass this information on to the Library Board and reject any and all future Drag Queen story hours and that further steps be taken nationally to shut this down.

Sincerely, Anthony Abma

Further resources:

The UN LGBTQ Agenda to Indoctrinate Children Worldwide.

Exposing the Driving Force Behind the LGBTQ Political Movement.

<https://action4canada.com/the-united-nations-lgbtq-agenda-to-indoctrinate-children-worldwide/>

[REDACTED]

From: Barb Langerud [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 2:20 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time in our Libraries

Hello and Good Day

I wanted to express my views on the Drag Queen Story time.

First of all I would like to thank you for keeping our libraries and areas a safe and neutral place for our children to learn to love books and the adventures that reading brings.

I do however feel deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I like the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by interesting storytellers. Storytelling develops a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their learning, imagination and development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not promote adult ideologies, not matter how current they may be.

I would like to clearly say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. But please, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and a neutral place for the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events,

are innocent, minds who are being molded in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children are being exposed to lifestyles, ideas and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the information they are being exposed to, and should not have to deal with any aspect of sexuality at their tender age. Why would this idea even be considered good exposure. These are our children, and grandchildren—our future generations. How can this be regarded as good for small children to process? It seems that instead of creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them by not allowing this to continue.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Respectfully,

Barb Langerud

Correspondence Received in opposition to DQST

November 18 - 19, 2019

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:23 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Joyce Zelinski using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 6:38 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Joyce Zelinski using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Joyce
Last Name*: Zelinski
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*:
Branch: Vernon
Subject*: Library Programs
Message*: Re:Drag Queen story time I am writing to express my strong adverse opinion on whether to go ahead with allowing this controversial topic to be read to children at my public library

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:24 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 8:56 AM

Subject: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Evelyn

Last Name*: Lipke

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I don't believe you should show favour to any particular group or gender to have story time having drag queens reading to children who are easily influenced at a young age. There are many different religions, cultures and belief systems, I think It would be better not to show preference over one or the other and stay neutral.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:25 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Aaron Wilson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Subject: This is a response sent by Aaron Wilson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Aaron

Last Name*: Wilson

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: Dear ORL, I love the library, my wife and family love the library, the staff are so friendly and helpful. It's a wonderful resource. I heard from a friend that there will be a decision made tomorrow (Nov 20th) regarding the use of drag queens to read stories to young children. I feel that the library should continue to be place of inclusion, not exclusion, and that by inviting drag queens to read to the children, the library would be excluding a vast majority of library users in favour of a small minority. Not only this, but many would find this environment unsafe and unwelcoming to them. I believe that the ORL CEO, Don Nettleton has also expressed his concerns over this proposal. Young children should not be exposed to something that has become highly politicized and controversial at best. Please keep it neutral. Thanks for taking the time to read. Aaron

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:25 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Doreen Munro using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 9:56 AM

To: KL Reference <klreference@orl.bc.ca>**Subject:** This is a response sent by Doreen Munro using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Doreen |
| Last Name*: | Munro |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | <p>Re drag queen reading hour: This is to oppose the drag Queen reading hour for children at our OKANAGAN public library. We do not need to confuse children as to who they are by bringing ideas and lifestyles beyond their maturity level. We as a community ought to look at raising really great adults who walk in clarity. Their job is to be kids. When they are old enough to discern these adult issues hopefully we have prepared them to know how to think not what to think. So focus on who you are as opposed to sexual identity when this is way beyond their interest grid. And a subtle manipulation to teach what to believe. Protect our children Protect our futures Doreen Munro Sent from my iPhone</p> |

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:00 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Nina Bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:39 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Nina Bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Nina

Last Name*: Bates

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: The possible acceptance of allowing drag queens to read stories to vulnerable children concerns me. As a Gramma, I very much OPPOSE this. The library should be a safe learning environment.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:02 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Karen Yacyshyn using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 6:31 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Karen Yacyshyn using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Karen

Last Name*: Yacyshyn

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: Drag Queen: I find this is very offensive and should not be allowed in our public library. I suggest we keep our library a neutral, safe environment for children so as they have a quiet place to come to where parents do not need to be worrying about what they are exposed to. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:02 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jeannine Gulkiewich using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 11:07 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Jeannine Gulkiewich using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jeannine

Last Name*: Gulkiewich

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I find it disturbing that the library would think that having a Drag Queen story time is a good idea. I think young children are being bombarded with subjects that are promoted by adults, for what reason I'm not sure. Let them be children! I'm totally against this idea!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:03 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 8:35 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Donara

Last Name*: Krysko

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Other

Message*: I am not happy about the recent "drag queen" thing that has been brought into the public library system... I would not bring my grandchild into a place that promotes this to young children. It should be neutral ground. I think it adds more confusion to a child's identity.

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:07 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Constance Burke using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 18, 2019 5:00 PM
To: KL Reference
Subject: This is a response sent by Constance Burke using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Constance |
| Last Name*: | Burke |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | I have a deep concern in regards to the recent Story Time content. I am totally against having this type of agenda pushed onto our young innocent children. I want my concern to be noted as a NO to this type of Drag Queen push. Thank you for noting my NO vote. |

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:11 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Matt Scott using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 18, 2019 3:22 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Matt Scott using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Matt |
| Last Name*: | Scott |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | Hi, I am writing in response to the Drag Queen Story hour. As a member of the community and a father of young children I don't believe that this contributing positively to our community. Children's story time is a wonderful part of the programming at the library, but it should be done in a neutral way. The children attending storytime are very young; the stories and story tellers should be age appropriate and not be confusing to the children. Storytime should not be promoting the agenda of a small group in the community regardless of who they are. Sincerely, Matt Scott |



From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 8:35 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Donara |
| Last Name*: | Krysko |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | I am not happy about the recent "drag queen" thing that has been brought into the public library system... I would not bring my grandchild into a place that promotes this to young children. It should be neutral ground. I think it adds more confusion to a child's identity. |

Leah Samson

From: CATHY WILDE [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:20 PM
To: Leah Samson [REDACTED]
Subject: Story Time at our Librairies

Dear Sirs:

Information has been sent to me that Drag Queens are attempting to come into the Librairies to read stories to our Children, and there is a concern, which is a legitimate concern.

I am opposed to this because it confuses children, Libraries are a place of learning and should be a safe place for ALL people, particularly the most vulnerable, who are our children..

I believe that we have a responsibility to protect our children so they can be children. The grown up stuff is not the Libraries responsibility to present to children, libraries responsibility from my opinion is to have a healthy wholesome environment where they feel safe and can be children. Many children are afraid of dress up and many cultures in our communities are opposed to certain life styles; cultures are different that life styles choices.

Children need to be children, children are so precious and it is your responsibility to keep the environment in our libraries clean and pure and neutral, and a fun place of learning

One way I suggest that this could be done in a diplomatic way is to set a rule that dressing up in not allowed, not even clowns or Halloween etc., this is neutral, and also set a standard of what kind of books you make available to children. The children coming dressed up is different and up to the parents if they want it.

If we do not have rules and standards of integrity and say NO to certain behaviors there is really something the matter within our society.

I believe it is the responsibility of the parents to teach and guide their Children in morality and how to live and I also feel the parents are the only ones that qualify to know when, to introduce their children to certain aspects of life not the public square.

Thank you,

Cathy Wilde
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Public Library Deletes Pictures Of Drag Queens Fondling Children

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:39 PM

Subject: Public Library Deletes Pictures Of Drag Queens Fondling Children

<https://thefederalist.com/2019/07/22/public-library-deletes-pictures-drag-queens-fondling-children-story-hour/>

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: 'Drag Queen Story Hour' shows what's gone wrong in America - Washington Times

-----Original Message-----

From: espielman@shaw.ca <espielman@shaw.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2019 6:44 PM

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 'Drag Queen Story Hour' shows what's gone wrong in America - Washington Times

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/oct/11/drag-queen-story-hour-shows-whats-gone-wrong-in-am/>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:24 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story hour

From: Corine Riemer
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:57 AM

Subject: Story hour

Regarding the Drag Queen Story hour,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Respectfully...

Corine Riemer

Leah Samson

From: Cassie Grauman [mailto:cassie@haines.com]
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: Drag Queen story time

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Thank you,
Cassie Haines

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Mae Clowe [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Drag Queen Storytime

To Whom It May Concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

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To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Please respect our children and protect them from adult ideologies in story time...

From: Karen Engel
Sent: November 19, 2019 11:07 AM
Subject: Please respect our children and protect them from adult ideologies in story time...

Greetings,

I just want to express my grave concern about the plans for incorporating drag queens into the story telling time at our tax funded Okanagan Libraries. This is not at all about wanting to take away the rights of Drag Queens or other alternate lifestyle choices, it is a question of properly addressing children in a public place where they have come to encounter good stories in a safe environment that is not promoting adult ideologies.

I have worked with children for years as a Reading Therapist, and children are some of the most vulnerable and impressionable people in our society. I don't believe that they are ready emotionally or mentally to navigate the ideologies and personal lifestyle choices that these adults will be promoting and presenting as they tell stories to our youngsters.

Please ensure that our publicly funded libraries will remain neutral, safe places for the youngest members of our society to explore great books with other children in a fun environment that doesn't cause them to feel anxious about who they are and where they are.

With concern,
Karen Engel

[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

Karen M. Barkman [REDACTED]
November 18, 2019 2:46 PM
[REDACTED]
Please do not allow this in our Libraries!

Dear CEO of the Library,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Karen Barkman
Provision of Hope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:10 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen at the library

From: Karen Horton
Sent: November 18, 2019 3:46 PM
Subject: Drag queen at the library

I am writing concerned about the drag queen storytime currently being introduced to young children at the Okanagan library. I feel that if you open the door to this , then the library should be open to bible story time and other current philosophical beliefs storytimes. The minds of our children are very impressionable with young children being the most vulnerable. It is very important to keep these more controversial issues for the older mind to explore in an environment that looks at all trains of thought. Do we have heterosexual story time ? No! So why would we allow drag queen story time? Do we say today we are having a lesbian read a story to you? No! So why would we bring to light someone's sexual orientation at a storytime? Inappropriate. Do we disallow someone who is homosexual or lesbian read a story- no because we are not at the storytime to be entertained by a sexual orientation but rather we are there to be introduced to the love of reading. I am hoping that the library will reconsider how ludicrous it is to bring to light someone's sexual orientation at a children's story time.
Karen Horton

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:08 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen story time

Sent: November 18, 2019 4:05 PM
Subject: Drag Queen story time

Dear Sir/Ms:

This is to voice my praise for the operations and care I've encountered from the ORL over the years. However, I must now voice my objection to the proposed Drag Queen Story time. The objection is not against drag queen individuals. They are precious persons. It is against the presentation that I see as the introduction of messenger alternative sexualisation slipped into a children's story time. The medium is the message in this case. It is not appropriate to young minds. It is pushing an ideology, though these individuals have every right to the lifestyle THEY choose. Though in vogue, I do ask you cancel this proposed activity. If needed I will come and tell or read a story.

Many thanks for considering this opinion. Please contact me with your response.

Sincerely,

John Brinkerhoff MD, FCFP

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:06 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Opposing Drag Queen storytelling

From: Samantha Hastings [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 5:52 PM

Subject: Opposing Drag Queen storytelling

This letter is to express my opposition to drag queen story time at our library. I do not oppose drag queens, but don't think it's appropriate for our children.

I love how the library is a place to bring my daughter to expand her creativity and learning, which is so important to her development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vague they may be.

I am not against drag queens, they have the right to express themselves and live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a CIVIC facility, the safety of the children should be important. This is a political or socially controversial topic, or a form of outlandish expression, not suitable for maleable minds.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Thank you for providing an appropriate and nurturing environment for my daughter and so many other children.

Samantha Hastings
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW:

From: Marlene White [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 5:55 PM

Subject:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

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Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen story time.

From: dave barkman
Sent: November 18, 2019 6:18 PM

Subject: Fw: Drag Queen story time.

I don't support the the Drag Queen story time planned for the library in Kelowna. I don't believe it is appropriate for young children, and there are much better stories that can educate our children and grandchildren.

Please reconsider the story time content.

David Barkman

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story time at the Library

From: Lorna Dickau [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:43 PM

Subject: Story time at the Library

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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I would ask that you not allow "drag queens" to do the story time at the public Libraries

Thank you for your time

[REDACTED]
Mother of 3, grandmother of 5

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story Telling At Public Library

From: Shawnella Byron [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:56 PM
Subject: Story Telling At Public Library

Hi,
I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Sincerely,
Shawnella Byron

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:03 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen Storytime

From: Mae Clowe [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:14 PM

Subject: Re: Drag Queen Storytime

To Whom It May Concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:00 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story time

From: Lorne Barker [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 7:26 AM

Subject: Story time

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Thank you
Lorne Barker

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:10 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen reading day

Sent: November 18, 2019 3:40 PM

Subject: Drag queen reading day

It is astonishing WRONG to allow drag queens to push their sexual agenda upon young children!
This is not education. It is propaganda and must to expose young children to it is abuse.
Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:09 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen reading day

Sent: November 18, 2019 4:04 PM
Subject: Re: Drag queen reading day

Oops dropped word
Should say " should be stopped. To expose young children to this is abuse."

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 18, 2019, at 3:40 PM, >
>
> It is astonishing WRONG to allow drag queens to push their sexual agenda upon young children! This is not education. It is propaganda and must to expose young children to it is abuse.
> Sent from my iPhon

From:

No Reply

Sent:

November 20, 2019 8:48 AM

To:

Subject:

This is a response sent by Kelly Murphy using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| First Name*: | Kelly |
| Last Name*: | Murphy |
| Phone Number: | [REDACTED] |
| Library Card: | [REDACTED] |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | [REDACTED] |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | No drag queens please |

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Jane Anjema [REDACTED]
November 19, 2019 9:46 PM
[REDACTED]
Drag Queen Storytime & New Policies

Hello to the Admin. Team and Board for our Okanagan Libraries.

I have many concerns about the Drag Queen Story time in our public library. I believe that people are free to dress and behave how they wish. Child are not bias so promoting diversity in this manor may be self-serving. Why do they to need confront our innocent children with such mature topics which are actually sexual and could be confusing. As you move forward in decisions remember to let our children be children. Let them laugh a play without having to concern themselves with adult topics. Please consider your obligation and responsibility to protect our children and do not allow this door to be open. We do not know the possible hidden agendas that could come if this door is open. This is a serious matter.

May you all be lead with great wisdom and care as you move forward.

Thanks for listening:
Jane Tremblay

Attention Karen M. Barkman:
Cc et al

My wife and I, our adult children, their families and our grandchildren are greatly disturbed with your intentions to publicly host a so-called "drag queen story time" at our beloved Okanagan Community Library tomorrow.

It is patently perverted to introduce adult content clearly intended to promote adult sexual agendas and counter cultural sexual ideologies, to our minor children and grandchildren.

This is not about a small segment of modern adult society wanting to express their own personal sexual identifications. It's about handing over a trusted public institution to be used as a platform for a clearly sexual social agenda that is targeting our minor children.

You are a civic facility, funded both by the general public through taxes and by private donations and you have the obligation to protect the safety of the youngest and most vulnerable amongst us. There is nothing innocent behind the laughter and the smiles created in these events where the intent is to target the minds of our innocent and malleable children. We have historically trusted you with the selection of materials that are available in a community library, how is it that you have betrayed our trust in lending out our community library to this obvious sexualized agenda.

Children are being exposed in these events to complex ideas and lifestyle choices in appropriate for minors using the hyper sexualization of both the content and the presentation of the materials, when clearly our children are not legally mature enough to either process these concepts or give consent to them. Clearly the target audience is pre-pubescent children who are well below the age of sexual consent or sexual experience.

This well-organized agenda is not about diversity or acceptance and the community expects that you are discerning enough to understand these complex social agendas. These events are about the early hyper sexualization of our children which is clearly intended to manipulate their view of themselves at an age long before their natural biological age of self-discovery.

How is it that you have come to disregard your civic responsibility to our vulnerable minor children and to turn over a publicly funded, community supported, facility to be used to hyper sexualize our pre-pubescent children and grandchildren?

How long do you suppose a community library will last without the support of the community; Without volunteers, without donations, without 'Friends of the Library', without the donating of books, without the bequeathing of funds and the "Leaving of Legacies"? Ask your accounting department what demographic group is the primary financial supporters of community libraries in a digital information age when two generations now read primarily from screens. Do you suppose for a moment that this older demographic group supports how you are using our financial support by allowing fringe groups who have an obvious and clear sexual focus to then target our grand-children?

Be civically responsible and cancel tomorrow's display of fringe sexual expression intended to target our children. We will not forget.

Neil and Louise Livingstone



From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:18 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Nadia Herwig using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Nadia

Last Name*: Herwig

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [Redacted]

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Other

Message*:

Hello orl team vernon, I am not for that drag queens would have a story time spot with kids at our library ... if they wanna live out their lifestyle in this matter to be a other person then wgat they were created for so be it but it can be in their privat life and it doesn t need to be shared with kids in this town.i am regular library attendand with my kids and grandkids it needs to be a safe inverement which in my eyes doesn t include man dressed up like woman amd telling the stories about this kind of lifestyle. Please consider to vote against it Kind reggards Nadia

[REDACTED]

From: Alain Tremblay [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Alain Tremblay
Subject: New Policy for Storytime

Hello, I have heard about the Drag Queen story hours at our public library. As you are gathering to make new policies I would like you to consider the safety of our children. I do not agree that the drag queens need to be reading to our children. They are not ready for these subjects which could confuse their young innocent minds.

Please keep this tax payer facility safe and neutral.

Alain Tremblay

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Brent Henderson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Brent

Last Name*: Henderson

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*:

Good evening. I understand that ORL is planning on having some drag queens come to our library to read during story time. Personally, if someone wants to dress in drag that's their prerogative. But I don't feel it's necessary to have them read to children in our local library. Please know that I am not in favour of your initiative. I will be sending out your plans to everyone I know and I hope they will graciously contact you and relay their opinion as well. I'd also like to know your purpose and goal in having these drag queens come to talk with our children. Thank you Brent

[REDACTED]

From: Randy McMurphy [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 7:47 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: drag queen

I feel that having drag queens read to our children is wrong. I don't ever remember being told as a child that today story time would be told by a heteroesxual man or women. Why. Because it wasn't about the sexual choice of the reader but about the stories being read to our children. I appose this program as I feel it confuses children far before they even need to think about their sexuality. I would ask that this public library end this program, thank you,

Randy McMurphy

[REDACTED]

From: Grace Livingstone [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 6:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Concerns in regard to drag queen story at library

Hello,

I am emailing in regard to the recent conversation being had and subsequent decisions being made in regard to drag queen story time at the public library here in Kelowna.

As a [REDACTED] mother of three young children 4, 2 and 1 years old, I so appreciate the programming and events that the city and civic facility's organize for families here. When we attend these kinds of family events at civic centers there is an expectation that they would in fact be family friendly, ideologically neutral and age appropriate. In my opinion drag queen story time aimed at pre-schoolers and young children is non of those things. Please understand that I am not saying there is not an audience for it or that it can't happen in our city but rather that it is an event that is not ideologically neutral Or age appropriate or inclusive for all. In the same way it would not be tasteful to have someone promoting a political ideology, or religious view at a civic center to small children, drag queen story time is also out of tune. politics, religion and sexuality are hardly relevant, appropriate topics for small children.

Please reconsider adding this to your programming.

Thank you

Grace Milligen

Sent from Grace's iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Stephen Horton [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 6:32 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Story time

Hi,

I am deeply concerned about the 'drag queen story time' that is taking place in Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be thought to be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not OK.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them by stopping these 'drag queen story times.

Cheers,
Steve

><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>,...^`.,><(((e>

Stephen Horton
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Kristine Riley [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 5:09 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time - Concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together **young children** in public libraries to listen to stories told by gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, no matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and **the most vulnerable** among us. **These happen to be our children.** Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not okay.

Our children, through these events, are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Kristine Riley

--
*"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."
Corrie Ten Boom*

*"You stand in a puddle when I would give you an ocean."
Graham Cooke's Encouragement to stretch our vision*

*"Your smile is your logo. Your personality is your business card. How you leave others feeling after an experience with you becomes your trademark."
Author Unknown*

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 4:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Shane Casavant using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Shane |
| Last Name*: | Casavant |
| Phone Number: | [REDACTED] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | To Whom It May Concern: It was brought to my attention that there has been story reading to young children at the public library on the topic/theme of Drag Queens. This is totally inappropriate and I am wodering what can be done to stop this agenda from being pushed on to young children. It is just wrong . |

[REDACTED]

From: Bonnie Inkster [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 3:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Story time

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them.

I would ask that you protect them.

Yours truly,
Bonnie Inkster
Sent from my iPhone

Sent: November 19, 2019 12:05 PM

To: KL Reference [REDACTED]

Subject: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Lee

Last Name*: Humphries

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch:

Subject*: Other

Message*:

Understanding that orl is considering having drag queen story telling, I wish to say I'm not a fan. While costumed, themed story-telling would be awesomely engaging, I feel the swing of the LGBT pendulum is sweeping us away here. The library is full of resources about this topic. Childrens' Story Time is not the time or place. Our kids are being overwhelmed with LGBT information in a blatant way and if they want it - well they can get information ...at the library...from the shelves or ordered in, as well as at school, in the playground, in media, It may be an entertaining adult themed event though!

Fwd: Library Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Wed 2019-11-20 8:57 AM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Nov 20, 2019 8:48 AM
Subject: Library Story Time

[REDACTED]

Hello, Karla. I just wanted to let you know that I'm completely opposed to the library having story time led by cross dressing individuals (drag queens, or drag kings either if that ever comes up.) I agree with what Mr Nettieton has stated about this situation.

People can wear what they like, but I don't believe a children's story time at a library is appropriate for this. I believe I speak for many in the city, who strongly denounce these story times with 'sexual preference' overtones. Please just let kids be kids and don't expose them to confusing messages about who they are. Thanks in advance.

Sincerely,
Diane Manuel

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_go.onelink.me_107872968-3Fpid-3DInProduct-26c-3DGlobal-5FInternal-5FYGrowth-5FAndroidEmailSig-5F-5FAndroidUsers-26af-5Fwl-3Dym-26af-5Fsub1-3DInternal-26af-5Fsub2-3DGlobal-5FYGrowth-26af-5Fsub3-3DEmailSignature&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=FChkI1R8KaZupCALL9hJbblgAa7WsBlppK3O5tysljE&m=IRw_9zvLIYQKvqzoOJyl8Gkq0cPON8DgXKrtEffGFvM&s=IXE1ySj4KZAJY0GwDLwcJHKQWEZqtI91dYU5CkmfC2s&e=>>

From: Geneva Kirk [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2019 7:47 AM
To: Don Nettleton <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: re: Drag Queen Story Time

Mr. Nettleton;

I am writing to voice my concern over the programming for Drag Queen story times at the Okanagan libraries. I believe that the library should be a neutral and safe environment, particularly for the most vulnerable of our society, which includes children. I hold a generally very high opinion of our public libraries and know that they provide excellent learning opportunities for the community as a whole. However, I do not support Drag Queen story time, particularly in the manner in which it has been made available to the public. If the libraries decide to continue with this programming, I would find it only appropriate if other groups were also offered equal opportunity to provide reading times, which would include religious groups of all sorts, among others. If this is not the intent of the public library, namely to allow diverse opportunities for all, then it would seem there is prejudice and inequality. I sincerely hope that the public library system, which I love and use extensively, will do the right thing by either eliminating the Drag Queen reading times or opening up story times to the large variety of groups presented in our society. This would show true diversity and inclusivity. As it currently stands, to my view and understanding, what the library has offered is in fact the opposite: selective and exclusive in favour of groups chosen by whomever has the loudest voice in a leadership position.

I represent a large number of parents and children as I am a teacher, and I will be sending them a copy of this email so that they may be aware of my views as well as what is currently being offered at the public library. I will be strongly encouraging them to speak up as well. In the past, I have promoted your programs on an ongoing basis, and I have encouraged families to use the public library for the variety of services it offers. This may no longer be the case if I continue to see such programs offered in this selective, exclusive, prejudiced manner.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Geneva Kirk

From: David Van Trump [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 11:55 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Mr. Nettleton,

I am writing you to voice my concern over moving forward with allowing Drag Queen Story Time to be held at our libraries. I trust you are already well versed about the danger this type of material would do children who are still developing (mentally, physically, emotionally etc...). I don't mind if you include members from the Drag Queen community inside the library, or host a night where they can connect within community. However when children are involved, I believe it crosses the line. I have fond memories of being read Robert Munsch books during storytelling time in the local library where I grew up, it was an important for my development. I wouldn't want to ponder where I would be today as a person if I were to be subjected to controversial material while growing up, all while not having the wherewithal to discern controversial subject matter. If we as adults have a hard time finding the right balance and answer as to whether or not to include this material as part of a library program, how much harder would it be for children to sort out such complex and age specific material.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our local communities viewpoints.

Warm Regards,
David

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ←← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Wed 2019-11-20 7:06 AM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kelly blasco [REDACTED]

Date: Nov 19, 2019 9:49 PM

Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

[REDACTED]

Dear Ms.
Kozakevich

Im writing you in regards to Drag Queen Story Time at our local library. I respectfully want to express my concern about this program. As a mother and soon to be grandparent I don't believe this is appropriate for a young child's development socially , sexually or to teach them how to be inclusive. In my experience children are the most inclusive people on the planet. They are not emotionally mature enough to be exposed to this kind of behaviour from an adult. I do not have an issue with Drag Queens that is an adults decision and way of life that should not be presented to a child. A child should be aloud to be a child not used to promote adult agendas and ideologies. I question the motives of those involved. A visit to the library should be fun and adventurous not pushing a social or political agenda. Thank you

Kelly Blasco

Fwd: Children's Drag Queen Storytime at Our Public Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 8:25 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: TRAVIS HOLDER [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 6:39 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Children's Drag Queen Storytime at Our Public Library

Hi Mr. Nettleton,

I was told that you are the person to email to express my concerns over the Drag Queen Storytime at the Public Library. Assuming you are keeping track of how many people do not agree that this is appropriate or beneficial for our young children, please add my name to the list.

Thank you and have a good day!

~Travis Holder

Fwd: Drag queens Story times program at the Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Tue 2019-11-19 8:16 PM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Christine Cloutier [REDACTED]
Date: Nov 19, 2019 8:14 PM
Subject: Drag queens Story times program at the Library
[REDACTED]

Hi Karla,

I just want to go on record, that I'm quite opposed to, what seems to be more and more a divisive issue, drag queen library story time led by cross dressing individuals. I'm not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but what really is the goal of and outcome desired for these bizarre story times?

Isn't a library supposed to be a neutral safe place for all, especially our young and vulnerable? I am fully opposed to those story times with 'sexual preference' overtones.

Please take a stand for our sensitive and young generation and protect them of the influence of those drag queens.

Thank you so much for considering my concern,

Christine Cloutier

FW: Drag queens reading stories to the children

X DELETE ← REPLY ←← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Tue 2019-11-19 7:57 PM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

From: Denise Gallant [REDACTED]

Sent: November 19, 2019 7:59 PM

[REDACTED]

Subject: Drag queens reading stories to the children

Hello my name is Denise fulford I am a mother of two and a grandma of three boys the youngest being two. I thoroughly enjoyed the library with my kids when they were little. But I do need to tell you that I am disappointed with having drag queens in the library reading to our young children or now grandchildren. It will definitely be a deterrent for me and bringing my grandchildren to the library for various activities.

From a concerned citizen of Canada,

Denise Fulford

[REDACTED]

FW: Concerning Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Tue 2019-11-19 7:54 PM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Nina Merchant [REDACTED]

Sent: November 19, 2019 7:39 PM

To: Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] <nmerchant059@gmail.com>

Subject: Concerning Library

Good day Karla,

I just want to go on record, that I'm quite opposed to, what seems to be more and more a divisive issue, library story time led by cross dressing individuals. I'm not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but what really is the goal of and outcome desired for these bizarre story times? Isn't a library supposed to be a neutral safe place for all, especially our young and vulnerable? I speak for many in the city, who strongly denounce these story times with 'sexual preference' overtones. I'm fully opposed to them.

Thank you
NMerchant

FW: Let's say no to drag queen story time ...

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Tue 2019-11-19 7:53 PM

Mark as unread

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Mapson [REDACTED]

Sent: November 19, 2019 7:48 PM

[REDACTED]
Subject: Let's say no to drag queen story time ...

Drag queen story time is offensive to many, many people.

It will definitely taint the public's perception of your programming.

Some will enthusiastically support it. But they are few. They are radical and vociferous, but few.

Once you go down that path, you will be labeled, categorized, and likely dismissed by multitudes of families.

Don't make the Target mistake. Their stock has declined Billions in value.

Don't do that to yourselves.

Also, it is very dangerous to normalize drag and especially to hold drag up as something "cool" / or just another alternative lifestyle that is perfectly wholesome and healthy and natural to pursue — to little kids.

That is wrong.

You know this deep in your gut. It's undeniable.

Please disallow drag queen story time.

Thanks! And, you guys rock!

Chris Mapson
[REDACTED]

FW: Drag Queen Storytime program.

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]>

Tue 2019-11-19 6:34 PM

Mark as unread

To: CKL Policy, Tim Lavery <lavery@salmonathica>

From: Linda Nordick <[REDACTED]>

Sent: November 19, 2019 6:34 PM

To: Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Drag Queen Storytime program.

Attention: Chairperson Karla Kozakevich

First of all I would like to thank you all for calling a meeting concerning the Drag Queen Storytime program to allow a review of decision to have this program. I agree with CEO of the libraries, Don Nettleton's concerns. We raised our sons in the provincial library system since they were small (now 38 and 35) and they loved the programming towards little people that were held there. One of the issues around this is that stage names are used instead of their real names and people attending don't have the ability to check into who these people are. That's just one concern of many but I will just say is not all diversity is Good diversity. Thank you for allowing me to voice my concern. I am opposed to these venues being permitted where little people are influenced without the knowledge to challenge it. So glad our library showed the movie "Paddington" this past weekend..no issues there!

Sincerely Linda Nordick, Williams Lake BC

FW: Drag Queens at Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Mark as unread

Tue 2019-11-19 6:33 PM

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <tllavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Dawn Meier <dawn@dawnmeier.com>

Sent: November 19, 2019 6:32 PM

to: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Drag Queens at Story Time

Dear Karla

I wish to register my opposition to drag queens reading at Story Time at the library. In a society where children are exposed to many "adult" issues far beyond their ability to understand, the library should be a place where innocence is maintained as long as possible. Drag queens dress in a way that is sexual and provocative...what's next, a stripper reading at story time? No parent or grandparent should have to find out ahead of time "who" is reading that day at story time, and make the decision to stay home, to avoid having conversations that their children are not ready for. There is no reason that a pre-schooler needs to know about drag queens.

Let's keep the library as a safe, moral and non-controversial place.

Sincerely,

Dawn Meier

[Redacted signature]

FW: Drag Queen library story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Tue 2019-11-19 6:32 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Roxana Chavarria <roxana5@gmail.com>

Sent: November 19, 2019 6:25 PM

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Drag Queen library story time

Dear Karla.

Hope this email finds you well. I just want to go on record, that I'm highly opposed to, what seems to be more and more a divisive issue, library story time led by cross dressing individuals. I'm not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but what really is the goal of and outcome desired for these bizarre story times? Isn't a library supposed to be a neutral safe place for all, especially our young and vulnerable? I would never feel safe to leave my children with somebody like that, this is a **completely** unsafe and unhealthy environment for any child and yes I speak for many in the city, who strongly denounce these story times with 'sexual preference' overtones. I'm fully opposed to them.

Our children future should be priority, not someone else's desires who is pushing to teach young kids whatever they want and however they want. If we don't stop this atrocity now, next thing you know you will have "naked people doing their thing" teaching our kids or reading to our kids like that as well.

Please save our kids, save their pure and clean minds and save their future.

Thank you for your attention to this matter

Sincerery,

A very concern citizen, mom and future grandma

Roxana Chavarria

FW: drag queens at our library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Mark as unread

Tue 2019-11-19 6:20 PM

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

-----Original Message-----

From: Linda Price <lprice@ms.com>

Sent: November 19, 2019 5:22 PM

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: drag queens at our library

Hi Karla,

This letter is in concern to storytime at our local public library. I'm a Mom, Gramma and a Great Gramma, and I'm very disturbed by what is being allowed to be shared in our public library, namely the story time by drag queens... men dressed as women. This is NOT diversity, it's perversion to even think that our children are being taught that this is ok. This is in no way protecting our vulnerable children's ears and hearts. Shame on the parents who have taken the liberty to make a statement by subjecting their own kids to this.

May I come in for storytime and have a Bible study time to teach about JESUS, and how HE died for our sins??

I'm appalled that this ideology has been allowed to be spread in the library. Next thing you know, there will be people that will be demanding that the drag queens have use of the woman's bathrooms. The kids trust us to keep them safe.

Sincerely
Concerned Mom, Gramma & Great Gramma

Linda L. Price

John 3:16

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Hours

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 5:35 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Concerned Citizens [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:30 PM
To: Don Nettleton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hours

Dear Mr. Nettleton,
Thank you for standing against the Drag Queen Story Hours, It is incredible how anyone could think it will "Promote love and acceptance". We have seen what is being promoted and are appalled. Children don't need more sexual excitement and fun, let children grow up as healthy children without all this sexual indoctrination! Some people may call it "fun", but most of us call it child-abuse. Why should we support Libraries with our Tax money for such garbage? Children are highly impressionable and presenting drag queens on them pretending that this is normal is not acceptable. We do hope that parents will start to sue such Libraries who promote Drag Queen Story Hours that cause nothing but more confusion.

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/drag-queen-storytime-convicted-pedophile-dressed-as-a-woman-reads-to-kids-at-public-library>

Hildegard Horie

Fwd: Drag Queen Story hours

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 2:51 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

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From: Linda [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:32 PM
To: Don Nettleton

Cc: viewcontactbc@globalnews.ca; cbcnewsvanouver@cbc.ca; eitan@therebel.media; candice@truenorthinitiative.com; stephanie.goodban@ok.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Story hours

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I understand you are inundated with emails so I will make this brief. First of all I thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

The Okanagan Library's public services director reportedly states this is about Charter Rights and Freedom of Speech. I am a strong proponent for freedom of speech; however, the Charter does allow the government to enforce "reasonable limits" on this extremely important freedom.

The Child, Family & Community Service Act (BC 1996) states that children, "child" meaning a person under 19 years of age and includes a youth, are entitled to be protected from abuse, neglect and harm or threat of harm. This legislation for the safety & well being of children supersedes both provincial and federal law. Ultimately this Act must be interpreted and administered so that the safety and well-being, including emotional well-being, of children are the paramount considerations.

Anyone that is a parent, caregiver or educator is aware that children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and it is our responsibility as adults to protect them. Yes, we are a country of acceptance and tolerance for other lifestyles, but there comes a point when common sense must prevail because there are some matters that should not be tolerated.

Finally may I add that in my 20 plus years of working in provincial & federal corrections, I listened to numerous males convicted of sex offences against children, and never once did an adult male take responsibility for his crimes nor did he show any empathy for his victims. We must err on the side of caution for the well being of all children until which time they are old enough to make their own choices.

Respectfully,

Linda Samson

Fwd: Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Tue 2019-11-19 5:10 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <lavery@salmonarm.com>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Okanagan Christian Counselling <info@okanagachristiancounselling.com>

Date: Nov 19, 2019 4:49 PM

Subject: Storytime

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Cc:

Hi Ms. Kozakevich,

I just want to take a moment and express my personal and professional views regarding Drag Queen Storytime at our Kelowna Library.

On a personal note, I will never bring my children and grandchildren back to the library while these storytimes are going on. I am a devoted Christian, and am adamantly opposed to the overt sexualization and transsexual modeling being served up to children in a place that parents are supposed to be able to trust.

On a professional note, I am a counsellor in this valley that works with a huge amount of children and parents each year. Almost 85% of my client base is against this modeling and influence to their families.

Please consider changing this so that we can come back to the library.

Thank you,
Deana Van Fleet

<[REDACTED]>
tel/text: 250-718-8856

Fwd: re Drag Queen story time at the library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 4:45 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Helen Walker <helenw757@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 3:01 PM

To: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca

Subject: re Drag Queen story time at the library

To Whom This May Concern,

Your name and email, Karla, was provided in response to inquiries as to who to approach on the subject of the drag queen story time in the libraries.

As a mother of three children and grandmother of 2 I sincerely ask you to please put a halt to the drag queen story time at the public library aimed at young children, like my grandchildren. I don't believe the lifestyle represented by the adults reading the stories is something small children should be grappling with. These children need to be encouraged to BE CHILDREN not have to try to process the various and numerous chosen sexual lifestyles of adults. Parents and guardians are still the best choice for providing sex education to their children and as one of these I believe little children are not ready for this.

Please carefully re-consider this choice. How about calling out to the grandmothers and grandfathers out there with time on their hands to do the story time?

Thank you,

Helen Walker

Fwd: Kelowna Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]>
Tue 2019-11-19 4:32 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <[REDACTED]>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Art Lucier <[REDACTED]>
Date: Nov 19, 2019 4:30 PM
Subject: Kelowna Story Time
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Good day Karla. I just want to go on record, that I'm quite opposed to, what seems to be more and more a divisive issue, library story time led by cross dressing individuals. I'm not opposed in the least towards personal tendencies and preferences, but what really is the goal of and outcome desired for these bizarre story times? Isn't a library supposed to be a neutral safe place for all, especially our young and vulnerable? I speak for many in the city, who strongly denounce these story times with 'sexual preference' overtones. I'm fully opposed to them .

Thanks.

[https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=1Wn0JbN84i_GpYqRs2EyFwQ97gsyZvtx&revid=0B6xeEmV49Tjvd21FY24wVXVUZ2hXbVB2WTArcFphblBNTkxVPQ]

Art Lucier
President of Harvest Ministries International



https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_goo.gl_maps_WqDppcLGffQ2&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=FChk1R8KaZupCALL9hJbbIga7WsBlppK3O5tysIjE&m=7PveOTmKEaEv_xaP6qrEHI8IFJLo6bDe9P8b2SydKXg&s=f18PoTbAOD9ITiJLxLmMWHiW6IHMiDpaRBy3M96EwXo&e=>www.theharvest.ca<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A_www.theharvest.ca_&d=DwMFaQ&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=FChk1R8KaZupCALL9hJbbIga7WsBlppK3O5tysIjE&m=7PveOTmKEaEv_xaP6qrEHI8IFJLo6bDe9P8b2SydKXg&s=tIOO_u05HR3Qchv4R6K-XAuOSNi-wD4RB1hMxZogoUg&e=>

Fwd: policy changes re children story time

X DELETE

← REPLY

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→ FORWARD

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Don Nettleton

Tue 2019-11-19 2:52 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Warren Munro [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 1:19 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: policy changes re children story time

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I am writing this letter to inform those powers that be that i am strongly opposed to your Drag Queen story time!

I can't believe that I am actually having to send this letter because this should have been a no brainer as far as

deciding to allow it or not! I am particularly concerned with the age of the participating audience. These are impressionable ,innocent

children who do not need this type of confusion in an already crazy, over the top world that lacks good judgement, morality and common sense!

Please do not allow this to continue on. You will be opening yourselves up to every fringe minority group that feel they have a right to their agenda!

What will be next Pedophile story time, prostitute story time, ex con story time or what ever other unhealthy way of thinking there is out there!

I am not going to soften this for my readers , this is absurd and yes it is wrong! cal me whatever manner of name you wish for stating my opposing opinion ,

but i will not stand by while this tidal wave of crap bombards our children and the rest of society.

Sincerely

Ria Munro

Preschool teacher

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time in our Libraries

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 2:51 PM

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Barb Langerud
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 2:20 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time in our Libraries

Hello and Good Day

I wanted to express my views on the Drag Queen Story time.

First of all I would like to thank you for keeping our libraries and areas a safe and neutral place for our children to learn to love books and the adventures that reading brings.

I do however feel deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I like the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by interesting storytellers. Storytelling develops a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their learning, imagination and development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not promote adult ideologies, not matter how current they may be.

I would like to clearly say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. But please, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and a neutral place for the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, minds who are being molded in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to lifestyles, ideas and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, and should not have to deal with any aspect of sexuality at their tender age. Why would this idea even be considered good exposure. These are our children, and grandchildren—our future generations. How can this be regarded as good for small children to process? It seems that instead of creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them by not allowing this to continue.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Respectfully,

Barb Langerud

From: Elaine Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: November 20, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen

I am opposed to Drag Queen presentations at ORL. Thank you for your interest in defending the future of our children. Elaine Johnson
[REDACTED]

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Hours

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 5:23 PM

To: ORL Policy,

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Lori Dez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:19 PM

To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hours

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[REDACTED] Kanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We defend freedom to speak".

It is appalling that the Library's public services director would suggest this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak rather than the safety and security of our children. The Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" but nothing could be further from the truth. This is about sexualizing children and grooming them. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness.

A Drag Queen states, "**This is not about tolerance or anti-bullying,....It is a direct and intentional effort to create gender confusion and doubt among very young children at the very time they need solid guidance and understanding. The intent is to plant a seed to make children more likely to question their sexuality or gender at a later age.**"

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What has happened to our society that we have become so morally bankrupt to consider something so blatantly wrong as acceptable and right?

I request that you would pass this information on to the Library Board and reject any and all future Drag Queen story hours and that further steps be taken nationally to shut this down.

Sincerely,

Lorrain Desjarlais

Fwd: Dear Mr Nettleton

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 4:44 PM

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for IQS](#)

From: John [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 4:17 PM
To: Don Nettleton

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[REDACTED] Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

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Sincerely,

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The Rising Concerns and Opposition to LGBTQ Political Extremism
<https://action4canada.com/lgbtq-extremism/>



From: Talitha Morton
Sent: November 20, 2019 9:31 AM
Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

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Sincerely,

T. Murphy

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The Rising Concerns and Opposition to LGBTQ Political Extremism

<https://action4canada.com/lgbtq-extremism/>

From: Darlene Wurster **Sent:** November 20, 2019 7:49 AM
Subject: Fwd: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

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Fwd: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Tue 2019-11-19 10:24 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

📎 1 attachment

Drag Queen
~.jpg

Get Outlook for iOS

From: ROB JANSSEN [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 5:07 PM
To: Don Nettleton

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

[REDACTED] Okanagan Regional Library's public services director, is reported defending the event saying, "I stand on the other side of that memo, and as librarians, we will defend the Charter of Rights. We will defend freedom to speak".

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Fwd: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton

Mon 2019-11-18 3:54 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

1 attachment

Drag Queen
~.jpg

Get Outlook for iOS

From: TANYA GAW [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 2:39 PM

To: Don Nettleton

CC: global news (Carolyn), cbcnewsvancouver, Rebel Media Ezra Levant, Candice Contact/Malcolm

Subject: Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you for taking a stand against the Drag Queen Story hours.

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FW: Protest Kelowna library re Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

Mark as unread



Karla Kozakevich
Tue 2019-11-19 2:03 PM

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery

This message was sent with high importance.

1 attachment

Drag Queen
-JPG

From: Anthony Abma
Sent: November 19, 2019 1:59 PM

Subject: Protest Kelowna library re Drag Queen Story Hour
Importance: High

To the Board of the Okanagan Regional Library:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries which is being supported by Monica Gaucher, Okanagan Regional Library's public services director. I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storyteller. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a public, civic facility, I believe the management of the ORL have a moral obligation to ensure the safety of citizens who are most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children.

Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization of "gender confused people" when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, events like is being proposed with the "Drag Queen Story telling" confuses and manipulates the young, immature minds of children.

As mature adults, we have a responsibility to protect them – which is what is expected of Okanagan Regional Library staff who serve a cross section of the public.

It is actually appalling that Monica Gaucher would even be allowed to *suggest* this is about Charter Rights and the freedom to speak - rather than the safety and security of our children. While the Activists claim this is "to promote love and acceptance" - nothing could be further from the truth. This is about promoting their own personal agenda about sexualizing children and grooming them.

Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal - is completely unacceptable. Children are not capable of discerning what is healthy sexuality and what is 'not' and they are relying on responsible adults to protect them. In fact, in the U.S.A. rational and caring parents are suing the city of Houston to stop this madness. I hope that litigation is not necessary to stop this nonsense at the ORL.

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Drag Queens are also part of a bigoted anti-Catholic group....a national organization of cross-dressing homosexual men called the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The men dress as garish and hideous parodies of Catholic nuns and mock Catholicism. They are a popular feature in gay pride parades and other LGBT events across the country. **They now also do DQSH readings to small children.** Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Vancouver, BC - With names like Sister Ethica Slut, Sister Alma Bitches, Sister Bear it All, Sister Kitty Lickentwat, Sister Dunna Giva-fuk, Sister Beatriz cox-muggler, etc. visit schools and libraries. HERE

What has happened to our society that we have become so morally bankrupt to consider something so blatantly wrong - as acceptable and right?

I request that you would pass this information on to the Library Board and reject any and all future Drag Queen story hours and that further steps be taken nationally to shut this down.

Sincerely, Anthony Abma

Further resources:

The UN LGBTQ Agenda to Indoctrinate Children Worldwide.

Exposing the Driving Force Behind the LGBTQ Political Movement.

<https://action4canada.com/the-united-nations-lgbtq-agenda-to-indoctrinate-children-worldwide/>

The Rising Concerns and Opposition to LGBTQ Political Extremism

<https://action4canada.com/lgbtq-extremism/>

Correspondence Received
November 19, 2019 forward

IN SUPPORT OF DQST



To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Oliver Triplett using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 20, 2019 4:18 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Oliver Triplett using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Oliver

Last Name*: Triplett

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Library Programs

Message*: I support Drag Queen Story Time and want this program to become a mainstay. We need diversity in children's programming and this is a great first step



To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: "Mainstream" is not the same as "neutral"

From: Ashley Nunn-Smith
 Date: Nov 16, 2019 4:21 PM
 Subject: "Mainstream" is not the same as "neutral"

Dear Karla Kozakevich,

As a librarian, mother, former storytime presenter, current senior library executive, collection development specialist, and children's literature academic, I was disappointed on so many fronts to read CEO Don Nettleton's September 9 letter to the ORL library board.

Describing children's programming as taking place in "a safe and neutral environment that everybody in the community will find acceptable" belies a deep misunderstanding between what constitutes "mainstream" or "majority" and what constitutes truly neutral. In a majority Christian environment, it would not be "neutral" to read from the Bible, it is simply mainstream. In a majority white community, it would not be "neutral" to chose storytime books featuring (exclusively or even primarily) white children<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.slj.com_-3FdetailStory-3Dan-2Dupdated-2Dlook-2Dat-2Ddiversity-2Din-2Dchildrens-2Dbooks&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-/5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=-ERVZogmqDm7rM4gZ52Tp-HrKIiWMSwdQafpuu0rw2A&e=>, it is simply mainstream. In a predominately English-speaking community, it is not "neutral" to offer your storytimes in English, it is simply mainstream. In the above examples, hegemony and our unconscious biases often allow us to believe we are being neutral (in the same way we don't hear our own spoken accents) but, rest assured, anyone from another religion, race, or language, respectively, would be able to readily point out how the above choices would not feel "neutral" to them.

After reading his memo, I then read all 272 pages of support and opposition that are included in the November 20 ORL board meeting package. Like in my above examples, many of the LGBTQ+ community did quickly write in to emphasize the biased and hurtful language permeating Mr. Nettleton's memo, which was anything but neutral. It is note-worthy, to me, that Mr. Nettleton is not a professional librarian (as noted in the PEA letter) and, in his May 2018 memo, committed to deferring to the professional librarians who work for ORL expertise. Yet, his knee-jerk response to DQSH did just the opposite. It is also note-worthy that fully 16 pages of the relatively-few opposed letters (when compared to the 170+ pages of support) were form-letters, all exactly identical, penned by one loud voice and merely signed by others, and not backed up by any actual scientific or evidence-based logical arguments whatsoever. Compare this, for example, to the letters evoking BC, CFLA, ALA and other professional organization mission statements on diversity and inclusion, or the extremely articulate and well-researched letter by Wilbur Turner on pages 157-160.

When your storytime presenters are gender-typical, when the boys in the picture books read "act like boys" and the girls "act like girls," when the presenters call out, "Okay, boys and girls, have a seat!" you may feel like you're being neutral, but, I can assure you, as the mother of a

gender non-conforming child, you are merely being mainstream. The 1 in every 60 children born medically intersex<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__interactadvocates.org_resources_intersex-2Dbrochures_&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=qb-pmrIK2WdShTf4_etOPG0rWyJiq1o4fjA872fLGLk&e=> sitting in your storytime doesn't feel "neutral" or "safe" in such an environment. The increasing numbers of younger generations that identify as non-binary or trans<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.glaad.org_blog_new-2Dglaad-2Dstudy-2Dreveals-2Dtwenty-2Dpercent-2Dmillennials-2Didentify-2DIgbtq&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=dNpV5scLkc5hslIwXITHoWED9ceVc1ekF44knWTZ_PU&e=> => don't feel "neutral" or "safe" either. Not only that, but the 35% of likely voters who report they "personally know or work with someone<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.hrc.org_resources_understanding-2Dthe-2Dtransgender-2Dcommunity&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=8SP4Gbwlw1GJmEGFMI7smGie68EgHiZS2cx-W-tfP40&e=>" who is transgendered don't feel fully represented either.

Research shows that teen suicide rates fall<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.reuters.com_article_us-2Dnordics-2DIgbt-2Dhealth-2Dtrfn_suicides-2Dfall-2Dwith-2Dgay-2Dmarriage-2Din-2Dsweden-2Ddenmark-2Das-2Dstigma-2Dfades-2DdidUSKBN1XO010&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=mp5aXmgwHyMLZqxIUsq-gdP6By3EbBGBM-XrwchWGLo&e=> => after gay marriage is legalized, which has been borne out in countries around the world. Wouldn't it be amazing if every 3-6 year old (not just the gender-typical ones) proactively saw themselves reflected in their community before they became another teen suicide stat? And wouldn't it be even more amazing if even all the cis-gendered children had the opportunity to see gender diversity reflected, leading to developing a more accepting and inclusive society overall? The fact that over 300 people in the community (far higher than an average ORL Saturday storytime) attended today's Drag Queen Story Hour shows this program clearly meets a Okanagan community need and is felt by many parents and guardians to be safe, despite Mr. Nettleton's assertions to the contrary.

Having as your stated goal to only present children's programs where "everyone" in the community will approve is a dangerous game to play. What about the creationist that objects to a dinosaur-themed storyhour? What about the anti-vaxxer that opposes the public health nurse presentation to new parents? What about the vegan who wants the Canada Day BBQ shut down? Furthermore, for an extreme example, what about the racist that wants all ORL programmers of color to be fired? Since when did the library - a bastion of freedom of information and expression - chose what to offer based on the requirement of 100% approval from "everybody" in the community?

As noted in many letters of support, libraries are no strangers to controversy and (due to the nature of privilege and institutional bias) have not and cannot ever be truly neutral. In fact, the very idea of a "public" library, when Andrew Carnegie first opened more than 1,700 of them between 1881 and 1919, was in itself controversial, it being considered (at the time) that only

the wealthy were "worthy" of reading or literacy. Instead, public libraries (in Carnegie's time and today) strive to be equitable and inclusive.

I implore you - reach out to your LGBTQ+, transgender, intersex, youth mental health and other related organizations in Okanagan <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__kelowna.cioc.ca_record_KNA0124-3FNumber-3D0&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDIlvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=BnC-8hHrXwun5RfQwOCUu666wrAJS7r99NADwGDai1I&e=>. Speak to their organizers. Ask them to read the CEO's Sept 9 report to the board and then ask them whether their membership feels safe and represented by the library. And (when they say no) ask them what you can do to be truly representative of your whole community, not just the parts that look like you.

As Co-President of the Kelowna Pride Festival, Blake Edwards, wrote in his letter of support on page 161, when youth see themselves represented, issues like mental health and suicide are improved. I hope that you and the ORL board choose the right side of history and vote to represent ALL of Okanagan residents on November 20.

Sincerely,
Ashley Nunn-Smith
BA, MA, MLIS, Certificate in Trauma-Informed Care



November 15, 2019

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors
c/o Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and ORL Board Members:

The Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors of British Columbia (CPSLD) is writing to share our endorsement of the statement made by BCLA on September 27, 2019 regarding the proposed changes to policy around children's programming.

Like the BCLA, the members of CPSLD:

"[recognize] and [support] the ORL Board's role and responsibility to create policies that support the work of the library and meet the needs of communities. We ask the ORL Board to consider this work based on shared library values including those core values that support inclusivity, diversity, and intellectual freedom and reject censorship, prejudice, preconceptions about communities, and limiting the role of the library in society." (BCLA Letter to ORL Board, Sept. 27, 2019)

Libraries, in all communities and for all constituencies, have the obligation to be inclusive, promote equity, uphold intellectual freedom, resist censorship, and reject hate.

As library directors, we have a deep understanding of the weight of policymaking and the power that policy has to exclude when crafted to do so.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Rackover, CPSLD President (2019-2020)
University Librarian
Emily Carr University of Art + Design

This is a response sent by Landis Mills using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

 DELETE  REPLY  REPLY ALL  FORWARD 



No Reply

Thu 2019-11-21 9:04 AM

Mark as unread


To:

First Name*: Landis

Last Name*: Mills

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Westbank

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Thank you for continuing to support drag queen storytime and all the other wonderful projects and services to our communities!

This is a response sent by Nadine Rigby using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...

No Reply

Mark as unread

Wed 2019-11-20 8:12 PM



First Name*: Nadine

Last Name*: Rigby

Phone Number:



Library Card:



Email*:



Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:

hello, I was very happy to here the kelowna library on the CBC radio today. Thank you for stance on inclusion. One of my favorite thing about the library is that is a place for everyone in the community and foster a climate of understanding. I am proud to take my children to our local library. from an local avid reader Nadine Rigby

This is a response sent by gayle sutherland using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



No Reply

Wed 2019-11-20 7:09 PM

Mark as unread




First Name*: gayle

Last Name*: sutherland

Phone
Number:

Library
Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Not Applicable

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Congratulations to the library board in supporting the autonomy of local libraries. Personally, I think the Drag Queen Story Time would be an awful lot of fun.

Fwd: Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton

Mon 2019-11-18 3:55 PM

Mark as unread



Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Tova Krause Grindlay [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 18, 2019 3:29 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Storytime

Hi,

I'm emailing to let you know I'm in support of the option of drag queen Storytime. I know there are other children's programs and Storytime available. Those that oppose it do not have to attend and those families who value the representation of diversity it provides will appreciate it.

Thanks for your time,
Tova

Fwd: Drag Queen Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]
Mon 2019-11-18 7:10 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alice Moszczynski [REDACTED]

Date: Nov 18, 2019 6:58 PM

Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

To: Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]

Dear Madame/Sirs

The proposed policy to institute barriers on children's programs, specifically Drag Queen Storytime, is irrational and unfounded; personal bias is not a scientifically supported reason to support policy change in any institution.

Mr. Nettleton would like to limit children's programming to what he considers "non-controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues". Perhaps Mr. Nettleton needs to be reminded that the library (an institution that by its very nature supports freedom of expression), is a socially created vault, open to all members of society, that safeguards books, microfiche, film, audio, dvd, etc which are also considered controversial and socially divisive. Should this material also be removed from sight? Just as individuals can select which material they want to borrow from the library, individuals can decide which programs they would like to attend based on their own reasons. If Drag Queen Storytime offends them, they don't have to attend.

Mr. Nettleton's censorship proposal is reminiscent of Guy Montag in the dystopian novel Fahrenheit 451, a fireman who is also a censor of literature and destroyed knowledge by burning books. Fortunately Montag came to his senses and began preserving society's culture-I hope that Mr. Nettleton also experiences a similar awakening and recognizes the importance of promoting social diversity and inclusiveness in a safe space for all families. The children are not afraid of nor are they offended by Drag Queen Storytime- why then are you Mr. Nettleton?

In support of intellectual freedom and library values,

Dr. Alice Moszczynski
"Straight but not narrow"

Sent from my iPad

From: No Reply

Sent: November 20, 2019 9:52 PM

To: KL Reference [REDACTED]

Subject: This is a response sent by Em Hornby using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Em

Last Name*: Hornby

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Library Programs

Message*: As a grandmother of a 2 year old girl and a mother of a gay son I would like to applaud you for your drag queen story time. I am from [REDACTED] and wished I had complained when the old bag librarian gave my son the evil eye and rude attitude for the "gay" books he signed out one year about a decade ago. It is nice to see kids learning that everyone should be accepted in this world. Thank you.



Correspondence Received in opposition to DQST

November 18 - 19, 2019

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:23 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Joyce Zelinski using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 6:38 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Joyce Zelinski using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Joyce

Last Name*: Zelinski

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Library Programs

Message*: Re: Drag Queen story time I am writing to express my strong adverse opinion on whether to go ahead with allowing this controversial topic to be read to children at my public library

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:24 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 8:56 AM

Subject: response from the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Evelyn

Last Name*: Lipke

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I don't believe you should show favour to any particular group or gender to have story time having drag queens reading to children who are easily influenced at a young age. There are many different religions, cultures and belief systems, I think It would be better not to show preference over one or the other and stay neutral.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:25 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Aaron Wilson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Subject: This is a response sent by Aaron Wilson using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Aaron

Last Name*: Wilson

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: Dear ORL, I love the library, my wife and family love the library, the staff are so friendly and helpful. It's a wonderful resource. I heard from a friend that there will be a decision made tomorrow (Nov 20th) regarding the use of drag queens to read stories to young children. I feel that the library should continue to be place of inclusion, not exclusion, and that by inviting drag queens to read to the children, the library would be excluding a vast majority of library users in favour of a small minority. Not only this, but many would find this environment unsafe and unwelcoming to them. I believe that the ORL CEO, Don Nettleton has also expressed his concerns over this proposal. Young children should not be exposed to something that has become highly politicized and controversial at best. Please keep it neutral. Thanks for taking the time to read. Aaron

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:25 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Doreen Munro using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 19, 2019 9:56 AM

To: KL Reference <klreference@orl.bc.ca>**Subject:** This is a response sent by Doreen Munro using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Doreen |
| Last Name*: | Munro |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Library Programs |
| Message*: | <p>Re drag queen reading hour: This is to oppose the drag Queen reading hour for children at our OKANAGAN public library. We do not need to confuse children as to who they are by bringing ideas and lifestyles beyond their maturity level. We as a community ought to look at raising really great adults who walk in clarity. Their job is to be kids. When they are old enough to discern these adult issues hopefully we have prepared them to know how to think not what to think. So focus on who you are as opposed to sexual identity when this is way beyond their interest grid. And a subtle manipulation to teach what to believe. Protect our children Protect our futures Doreen Munro Sent from my iPhone</p> |

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:00 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Nina Bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:39 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Nina Bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Nina

Last Name*: Bates

Phone Number: [Redacted]

Library Card:

Email*: [Redacted]

Branch: Vernon

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: The possible acceptance of allowing drag queens to read stories to vulnerable children concerns me. As a Gramma, I very much OPPOSE this. The library should be a safe learning environment.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:02 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Karen Yacyshyn using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 19, 2019 6:31 AM

Subject: This is a response sent by Karen Yacyshyn using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Karen |
| Last Name*: | Yacyshyn |
| Phone Number: | [REDACTED] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Vernon |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | Drag Queen: I find this is very offensive and should not be allowed in our public library. I suggest we keep our library a neutral, safe environment for children so as they have a quiet place to come to where parents do not need to be worrying about what they are exposed to. Thank you. |

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:02 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jeannine Gulkiewich using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 11:07 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Jeannine Gulkiewich using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Jeannine |
| Last Name*: | Gulkiewich |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | I find it disturbing that the library would think that having a Drag Queen story time is a good idea. I think young children are being bombarded with subjects that are promoted by adults, for what reason I'm not sure. Let them be children! I'm totally against this idea! |

Leah Simonson

From: Leah Simonson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:03 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 8:35 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Donara |
| Last Name*: | Krysko |
| Phone Number: | [REDACTED] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | I am not happy about the recent "drag queen" thing that has been brought into the public library system... I would not bring my grandchild into a place that promotes this to young children. It should be neutral ground. I think it adds more confusion to a child's identity. |

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:07 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Constance Burke using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 18, 2019 5:00 PM

To: KL Reference

Subject: This is a response sent by Constance Burke using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Constance

Last Name*: Burke

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Library Programs

Message*: I have a deep concern in regards to the recent Story Time content. I am totally against having this type of agenda pushed onto our young innocent children. I want my concern to be noted as a NO to this type of Drag Queen push. Thank you for noting my NO vote.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:11 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Matt Scott using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Sent: November 18, 2019 3:22 PM

Subject: This is a response sent by Matt Scott using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Matt |
| Last Name*: | Scott |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | |
| Branch: | |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | Hi, I am writing in response to the Drag Queen Story hour. As a member of the community and a father of young children I don't believe that this contributing positively to our community. Children's story time is a wonderful part of the programming at the library, but it should be done in a neutral way. The children attending storytime are very young; the stories and story tellers should be age appropriate and not be confusing to the children. Storytime should not be promoting the agenda of a small group in the community regardless of who they are. Sincerely, Matt Scott |



From: No Reply
Sent: November 18, 2019 8:35 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Donara Krysko using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Donara |
| Last Name*: | Krysko |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | I am not happy about the recent "drag queen" thing that has been brought into the public library system... I would not bring my grandchild into a place that promotes this to young children. It should be neutral ground. I think it adds more confusion to a child's identity. |

Leah Sanson

From: CATHY WILDE
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:20 PM
To:
Subject: Story Time at our Librairies

Dear Sirs:

Information has been sent to me that Drag Queens are attempting to come into the Librairies to read stories to our Children, and there is a concern, which is a legitimate concern.

I am opposed to this because it confuses children, Libraries are a place of learning and should be a safe place for ALL people, particularly the most vulnerable, who are our children..

I believe that we have a responsibility to protect our children so they can be children. The grown up stuff is not the Libraries responsibility to present to children, libraries responsibility from my opinion is to have a healthy wholesome environment where they feel safe and can be children. Many children are afraid of dress up and many cultures in our communities are opposed to certain life styles; cultures are different that life styles choices.

Children need to be children, children are so precious and it is your responsibility to keep the environment in our libraries clean and pure and neutral, and a fun place of learning

One way I suggest that this could be done in a diplomatic way is to set a rule that dressing up in not allowed, not even clowns or Halloween etc., this is neutral, and also set a standard of what kind of books you make available to children. The children coming dressed up is different and up to the parents if they want it.

If we do not have rules and standards of integrity and say NO to certain behaviors there is really something the matter within our society.

I believe it is the responsibility of the parents to teach and guide their Children in morality and how to live and I also feel the parents are the only ones that qualify to know when, to introduce their children to certain aspects of life not the public square.

Thank you,

Cathy Wilde

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Salomon
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Public Library Deletes Pictures Of Drag Queens Fondling Children

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:39 PM

Subject: Public Library Deletes Pictures Of Drag Queens Fondling Children

<https://thefederalist.com/2019/07/22/public-library-deletes-pictures-drag-queens-fondling-children-story-hour/>

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: 'Drag Queen Story Hour' shows what's gone wrong in America - Washington Times

-----Original Message-----

From: kespielman@shaw.ca <kespielman@shaw.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2019 6:44 PM

Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 'Drag Queen Story Hour' shows what's gone wrong in America - Washington Times

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/oct/11/drag-queen-story-hour-shows-whats-gone-wrong-in-am/>

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 10:24 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story hour

From: Corine Riemer
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:57 AM

Subject: Story hour

Regarding the Drag Queen Story hour,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Respectfully...

Corine Riemer

Leah Samson

From: Cassie Grauman
Sent: November 19, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: Drag Queen story time

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Thank you,
Cassie Haines

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: Mae Clowe [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Drag Queen Storytime

To Whom It May Concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Please respect our children and protect them from adult ideologies in story time...

From: Karen Engel
Sent: November 19, 2019 11:07 AM
Subject: Please respect our children and protect them from adult ideologies in story time...

Greetings,

I just want to express my grave concern about the plans for incorporating drag queens into the story telling time at our tax funded Okanagan Libraries. This is not at all about wanting to take away the rights of Drag Queens or other alternate lifestyle choices, it is a question of properly addressing children in a public place where they have come to encounter good stories in a safe environment that is not promoting adult ideologies.

I have worked with children for years as a Reading Therapist, and children are some of the most vulnerable and impressionable people in our society. I don't believe that they are ready emotionally or mentally to navigate the ideologies and personal lifestyle choices that these adults will be promoting and presenting as they tell stories to our youngsters.

Please ensure that our publicly funded libraries will remain neutral, safe places for the youngest members of our society to explore great books with other children in a fun environment that doesn't cause them to feel anxious about who they are and where they are.

With concern,
Karen Engel

[REDACTED]

From: Karen M. Barkman [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 2:46 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Please do not allow this in our Libraries!

Dear CEO of the Library,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Karen Barkman
Provision of Hope

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:10 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen at the library

From: Karen Horton
Sent: November 18, 2019 3:46 PM
Subject: Drag queen at the library

I am writing concerned about the drag queen storytime currently being introduced to young children at the Okanagan library.
I feel that if you open the door to this , then the library should be open to bible story time and other current philosophical beliefs storytimes.
The minds of our children are very impressionable with young children being the most vulnerable.
It is very important to keep these more controversial issues for the older mind to explore in an environment that looks at all trains of thought.
Do we have heterosexual story time ? No!
So why would we allow drag queen story time?
Do we say today we are having a lesbian read a story to you? No!
So why would we bring to light someone's sexual orientation at a storytime? Inappropriate.
Do we disallow someone who is homosexual or lesbian read a story- no because we are not at the storytime to be entertained by a sexual orientation but rather we are there to be introduced to the love of reading.
I am hoping that the library will reconsider how ludicrous it is to bring to light someone's sexual orientation at a children's story time.
Karen Horton

Sent from my iPhone

From: Leah S. [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:08 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen story time

Sent: November 18, 2019 4:05 PM
Subject: Drag Queen story time

Dear Sir/Ms:

This is to voice my praise for the operations and care I've encountered from the ORL over the years. However, I must now voice my objection to the proposed Drag Queen Story time. The objection is not against drag queen individuals. They are precious persons. It is against the presentation that I see as the introduction of messenger alternative sexualisation slipped into a children's story time. The medium is the message in this case. It is not appropriate to young minds. It is pushing an ideology, though these individuals have every right to the lifestyle THEY choose. Though in vogue, I do ask you cancel this proposed activity. If needed I will come and tell or read a story.

Many thanks for considering this opinion. Please contact me with your response.

Sincerely,

John Brinkerhoff MD, FCFP

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:06 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Opposing Drag Queen storytelling

From: Samantha Hastings [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 5:52 PM

Subject: Opposing Drag Queen storytelling

This letter is to express my opposition to drag queen story time at our library. I do not oppose drag queens, but don't think it's appropriate for our children.

I love how the library is a place to bring my daughter to expand her creativity and learning, which is so important to her development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vague they may be.

I am not against drag queens, they have the right to express themselves and live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a CIVIC facility, the safety of the children should be important. This is a political or socially controversial topic, or a form of outlandish expression, not suitable for maleable minds.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Thank you for providing an appropriate and nurturing environment for my daughter and so many other children.

Samantha Hastings
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW:

From: Marlene White [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 5:55 PM


Subject:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.


I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

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From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:05 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen story time.

From: dave barkman 
Sent: November 18, 2019 6:18 PM
Subject: Fw: Drag Queen story time.

I don't support the the Drag Queen story time planned for the library in Kelowna. I don't believe it is appropriate for young children, and there are much better stories that can educate our children and grandchildren.

Please reconsider the story time content.

David Barkman


[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story time at the Library

From: Lorna Dickau [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:43 PM

Subject: Story time at the Library

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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I would ask that you not allow "drag queens" to do the story time at the public Libraries

Thank you for your time

[REDACTED]
Mother of 3, grandmother of 5

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:04 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story Telling At Public Library

From: Shawnella Byron [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 7:56 PM

Subject: Story Telling At Public Library

Hi,
I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Sincerely,
Shawnella Byron

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:03 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag Queen Storytime

From: Mae Clowe [REDACTED]
Sent: November 18, 2019 10:14 PM

Subject: Re: Drag Queen Storytime

To Whom It May Concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:00 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Story time

From: Lorne Barker [REDACTED]
Sent: November 19, 2019 7:26 AM

Subject: Story time

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

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Thank you
Lorne Barker

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:10 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen reading day

Sent: November 18, 2019 3:40 PM

Subject: Drag queen reading day

It is astonishing WRONG to allow drag queens to push their sexual agenda upon young children!
This is not education. It is propaganda and must to expose young children to it is abuse.
Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: November 19, 2019 9:09 AM
To: ORL Policy
Subject: FW: Drag queen reading day

Sent: November 18, 2019 4:04 PM
Subject: Re: Drag queen reading day

Oops dropped word
Should say " should be stopped. To expose young children to this is abuse."

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 18, 2019, at 3:40 PM, >
>
> It is astonishing WRONG to allow drag queens to push their sexual agenda upon young children! This is not education. It is propaganda and must to expose young children to it is abuse.
> Sent from my iPhon

Correspondence Received in Opposition of DQST

From October 31, 2019 to
November 18, 2019

To: Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors

Libraries around the continent have described the purpose of their Story Times similarly: “to encourage the love of language and literature, to develop early literary skills, to help children value books and stories and to build reading readiness.”

The Okanagan Regional Library website specifically advertises their Story Time as one that celebrates “the joys of language and story through the use of music, puppets, picture books, storytelling, and more! (They): Are fun! ; Build social skills; Stimulate the imagination; Strengthen parent-child bonding; Strengthen language, listening and visual skills.”

I do not see how the Drag Queen Story Hour (DQSH), where men are flamboyantly dressed as women, falls within these guidelines. In reality DQSH could be more of an unnecessary distraction, diversion and confusion. In de-mystifying the term “drag queen”, Colin Carmen summarizes for Encyclopedia Britannica, “Not known for understatement, most drag queens strive for overkill through the use of heavy makeup, “falsies,” and a gender-bending technique known as “tucking.” The authenticity of femininity is always undermined by a drag queen’s roughness, which often includes a vulgar stage presence and desire to shock”. Though this behavior would not likely be displayed in a library setting, it is unsettling to know this is at the root of drag queen history.

Public libraries, which are **publicly funded**, are described as a place where **all** people should expect to feel welcome, safe and comfortable as they learn and explore. Would this not by necessity then make the library a place of neutrality, a non-biased and non-partisan space? A public library should not be a place for controversial social, political or religious advocacy or a place hosting a soap box for the spewing of a particular agenda or ideology to children, with the hopes of then using the children as a propaganda tool. The library is a great resource enabling those interested to research various sides of potentially disputatious issues, but I do not agree that the library should go so far as to accommodate and endorse clearly contentious events.

The books that are typically recommended for the DQSH Story Hour include such titles as Gender Fairy, The Gay B C’s, Sparkle Boy and Mary had a Little Glam. According to the DQSH website, “DQSH captures the imagination and play of the gender fluidity of childhood and gives kids glamorous, positive, and unabashedly queer role models.” Does this not seem a rather light hearted approach for what clinicians, counselors, doctors and parents alike agree is a **very deep and complex issue**? Further, on September 17, 2018, Drag Queen Dylan Pontiff in advocating for their region’s event stated to the Louisiana’s Lafayette Library Board of Control “This is going to be the **grooming** of the next generation. We are trying to groom the next generation, to not see the way they did.”

What grounds could the ORL use to say no to other potentially divisive groups wanting to use Story Time to push their views, if they have already said yes to DQSH? Who knows what precedent this could set and what difficulties it could cause?

Is the library willing to assume the **responsibility and cost** for the due diligence citizens should expect before volunteers can interact with children? (Having not done so, in March and April of 2019 the Houston Public Library was exposed for having two convicted / registered sex offenders – Albert Garza and William Dees -participating in their DQSH event). Our local school district has a **strict process** for all potential volunteers including agreement to their code of conduct, successfully completing a Criminal record check and a further application and questionnaire. As a parent, grandparent and ORL Library card holder I would want the Public Library to be just as diligent with their volunteers.

Our children are already being exposed to so many stressful and chaotic situations out of their control that “**anxiety** is the most common mental health problem in young people. About 3% of Canadian children or youth experience an anxiety disorder. Yet anxiety may be dismissed in young people because they are still learning about the world and are naturally a little more anxious than most adults. Even if the worries or fears seem small from an adult perspective, those feelings are very real for the young person.” (Canadian Mental Health Assoc. website)

In conclusion, does it not behoove the leadership of the ORL to provide and maintain a Story Time in which the children and their parents can celebrate and focus on the joy of language and story as they develop? As a mother of four who tried to take my children weekly to the West Kelowna library, I submit that there certainly are far better options to encourage our children’s literary advancement than the DQSH.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

A concerned citizen,

Linda Shauer

Dear CEO of the Library,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

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Karen Barkman
Provision of Hope



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Austin Furgason [REDACTED]
Date: Nov 14, 2019 7:56 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime
To: Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]
Cc:

Very grossed out by the event hosted this Saturday. Drag Queen storytime. Never have I heard of something so disgusting. These poor children at a young age being told that they can change there gender, wear a dress take puberty/ hormone blockers because they might say something like, "I like the movie frozen." This is crazy. We don't 8 year olds make decisions on annnything, but these parents think they know enough about who they are to make permanent life altering decision of stopping there puberty and stoping there dicks from growing

Fun Facts

75-90% of kids grow out of this

Transgenders have a 40% suicide rate that only goes down 3% after transistioning with surgery which is still more than jews in the holocaust or black slaves in America

Please have mercy on these kids. I completely changed my world view coming out of a crystal meth addiction at the age of 22. Now I've got a family and a success marriage and job. Little kids don't know who they are yet. And for a parent to tell there boy. You are a girl.. is child abuse. Please don't give these abusive parents a platform. We need to embrace traditional parenting methods that are known to work and stop embracing lies just because the culture is moving that way. More than ever we must stand up for the truth and stop letting are feelings lead our lives.

Thank you for reading
Austin Furgason

From: Jennifer M [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 7:27 AM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: I am copying an email I just sent to the Kelowna library regarding Drag Queen Story Hour

Drag Queen Story Time

I find it offensive and unnecessary to sexualize children with Drag Queen Story Time. Children are highly impressionable and foisting drag queens on them and insinuating that this is normal is not acceptable. Children are not capable of making life altering decisions at a young age. The USA has had countless drag queens outed as being sexual predators and I do not want Canada to follow this trend.

Respectfully,

Jennifer McLintock

From: Dianne Bosch [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2019 6:57 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Thank-you for saying no to drag queen story time

Dear Mr. Nettleton:

Thank you for considering people who do not want their children to be exposed to political agendas . In our schools now, children are being told, as young as kindergarten, that they can change genders throughout their lifetimes. Some children are even being encouraged to have sex change operations without their parent's permission. If a child is experimenting with different gender styles or cross dressing, the parents are not supposed to be told. This is a hidden agenda. What responsible parent would willingly let their child go to a club where the parents are not allowed to know what is going on ? This library program is part of that agenda, to hijack the identity of our children.

Thank you for doing what you can to keep our libraries as safe and neutral spaces for everyone.

Respectfully,
Dianne Bosch

From: Joy Sparks [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 6:37 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Kelowna library

Dear Sir,

After listening to a news story this evening, I would like to express my extreme disagreement and serious concern of the Kelowna Library children's programs being led by the transvestites, transgender, trans-sexuals, or whatever trans-designation these people give to themselves. To my mind, this is going to mar and confuse a child's mind as these folk are transposing their own confusion and lack of identities to innocent 😊 children. I am deeply upset and sad to see how far this has been allowed to go. I would like to know in which other libraries in which communities and cities in Canada allow this? What can be done to stop this insanity? I wonder how a Christian children's Story time class, instead, would be viewed by our community?

Joy Sparks

Sent from my iPad.....

Every cloud has a silver lining.....

From: Jeannette Howat [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Concerns over Drag Queen Storytime

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

It's recently come to my attention that the ORL Board is deciding on a policy concerning Drag Queen Storytime. I use the library's services very regularly, including taking classes and using the maker's space so I would like to say something about this. I am not in favour of having the library endorse something so controversial as a Drag Queen Storytime for children. The library needs to be a neutral safe space for all. Please keep it as it is right now, a beautiful, peaceful, restful place for everyone to enjoy, no matter what one's personal beliefs are. Thank you.

Jeannette Howat

From: Daniel Daniluck [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 11:45 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Reading Concern

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I am emailing to share your sentiment in regards to the library loosing its neutrality if allowing the drag queen readings to our community children.

I believe all people should have the right to express themselves within the rights of the laws of Canada. I also believe however that these expressions should not be allowed to directly influence our children in venues that are considered public. The point of a civic facility is to be one that supports all members of our community in a neutral way.

If the drag queen reading are allowed I will know that the Okanagan libraries are no longer neutral ground and will sign all necessary waivers to keep my children away from your facilities (school trips, community activities etc.).

With fond memories of my parents allowing me freely to hang out at the public libraries reading the bill peet children's books as a child your decision to allow such readings by non neutral members of the community would unfortunately remove any such chance of my children sharing what the public libraries used to mean to me.

Please keep our libraries a neutral ground for all to enjoy.

Daniel Daniluck

From: Steve Wile [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 2:20 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: FW: Okanagan libraries programs

Hello Don,

My name is Jody Wile and I would like to write to you about a huge concern regarding the proposed drag queen story time being considered for Okanagan Libraries.

I think that bringing young children into the Libraries for the purpose of storytelling, nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity is so very important to their development, however, I also believe that storytelling in a public library should not be promoting adult agendas and ideologies.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of the LGBTQ community to be taken away, or express themselves. This is their lifestyle, their choice. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of children, the most vulnerable amongst us. Children should not have to deal with these events. They are innocent, have malleable minds and should not be groomed in this ideological game. This is definitely NOT ok.

Our children should not be exposed to these lifestyles or sexualization when they are not mature enough to process these ideas that they are being exposed to. This does not create diversity or acceptance, it creates confusion and manipulation. I would ask that you consider the consequences, as we, as parents are looking for public libraries where our children can enjoy the pleasure of reading without the manipulation. Our children need to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration of this subject.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Ruth [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2019 7:46 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: drag queen story time

I wish the ORL to vote AGAINST drag queen story time, I do not think it is appropriate.

Ruth Wiebe

From: Jonathan Gale [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 12:00 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag queen story time

Hey,

I'm very concerned about the drag queen story time. It's a bad idea for a public facility hosting children's events to promote some very adult ideas.

All the best,
Jonathan Gale

From: Ria Aitken [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2019 8:03 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Drag queen story hour

Hi Don,

I wasn't sure who to send this email too, I hope if this isn't the right person you can pass it along to the right person.

I am very concerned to hear about the drag queen story hour the ORL is trying to implement in our communities. The library should be a place for everyone, and unfortunately if the library goes through with this it will not be a safe place for my family. It's hard to see such a push for this and yet I believe if there was a push for a children's bible study or gospel time it wouldn't get the green light as this is.

I don't believe it is appropriate for children to be seeing it, and I am just wanting to keep my children and others safe.

Ria A

-----Original Message-----

From: James Fulford [REDACTED]

Sent: November 17, 2019 10:58 PM

To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]

Subject: Drag Queens reading to our children.

Please protect our children from this.

James Fulford

Sent from my iPad

-----Original Message-----

From: Don & Alison Martin

Sent: November 18, 2019 9:07 AM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Concerns about the Drag Queen Story Time Program

I am writing as a concerned parent, grandparent, and a member of the ORL.

I believe the Mission Statement of Story Time is to have fun, build social skills, stimulate the imagination, strengthen parent/child bonding and strengthen language, listening and visual skills. It is not the mandate of Story Time to reconstruct the social order of society.

Why does such a controversial issue have to be promoted to such a young audience? This is not the intention of the program. Story Time is not a place for sexualizing our children/grandchildren, nor is it a place to promote religious, political or social views. It's not a place where young children should be exposed to sexually confusing messages.

Our children need protection! Those of us who work in an education environment are aware of security checks that are mandated when working with children. Are criminal record checks required for the presenters in this program? There have been cases where failure to do this has compromised the safety of the children involved.

Story Time celebrates the joys of language and story through the use of music, puppets, picture books and more. I hope Story Time remains a safe place for all children to enjoy!! Thank you!

I am quite concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that's being considered for Okanagan libraries. Although, I'm excited about bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers, I don't support storytelling at the public library being about promoting adult agendas and ideologies. As a civic facility, the library is obliged to ensure the safety of our children who are innocent and malleable. The exposure to any kind of adult agenda, whether religious or lifestyle choice or whatever, brings confusion to our children. This is not ok and I ask that you protect them.

Thank you

--

Amanda Morey

Good Morning!

I am not in support of this as it is too controversial. Our children are exposed to too much way too early, and it is getting worse and worse as time goes on. Cannot see the point of this at all. If it is said it is to expose children to make them more accepting, well children at these ages have no bias towards anyone, so it really is self-serving.

Thanks,

Karen Hansen

Hello,

I am very concerned about the proposal to bring in drag queen story time in Okanagan libraries.

I'm not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. I do believe that as a civic facility, you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us i.e. our children. Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. This is not ok. I trust you will reconsider and remove this proposal.

Thank you
Chris

First Name*: Murray & Darlene

Last Name*: Schwab

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints

Message*:

Good morning. We are writing regarding the recent awareness through the media that you have a drag queen reading and play acting with children at the library. Children who are unaware and vulnerable being indoctrinated with the belief that this lifestyle is part of the normal. We disagree with your board on allowing this. Would you then allow all religions and minorities of different beliefs and lifestyles to come in and play act and read to the children? The library should remain a safe, fun, friendly, neutral and non political space for everyone in the community. Please submit this to the library board as consideration and decision on this matter. Thank you.

First Name*: Anna-Lisa  

Last Name*: Wiens

Phone Number: 

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Other

Message*:
Re Decision to have Drag Queen Storytime or Not for young children: Please do not allow this to happen in our regional district of libraries. Regardless of ones overall moral viewpoint on the subject it is a topic that is largely inappropriate to introduce to young children and would well be introduced at a much more mature age. Let the children be children. Thank you.

First
Name*:

P

Last
Name*:

Bonk

Phone
Number:

Library
Card:

Email*:



Branch:

Kelowna

Subject*:

Complaints

Message*:


I'm not complaining but just want to say that having a "drag queen" giving a children's story time is not a responsible decision. I cannot understand the reasoning behind this. Our children are bombarded with so much gender confusion already - give them a break! Stand up for these innocent persons! No person's need for acceptance (drag queen or otherwise) should trample on the innocence of a child. Stand up for these little innocent impressionable persons and don't violate the trust parents put in your library programs.

First Name*: Blayre

Last Name*: Caplan

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch:

Subject*: Complaints

Message*:


Hello, I am a regular user of the Westbank Library. As a family, we have enjoyed the peace and quiet of this public facility and have been so thankful to have it in our community. We will be forced to reconsider our involvement with the ORL should the administration choose to implement Drag Queen Story Time. This event brings up deeply complex and confusing issues for children which does NOT promote a safe and inclusive environment for all. We stand against this event as we want to see children protected not exposed and robbed of their innocence. Please reconsider bringing DQST to the ORL. Keep politics and the LGTBQ agenda out of the publicly funded facilities of our community. Blayre Caplan

First Name*: Lynn

Last Name*: Mubza

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints


Message*:
We come to the library to read innocent CHILDREN's books. Keep your special alternative interests to yourself. I don't come into your private places and expose you and your family and try to indoctrinate you into my spiritual beliefs, lifestyle, sexual relationship, culture, so stop trying to do it to our kids. Stop trying to erode our culture. This is far past creating a safe place for transgenders so they don't get bullied. This has gone from defensive to offensive. This is supposed to be a library for childrens reading. Not sex ed class.

First Name*: Jay

Last Name*: Jones

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Thank you so much to Don Nettleton for speaking up regarding the drag queen story time. It is not easy going against the narrative, but I'm so grateful that you spoke up for the safety of our children. Though I will not support any institution that seeks to confuse children with inappropriate content that causes anxiety, I do support the people who want to protect them. Thank you again.

First Name*: Shelley

Last Name*: Staffoed

Phone Number:



Library Card:

Email*:



Branch:

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I have just watched a news program showing your drag queen at story time. While I support a persons right to choose their own life style I do not think it is appropriate to expose such young children to this alternate lifestyle.

First Name*: Brandy

Last Name*: Wick

Phone Number:



Library Card:

Email*:



Branch: Westbank

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I'm totally against drag queen reading hour It sexualizes our children.This should not be tolerated.

Correspondence Received in Support of DQST

From October 31, 2019 to
November 18, 2019

[REDACTED]

From: Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]
Sent: November 16, 2019 4:34 PM
To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: "Mainstream" is not the same as "neutral"

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Ashley Nunn-Smith [REDACTED]
Date: Nov 16, 2019 4:21 PM
Subject: "Mainstream" is not the same as "neutral"
To: Karla Kozakevich [REDACTED]
Cc:

Dear Karla Kozakevich,

As a librarian, mother, former storytime presenter, current senior library executive, collection development specialist, and children's literature academic, I was disappointed on so many fronts to read CEO Don Nettleton's September 9 letter to the ORL library board.

Describing children's programming as taking place in "a safe and neutral environment that everybody in the community will find acceptable" belies a deep misunderstanding between what constitutes "mainstream" or "majority" and what constitutes truly neutral. In a majority Christian environment, it would not be "neutral" to read from the Bible, it is simply mainstream. In a majority white community, it would not be "neutral" to chose storytime books featuring (exclusively or even primarily) white children<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.slj.com_-3FdetailStory-3Dan-2Dupdated-2Dlook-2Dat-2Ddiversity-2Din-2Dchildrens-2Dbooks&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_Cdp gnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfv8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKtv1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=-ERVZogmqDm7rM4gZ52Tp-HrKIiWMSwdQafpuu0rw2A&e=>, it is simply mainstream. In a predominately English-speaking community, it is not "neutral" to offer your storytimes in English, it is simply mainstream. In the above examples, hegemony and our unconscious biases often allow us to believe we are being neutral (in the same way we don't hear our own spoken accents) but, rest assured, anyone from another religion, race, or language, respectively, would be able to readily point out how the above choices would not feel "neutral" to them.

After reading his memo, I then read all 272 pages of support and opposition that are included in the November 20 ORL board meeting package. Like in my above examples, many of the LGBTQ+ community did quickly write in to emphasize the biased and hurtful language permeating Mr. Nettleton's memo, which was anything but neutral. It is note-worthy, to me, that Mr. Nettleton is not a professional librarian (as noted in the PEA letter) and, in his May 2018 memo, committed to deferring to the professional librarians who work for ORL expertise. Yet, his knee-jerk response to DQSH did just the opposite. It is also note-worthy that fully 16 pages of the relatively-few opposed letters (when compared to the 170+ pages of support) were form-letters, all exactly identical, penned by one loud voice and merely signed by others, and not backed up by any actual scientific or evidence-based logical arguments whatsoever. Compare this, for example, to the letters evoking BC, CFLA, ALA and other professional

organization mission statements on diversity and inclusion, or the extremely articulate and well-researched letter by Wilbur Turner on pages 157-160.

When your storytime presenters are gender-typical, when the boys in the picture books read "act like boys" and the girls "act like girls," when the presenters call out, "Okay, boys and girls, have a seat!" you may feel like you are neutral, but, I can assure you, as the mother of a gender non-conforming child, you are merely being mainstream. The 1 in every 60 children born medically intersex<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__interactadvocates.org_resources_intersex-2Dbrochures_&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=qb-pmrIK2WdShTf4_etOPG0rWyJiq1o4fjA872fLGLk&e=> sitting in your storytime doesn't feel "neutral" or "safe" in such an environment. The increasing number of younger generations that identify as non-binary or trans<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.glaad.org_blog_new-2Dglaad-2Dstudy-2Dreveals-2Dtrenty-2Dpercent-2Dmillennials-2Didentify-2Dlgbtq&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=dNpV5scLkc5hslIwXITHoWED9ceVc1ekF44knWTZ_PU&e=> don't feel "neutral" or "safe" either. Not only that, but the 35% of likely voters who report they "personally know or work with someone" <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.hrc.org_resources_understanding-2Dthe-2Dtransgender-2Dcommunity&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=8SP4Gbwly1GJmEGFMI7smGie68EgHiZS2cx-W-tfp40&e=> who is transgendered don't feel fully represented either.

Research shows that teen suicide rates fall<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.reuters.com_article_us-2Dnordics-2Dlgbt-2Dhealth-2Dtrfn_suicides-2Dfall-2Dwith-2Dgay-2Dmarriage-2Din-2Dsweden-2Ddenmark-2Das-2Dstigma-2Dfades-2DidUSKBN1XO010&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=mP5aXmgwHyMLZqxIUsq-gdP6By3EbBGBM-XrwchWGLo&e=> after gay marriage is legalized, which has been borne out in countries around the world. Wouldn't it be amazing if every 3-6 year old (not just the gender-typical ones) proactively saw themselves reflected in their community before they became another teen suicide stat? And wouldn't it be even more amazing if even all the cis-gendered children had the opportunity to see gender diversity reflected, leading to developing a more accepting and inclusive society overall? The fact that over 300 people in the community (far higher than an average ORL Saturday storytime) attended today's Drag Queen Story Hour shows this program clearly meets a Okanagan community need and is felt by many parents and guardians to be safe, despite Mr. Nettleton's assertions to the contrary.

Having as your stated goal to only present children's programs where "everyone" in the community will approve is a dangerous game to play. What about the creationist that objects to a dinosaur-themed storyhour? What about the anti-vaxxer that opposes the public health nurse presentation to new parents? What about the vegan who wants the Canada Day BBQ shut down? Furthermore, for an extreme example, what about the racist that wants all ORL programmers of color to be fired? Since when did the library - a bastion of freedom of

information and expression - chose what to offer based on the requirement of 100% approval from "everybody" in the community?

As noted in many letters of support, libraries are no strangers to controversy and (due to the nature of privilege and institutional bias) have not and cannot ever be truly neutral. In fact, the very idea of a "public" library, when Andrew Carnegie first opened more than 1,700 of them between 1881 and 1919, was in itself controversial, it being considered (at the time) that only the wealthy were "worthy" of reading or literacy. Instead, public libraries (in Carnegie's time and today) strive to be equitable and inclusive.

I implore you - reach out to your LGBTQ+, transgender, intersex, youth mental health and other related organizations in Okanagan <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__kelowna.cioc.ca_record_KNA0124-3FNumber-3D0&d=DwMFAw&c=euGZstcaTDllvimEN8b7jXrwqOf-v5A_CdpgnVfiiMM&r=ARmJaKOkfV8TVESmsIrKFE0n5sUpMWPEeIld17FgsuE&m=x5BShKozW0H7-icKTV1ESJsgvQ691C718Mehbm81Ti4&s=BnC-8hHrXwun5RfQwOCUu666wrAJS7r99NADwGDaI1I&e=>. Speak to their organizers. Ask them to read the CEO's Sept 9 report to the board and then ask them whether their membership feels safe and represented by the library. And (when they say no) ask them what you can do to be truly representative of your whole community, not just the parts that look like you.

As Co-President of the Kelowna Pride Festival, Blake Edwards, wrote in his letter of support on page 161, when youth see themselves represented, issues like mental health and suicide are improved. I hope that you and the ORL board choose the right side of history and vote to represent ALL of Okanagan residents on November 20.

Sincerely,
Ashley Nunn-Smith
BA, MA, MLIS, Certificate in Trauma-Informed Care

From: Pat Flack [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2019 6:43 PM

To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher

Subject: Drag queen story time

WE are not a member of your area but - Our thanks and congratulations to the librarian that organized this story time. As recently retired, happily married with two daughters and grandson, we love living in a diverse society. For the senior executive of your organization that states that "a significant number of citizens will be offended" – let them be offended. Let us (the apparent minority?) practice diversity! (we are assuming by your executive making the comment that we are in a minority! However we musta missed being in that minority! Didn't know that!!!)
Sad, sad comments from your organizations executive really sad, sad, sad.....

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18th 2019 – OKANAGAN- Kelowna Pride

DOWNTOWN KELOWNA LIBRARY STAFF SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR KELOWNA PRIDE AND THE SUGARPLUM BALL BY RAISING MONEY TO COVER PARTIAL VENUE RENTAL COSTS.

Kelowna Pride and the BC Wine, Cider & Spirits Festival are excited to announce that the Downtown Kelowna library is no longer just a venue for this weekends Sugarplum Ball; but are also now a Sponsor of the event.

This follows the Kelowna Branch head librarian Christopher Stephens approaching the OUT in the Valley organizers to inform them that he and team members from the Okanagan Regional Library have personally donated money to show their support to the Festival, The Sugarplum Ball and the LGBT2Q+ community.

"Kelowna library staff and staff in other branches of the Okanagan Regional Library system recently raised funds in support of Kelowna Pride. Even one of the library's security guards contributed significantly towards the organization, as we collectively raised these funds to ensure the Sugarplum Gala is a grand success!" says Kelowna Branch Head Librarian Christopher Stephens.

Following a very public memo issued by the Okanagan Regional Library's CEO, Don Nettleton post the branches first Drag Storytime on September 14th; all teams involved feel that this show of support is more in line with the library communities views in regards to inclusivity.

Co-President Blake Edwards of the Kelowna Pride Board states, "This donation goes to show the support of the staff for LGBT2Q+ initiatives with the library - from Drag Storytime to our Sugarplum Ball. I'd like to thank all the "activists librarians" in bringing inclusive programming to a public forum."

The donation will be used to cover a portion of the venue rental for the evening, assisting with the overall/financial success of the 4th Annual Sugarplum Ball.

The OUT in the Valley festival (November 21st-24th) will include an opening reception at Okanagan Spirits, curated wine tours, inclusive of transportation, entertainment and of course tastings; The Sugarplum Ball, and a Drag Brunch at Summerhill Winery featuring Old Grandma Sophonda Dick, the mistress of the night (...or brunch hour?) Ella Lamoureux 'The Good White Christian Women', and Okanagan Orca Freida Whales.


OUT in the Valley tickets and event descriptions can be found at kelownapride.com

First Name*: Donalda

Last Name*: Whaites

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*: 

Branch:

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I AMA grandmother and I totally support drag queen story time. If you don't like it don't go!, Teaching children to accept all people is important. The room was full. Keep offering it.

First Name*: Tracy

Last Name*: Donald

Phone Number:



Library Card:

Email*:



Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Frieda Whales is the best thing to hit the library! Children just want to be entertained and do not need to be dragged into this mess because of the opinions of adults. Don't force gaunchy old views on these beautiful undeveloped minds. Embrace diversity!

First Name*: Tony

Last Name*: Vanderbyl

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*:



Branch: Not Applicable

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: Don Nettleton is complete wrong on his stance against the drag queen book reading. Tell him to give his head a shake.



November 15, 2019

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors
c/o Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and ORL Board Members:

The Council of Post-Secondary Library Directors of British Columbia (CPSLD) is writing to share our endorsement of the statement made by BCLA on September 27, 2019 regarding the proposed changes to policy around children's programming.

Like the BCLA, the members of CPSLD:

“[recognize] and [support] the ORL Board's role and responsibility to create policies that support the work of the library and meet the needs of communities. We ask the ORL Board to consider this work based on shared library values including those core values that support inclusivity, diversity, and intellectual freedom and reject censorship, prejudice, preconceptions about communities, and limiting the role of the library in society.” (BCLA Letter to ORL Board, Sept. 27, 2019)

Libraries, in all communities and for all constituencies, have the obligation to be inclusive, promote equity, uphold intellectual freedom, resist censorship, and reject hate.

As library directors, we have a deep understanding of the weight of policymaking and the power that policy has to exclude when crafted to do so.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Rackover, CPSLD President (2019-2020)
University Librarian
Emily Carr University of Art + Design

Children's Programming - 2019

IN SUPPORT

of Dept



Western FIMS

Faculty of Information
& Media Studies

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors
Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Dear Ms Kozakevich and Members of the Okanagan Regional Library Board:

I am writing as the Graduate Chair of the Master of Library and Information Science Program at the University of Western Ontario to express my concern, and the concern of many of my colleagues, over the recommendation by ORL CEO Don Nettleton on September 9, 2019, that the Library Board adopt a policy that would prohibit the programming of Drag Queen Story Time.

The MLIS Faculty at Western are committed to graduating new librarians and information professionals whose professional activities are consistent with values, standards, ethics and practices of progressive information services for the public good. In so doing, we stand by the CFLA's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, particularly in fostering a commitment to "safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable." The policy proposed by Mr. Nettleton is firmly at odds with that principle.

Mr. Nettleton argues that children's programming should be "safe" and "professional." No one would argue with that. But to prohibit Drag Queen Story Time on those grounds would require evidence that such an event is unsafe or unprofessional, and he has provided none.

Mr. Nettleton goes on to argue that children's programming should be "deemed acceptable by the bulk of society (aimed at the middle of the road) to avoid controversy and be as well accepted in the community as possible." In so doing, he is advocating that the Library Board curtail and suppress expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion of a segment of the Library's users. Such an act would be profoundly unprofessional, violating as it does the principles of the profession as articulated by the CFLA and by library schools such as ours. Such an act would make the library unsafe for those community members who do not fit Mr. Nettleton's vague definition of "middle of the road."

Adoption of this proposal would also be profoundly unsafe for the library. While Mr. Nettleton clearly wants to avoid conflict and trouble, his proposal would compromise the very principles that justify the library's existence, thereby undermining the basis of the library's support in the community. As we have seen elsewhere in Canadian public life, public support dwindles when an organization fails to live up to its fine words.

Western University, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, FIMS & Nursing Building, Room 2050
London, ON, Canada N6A 5B9 t. 519.661-3720 www.fims.uwo.ca

We urge the Library Board to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Grant Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the name.

D. Grant Campbell
Graduate Chair, MLIS Program
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

on behalf of:

Lisa Henderson, Professor and Dean of Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Sharon Sliwinski, Associate Professor and Associate Dean, Thesis Programs
Paulette Rothbauer, Associate Professor
Melissa Adler, Assistant Professor
Lynne McKechnie, Professor Emeritus
Heather Hill, Associate Professor
Alissa Centivany, Assistant Professor

September 20, 2019

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors
c/o Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and ORL Board members:

Intellectual freedom is one of the core values of libraries. You will find this to be affirmed in policies and statements by any number of libraries and organizations representing libraries. For example, the British Columbia Library Association (BCLA), of which I would assume Okanagan Regional Library is an institutional member, includes on its websiteⁱ a Statement of Intellectual Freedom. The Statement contains eight points, but it is sufficient to quote the first two points to illustrate how the ORL CEO's policy proposal to the September 18th Board meetingⁱⁱ, in regard to children's programming, would undermine this core library value:

1. It is in the interest for libraries and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expression, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
2. It would conflict with the public interest for libraries to establish their own political, moral or aesthetic views as the sole standard for determining what books and other materials should be published or circulated.ⁱⁱⁱ

As the BCLA statement so eloquently states, the making available of diverse views, including those which may offend the community served, is in fact within the very purpose of a library. It is not unusual for community members, even the majority of community members, to object to particular library resources or programming that do not align with their personal values, and libraries regularly respond to these types of challenges by following established policy and procedures, which should be grounded in core library values, of which intellectual freedom is arguably the most important. What is highly unusual in this case is that the Library CEO himself would see fit to propose a policy that would prohibit ORL from fulfilling its mandate.

The CEO's September 9th memo to the Board contains a number of statements, too numerous to list here, that should give Board members cause for concern. I will cite only some of the more egregious ones:

- The contention that drag queen storytelling is "pushing the boundaries of what was traditionally accepted in North American society"^{iv} illustrates that the CEO does not fully grasp the role of libraries. One only needs to substitute "the promotion of racial equality" in the 1960s for "drag queen storytelling" in the 2010s to see how misguided this statement is.
- The memo also uses loaded language, such as "a program targeted at 3-6 year olds,"^v presumably to try to shock the Board by alleging that children are being exploited, when it should be obvious to anyone that nothing is being forced on 3-6 year olds because it is entirely up to parents or guardians to decide what is appropriate for the children in their care.
- The statement that the programming "will be offensive to a significant segment of our society"^{vi} directly contradicts the first point of the BCLA Statement of Intellectual Freedom.

Also of concern is the fact that, while the memo states on a number of occasions that the programming in question detracts from the library's "central mission"^{vii} or "deviat[es] from our main purpose"^{viii} or would lead to "the opposite outcome of our goals as a library,"^{ix} nowhere does it state on which policies, plans or other official documents these statements are based, leading the reader to conclude that they must be referring to

the CEO's own perception of ORL's mission, purpose and goals, thereby directly contradicting the second point in the BCLA Statement of Intellectual Freedom.

In conclusion, it is not the place of the Board to create policy that would restrict library programming, for any group of users, based on any individual's perception of what is "safe and interesting,"^x or that would deprive the community of access to knowledge by "avoiding controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues."^{xi} Such a policy would provide a disservice to the community served by ORL and would directly contradict the core library value of intellectual freedom. I encourage the Board not to consider future proposals for motions such as this one but rather to direct the ORL to develop policies and procedures that express and uphold core library values.

Yours sincerely,



Ross Tyner
Director, Library Services, Okanagan College^{xii}

cc: Don Nettleton, Chief Executive Officer, Okanagan Regional Library
Annette DeFaveri, Executive Director, British Columbia Library Association

ⁱ British Columbia Library Association (BCLA). Statement of Intellectual Freedom.
<https://bclaconnect.ca/about/statement-of-intellectual-freedom/>

ⁱⁱ Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) Board. Agenda. September 18, 2019. 32-34. http://www.orl.bc.ca/docs/default-source/library_board/meeting_agendas/bod-agd_18sep19.pdf?sfvrsn=0

ⁱⁱⁱ BCLA. Statement of Intellectual Freedom.

^{iv} ORL Board. 33

^v ORL Board. 33

^{vi} ORL Board. 34

^{vii} ORL Board. 33

^{viii} ORL Board. 33

^{ix} ORL Board. 34

^x ORL Board. 34

^{xi} ORL Board. 34

^{xii} Please note that, while the views expressed in this letter do not necessarily reflect the views of my employer, they do reflect the professional values of a librarian who has practiced in the field for twenty-seven years and who has led Okanagan College Library for nearly ten years.



September 27th, 2019

Okanagan Regional Library Board of Directors
Karla Kozakevich, Board Chair

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and ORL Board members:

The British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) represents over 900 members and includes an additional 1200 individuals and institutions that participate on our Committees and Listservs. What we share, as a library community, is a commitment to core library values that include building an inclusive and equitable society that emphasizes creative and critical thinking, intellectual freedom, and equitable access to information. BCLA's core library values are further expressed by the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) when it explains that the purpose of libraries is to *safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinions, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.*

The recommendation to the Okanagan Regional Library Board by CEO Don Nettleton, in the memo of September 9, 2019, has generated considerable concern among BCLA's Board, partners and members as the recommendation contradicts the values and purposes of libraries in British Columbia and in Canada.

Mr. Nettleton's memo recommends that the ORL Board develop a policy that *children's programming should be provided in a manner that is safe, professional, and deemed acceptable by the bulk of society (aimed at the middle of the road) to avoid controversy and be as well accepted in the community as possible.*

BCLA's concern is that such a description of children's programming, or any library programming, is limiting, intolerant and excludes segments of the communities libraries serve. There is no evidence, presented or noted in the memo, to support Mr. Nettleton's claim that the Drag Queen Story time, as an example of unacceptable programming, is unsafe, unprofessional, or unacceptable to the community. Nor is there evidence to suggest that a Drag Queen Story time, or any story time, influences or promotes *discussions related to sexual orientation, gender selection, religious teaching, politics, or other divisive issues.*

There is considerable evidence, including the number of adults and children who participated in the Drag Queen Story time, to suggest that community members felt safe and welcomed by their local library branch and enjoyed a program that was mounted by staff who are professionally engaged with community members on a daily basis. Additional evidence from sources such as the Canadian Pediatric Society, the British Columbia Ministry of Education's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

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**British Columbia
Library Association**

(SOGI) framework (now in all 60 school districts in BC), and the “Healthy Gender Development and Young Children” report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services demonstrate that discussions about gender identities are beneficial for children's healthy development.

The contents and recommendations in Mr. Nettleton’s memo contradict both overall library values as well as the stated values and policies of the Okanagan Regional Library. Okanagan Regional Library’s stated values, including an emphasis on learning and discovery, equity, intellectual freedom and connecting people, are commendable and could act as a model for other libraries. Any decision by the Board to limit library programming as per Mr. Nettleton’s memo would undermine those values.

BCLA recognizes and supports the ORL Board’s role and responsibility to create policies that support the work of the library and meet the needs of communities. We ask the ORL Board to consider this work based on shared library values including those core values that support inclusivity, diversity, and intellectual freedom and reject censorship, prejudice, preconceptions about communities, and limiting the role of the library in society.

Should the ORL Board want or require further information BCLA would work with our partners, the BC Library Trustees Association and the Association of BC Public Library Directors to provide support.

Thank you for considering our request,

Sincerely,

Christine Middlemass
President
BC Library Association

Cc:
Scott Hargrove
Chair, Association of BC Public Library Directors
Mike Gagel
President, BC Library Trustee Association
Babs Kelly
Executive Director, BC Library Trustees Association

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To: Okanagan Regional Library Board Chair Karla Kozakevich (kkozakevich@okanagan.bc.ca) and Board Members
Cc: ORL CEO Don Nettleton (don.nettleton@okanagan.bc.ca) PEA ORL Chapter Chairperson James Laitinen (j.laitinen@okanagan.bc.ca)

Re: September 9th Memo - Children's Programming Policy Discussion

Date: October 3, 2019

We are librarians and public library users writing to express our support for the innovative and inclusive Drag Queen Storytime offered at Okanagan Regional Library (ORL) and to express our concern regarding a memo dated September 9th the board received from CEO Don Nettleton – a memo that misrepresents and misunderstands the role of libraries and library workers and contains a problematic recommended policy.

The role of libraries and library programming is to strive to create inclusive, barrier-free access to space and information. The B.C. Public Libraries Branch's strategic plan describes the value of public libraries: "They foster life-long learning, help develop skills and promote social inclusion. Libraries are a key contributor to the social, cultural, and economic health and well-being of communities, helping to ensure that the province remains a vibrant place to live and work."¹ Furthermore, the BC Library Association's statement on Intellectual Freedom makes clear that "it is in the interest for libraries and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expression, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority."²

The conception that libraries are neutral entities in our society and communities is a false premise and one that perpetuates the status quo of exclusion and the continued suppression of marginalized voices. In a society that is built by and for those with privilege, the foundation itself is not balanced - therefore it is not possible for institutions to be neutral. The concern presented in the memo that Drag Queen Storytime will "reposition [ORL] from being an accepted, middle of the road, non-controversial (neutral) and safe environment for children's programming" is flawed. Any and all programming and collection development choices are non-neutral. Libraries, with or without Drag Queen Storytimes, are not neutral.

The suggestion that Drag Queen Storytime presents an unsafe environment for children is not supported and contradicts the goals and learning outcomes of the program: "Through a fun and fabulous literary experience, DQSH celebrates learning and play, encouraging kids to celebrate gender diversity and all kinds of difference, while building confidence in expressing themselves."³ Moreover, children learning to read with someone from their community while celebrating and accepting difference speaks directly to ORL's stated mission of "connecting curious minds," its vision of providing "learning, innovation, creativity and a connected community," as well as its values of learning and discovery, equity, intellectual freedom, community, and innovation and responsiveness.⁴

We find that many of the statements in the memo are alarmist and unfounded. We question whether this programming is "offensive to a significant segment of our society" and will "decrease" support for the library. According to drag queen Freida Whales, approximately 160 people participated in ORL's Sept. 14 Drag Queen Storytime, a strong demonstration of interest and support for the program.⁵ Additionally, the assertion that programs will "stir up hatred, bigotry, and divisiveness" and the library "may end up being a catalyst for polarization and bigotry" is the exact opposite of what happens when inclusive programming is provided and supported. This was not an isolated event in Kelowna, but part of a larger trend in programming that has seen

¹ <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/community-partnerships/libraries/libraries-strategic-plan.pdf>

² <https://bclaconnect.ca/about/statement-of-intellectual-freedom/>

³ <https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/faq/>

⁴ <https://www.orl.bc.ca/docs/default-source/reports/orl-strategic-plan-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

⁵ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/kelowna-drag-queen-story-time-1.5292257>

success across North America. The diversity and inclusivity fostered by these programs in other cities has been widely reported.⁶ When our public institutions fail to support programs that open doors to all members of society, lift up traditionally suppressed voices, and celebrate differences, hatred and bigotry flourish.

Lastly, the recommended policy provided is antithetical to ORL's stated values and the purpose of libraries as a whole. It suggests that ORL has the authority or ability to define what is 'controversial' or 'divisive', and that libraries should avoid such topics. Such an approach excludes the community-based decision making and further perpetuates the concept that providing programming that is acceptable to a certain segment of our society – the, as the memo states, "broadly accepted middle ground" – means the library is being neutral. What this really means is that the library is maintaining and perpetuating the status quo of privilege in our society.

We recommend the following actions be taken by the board:

- Reject the children's programming policy recommended in the September 18th memo;
- Continue drag queen storytime program, if partners still want to participate, and consider expansion to other branches, based on needs and interest;
- Introduce training for ORL management and board members about gender identity, transphobia, and trans-inclusion, from a group such as TransFocus (<https://www.transfocus.ca/>), Qmunity (<https://qmunity.ca/>), or other local Kelowna organizations (<http://kelowna.bctransresources.ca/>);
- Undertake broad, ongoing evaluation of whether ORL is meeting the needs of LGBTQ+ patrons at other ages and prioritizing building relationships and developing programs and services;
- Implement continuous training and discussions for ORL management and board members to ensure a deep working knowledge of issues of intellectual freedom, diversity and inclusion, and other values as put forth by the BC Library Association and ORL's strategic plan

We are hopeful ORL board members will move this discussion forward in a positive manner and remain committed to its mission, vision, and values.

Regards,

Tania Alekson

Sabrina Wong

Jean Blackburn

Alyssa Hamer

Allison Jones

Cristina Freire

Ebony Magnus

Leanna Jantzi

Baharak Yousefi

Shirley Lew

⁶ <https://torontolife.com/culture/books/inside-drag-queen-storytime-toronto-libraris-fiercest-kids-reading-series/>

Attn: Okanagan Regional Library Board, Policy and Planning Committee
Compiled by: Christine McPhee, MLIS, Director of Public Services, Okanagan Regional Library

Statements on Core Values, Intellectual Freedom and Other Relevant Position Statements

British Columbia Library Trustees Association

Trustee Orientation Program Workbook

<https://www.bclta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/TOP-Workbook-February-2019.pdf>

Many public libraries include value statements, along with vision and mission statements, in their strategic-planning documents. Some of these statements will include language regarding intellectual freedom, privacy, inclusivity, diversity, access, and equity. Many will have statements that are reflective of that specific library system or community.

Core values refer to those that are commonly held to be of long-lasting importance to Canadian libraries. These core values are shared by library associations, discussed at library conferences, and are foundational to library education. (pg. 10)

Resolution on the Rights of Transgender, Gender Variant, and Two Spirited People - attached

<https://www.bclta.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BCLTA-2017-AGM-Resolution-Approved.pdf>

AGM 2017 RESOLUTION

Resolution on the Rights of Transgender, Gender Variant, and Two-Spirited People

Carried unanimously:
April 22, 2017 Annual General Meeting

Proposed by:
Kyla Epstein
Vancouver Public Library Board Chair
BCLTA Board Director

While much work has been done and still remains to be done to overcome discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people, members of the transgender, gender variant, and two-spirited communities often face additional barriers. While the British Columbia Human Rights Code has been amended to include gender identity and expression and that organizations/people cannot discriminate on these grounds, trans, gender variant, and two-spirited people experience higher rates of hate crimes and often face discrimination in employment, healthcare and housing. For many people, the simple act of stating their preferred pronouns or accessing facilities consistent with their gender identity can result in hostility, harassment, abuse, and outright violence. The combined impact of all of these factors has contributed to higher than average rates of poverty, homelessness and suicide among transgender, gender variant, and two-spirited people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the BCLTA:

1. Affirms its commitment to the full equality, inclusion and acceptance of people of all gender identities and gender expressions;
2. Affirms the right of transgender, gender variant, and two-spirited individuals to be referred to by their name, gender, and pronoun of choice (regardless of legal status) in all BCLTA communications, events, and related business;
3. Encourages members of BCLTA to continue to advocate for the rights of people of all gender identities and gender expressions;
4. Urges the continued adoption and implementation of legislation and policies that prevent discrimination based on gender identity and expression, and that require individuals to be treated equally under the law as the gender by which they identify. This includes establishing the right to change without undue burden their identification documents to reflect their gender and name and ensuring equal access to medical and social services;

5. Calls on governments at all levels to review and revise all laws and policies to ensure full equality and protections for people of all gender identities and expressions;
6. Urges BCLTA members to begin or continue to work with local transgender, lesbian, gay and bisexual organizations to create inclusive and welcoming communities for people of all gender identities and expressions and to spread awareness and increase knowledge of issues related to gender identity and expression. These activities may include cultural competency trainings and education programs on gender identity and expression;
7. Recommends BCLTA member institutions, facilities and events ensure, to the extent feasible, the availability of gender-neutral washrooms, trans-inclusive signage, and other physical site needs that ensure dignity and safety for transgender, gender variant, and two-spirited individuals; and
8. Urges BCLTA members to review their use of language in conversation, presentations, forms and policies in an effort to ensure people of all gender identities and gender expressions are welcomed, included, accepted and respected. This includes developing statements of inclusion and/or non-discrimination policies pertaining to gender identity and gender expression, the use when feasible of gender-neutral language, and offering more than two gender options or eliminating the need to select a gender on forms.

British Columbia Library Association

Statement on Intellectual Freedom

<https://bclaconnect.ca/about/statement-of-intellectual-freedom/>

1. It is in the interest for libraries and librarians to make available the widest diversity of views and expression, including those which are unorthodox or unpopular with the majority.
2. It would conflict with the public interest for libraries to establish their own political, moral or aesthetic views as the sole standard for determining what books and other materials should be published or circulated.
3. It is contrary to the public interest for libraries or librarians to determine the acceptability of a book solely on the basis of the personal history or political affiliation of the author.
4. There is no place in British Columbia for extra-legal efforts to coerce the taste of others, to confine adults to the reading matter deemed suitable for adolescents, or to inhibit the efforts of the writers to achieve artistic expression.
5. It is not in the public interest to force a reader to accept any book with the prejudgment of a label characterizing the book or author as subversive or dangerous.
6. It is the responsibility of library administrators and librarians, as guardians of the peoples' freedom to read, to contest encroachments upon that freedom by individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large.
7. It is the responsibility of libraries and librarians to give full meaning to intellectual freedom by providing books and other materials that enrich the quality of thought and expression. By the exercise of this affirmative responsibility, librarians can demonstrate that the answer to a bad book is a good one, the answer to a bad idea is a good one.
8. Non-book materials should be judged by the same criteria as books.

Canadian Federation of Library Associations / Fédération canadienne des associations
bibliothèques

Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries/>

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations recognizes and values the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as the guarantor of the fundamental freedoms in Canada of conscience and religion; of thought, belief, opinion, and expression; of peaceful assembly; and of association.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations supports and promotes the universal principles of intellectual freedom as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which include the interlocking freedoms to hold opinions and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In accordance with these principles, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms that all persons in Canada have a fundamental right, subject only to the Constitution and the law, to have access to the full range of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, and to express their thoughts publicly. Only the courts may abridge free expression rights in Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations affirms further that libraries have a core responsibility to support, defend and promote the universal principles of intellectual freedom and privacy.

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations holds that libraries are a key institution in Canada for rendering expressive content accessible and affordable to all. Libraries are essential gateways for all persons living in Canada to advance themselves through literacy, lifelong learning, social engagement, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and defend privacy in the individual's pursuit of expressive content. To this end, libraries protect the identities and activities of library users except when required by the courts to cede them.

Furthermore, in accordance with established library policies, procedures and due process, libraries resist efforts to limit the exercise of these responsibilities while recognizing the right of criticism by individuals and groups.

Library employees, volunteers and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

CFLA - FCAB Position Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

Acknowledgement Canadian Library Association (CLA), Approved May 25, 2008

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/position-statement-on-diversity-and-inclusion/>

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA-FCAB) believes that a diverse and pluralistic society is central to our country's identity. Libraries have a responsibility to contribute to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion.

Libraries strive to deliver inclusive service. Canada's libraries recognize and energetically affirm the dignity of those they serve, regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities, or income.

Libraries understand that an acceptance of differences can place individual and collective values in conflict. Libraries are committed to tolerance and understanding. Libraries act to ensure that people can enjoy services free from any attempt by others to impose values, customs or beliefs.

CFLA - FCAB Position on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Library Meetings Rooms and Facilities: An Interpretation of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries – attached

http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CFLA-FCAB_statement_meeting_rooms.pdf

CFLA – FCAB Code of Ethics – attached

<http://cfla-fcab.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Code-of-ethics.pdf>



**Position on Third Party Use of Publicly Funded Library
Meetings Rooms and Facilities: An Interpretation of the Canadian Federation of Library
Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**
Approved March 2019

The articles of the Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques' (CFLA-FCAB) Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries (<http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries/>) are explicit declarations of basic principles that should govern the service of all public funded Canadian libraries, nonetheless, questions do arise regarding application of these principles to specific library practices.

This document provides an interpretation of the CFLA-FCAB's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries with regards to third party use of publicly funded library meetings rooms and facilities, which affirms: "Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination."

The following points are conditional to applying CFLA-FCAB's position on third party use of publicly funded library meetings room and facilities:

- Publicly funded libraries that make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- CFLA-FCAB affirms that allowing use of its meeting rooms or facilities in no way correlates to the library endorsing the nature of the free expression of any individual or group using a meeting room or facility.
- CFLA-FCAB affirms controversial expression is supported in the library. Equally so, challenge to controversial expression is supported. CFLA-FCAB does not, however, endorse the exercise of prior restraint as a means to avoiding controversy in the library.
- CFLA-FCAB unequivocally directs libraries to work within the Canadian law and human rights codes.
- CFLA-FCAB recognizes Canadian public libraries are subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which identifies freedom of expression as one of the four fundamental freedoms in Canada, subject only to reasonable limits prescribed by law as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.
- CFLA-FCAB recognizes there is a wide range of measures available to libraries to minimize and correct violations of the law, expecting libraries to exercise due diligence and avoid being wilfully blind to illegal behaviour while ensuring their fundamental commitment to intellectual freedom.
- CFLA-FCAB is mutually committed to intellectual freedom and to zero tolerance for discrimination, believing the two principles are mutually reinforcing.

Addendum

This selection of best practices are offered as a series of ethical managerial propositions for the guidance of individual libraries and librarians when considering their own operations and processes. They contain guidance and are offered as a contribution to the necessary process of research, consultation and cooperative drafting that underlies decision making at the local level.

- Prepare and publicize an explicit policy on the use of library meetings rooms and facilities after consultation with legal counsel, as well as administrative procedures and rental rates. This critical work should include a due diligence condition ensuring a minimum amount of intrusion necessary to be legal and to bring about a remedy.
- Written policies for meeting room use are stated in inclusive rather than exclusive terms.
- Policies are made available in all of the commonly used languages within the community served.
- The Library's policy states whether meetings held in library spaces must be open to the public or if the library allows private social events.
- If meeting rooms and spaces are open to the public, the Library includes a section in their policy that addresses fees. Charging fees does not change the status of meeting rooms and spaces as designated public forums.
- The Library posts a permanent notice, in the languages commonly used in the community, near the meeting rooms and spaces stating that the library does not advocate or endorse the viewpoints expressed in meetings or by meeting room users.
- The Library posts a disclaimer statement outside the meeting room or facility in use, making it clear that the free expression being exercised does not necessarily reflect the views of the Library.
- The Library is explicit that all individuals and groups using the meeting room or facility are subject to the Library Board's rules and regulations (e.g., Code of Conduct).
- The Library requires that discussion topics, names of speakers and their affiliation, and items for sale must be disclosed at the time of booking/renting.
- The Library staff are present in the meeting room or facility during the event in question.
- When deemed appropriate, the Library rents the room or book the facility off business hours.
- The Library policy will make it clear it reserves the right to both refuse bookings/rentals and to cancel bookings/rentals.
- The Library documents all bookings, refusals and cancellations.
- The Library requires the renter/presenter to agree not to violate the law nor applicable human rights codes.
- The Library employs additional security measures if a risk to public safety is anticipated or presented.



Canadian Federation of Library Associations
Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques

Approved Aug 27 2018

CFLA-FCAB Code of Ethics

Preamble

The Canadian Federation of Library Associations/Fédération canadienne des associations de bibliothèques (CFLA-FCAB) considers the International Federation of Library Associations' (IFLA) statement IFLA Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers to be a comprehensive statement on the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of libraries and library workers in the 21st Century.

CFLA-FCAB encourages Canadian libraries and librarians to use this Code of Ethics as a guide and is not intended to replace existing codes or to remove the obligation on professionals to develop their own codes.

1. Access to information

The core mission of librarians and other information workers is to ensure access to information for all for personal development, education, cultural enrichment, leisure, economic activity and informed participation in and enhancement of democracy.

Librarians and other information workers reject the denial and restriction of access to information and ideas most particularly through censorship whether by states, governments, or religious or civil society institutions.

Librarians and other information workers offering services to the public should make every endeavour to offer access to their collections and services free of cost to the user. If membership fees and administrative charges are inevitable, they should be kept as low as possible, and practical solutions found so that socially disadvantaged people are not excluded.

Librarians and other information workers promote and publicise their collection and services so that users and prospective users are aware of their existence and availability.

Librarians and other information workers use the most effective ways to make the material accessible to all. For this purpose they seek to ensure that the websites of libraries and other information institutions comply with international standards for accessibility and access to them is not subject to barriers.

2. Responsibilities towards individuals and society

In order to promote inclusion and eradicate discrimination, librarians and other information workers ensure that the right of accessing information is not denied and that equitable services are provided for everyone whatever their age, citizenship, political belief, physical or mental ability, gender identity,



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heritage, education, income, immigration and asylum-seeking status, marital status, origin, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Librarians and other information workers respect language minorities of a country and their right to access information in their own language.

Librarians and other information workers organize and present content in a way that allows an autonomous user to find the information s/he needs. Librarians and other information workers help and support users in their information searching.

Librarians and other information workers offer services to increase reading skills. They promote information literacy including the ability to identify, locate, evaluate, organize and create, use and communicate information. And they promote the ethical use of information thereby helping to eliminate plagiarism and other forms of misuse of information.

Librarians and other information workers respect the protection of minors while ensuring this does not impact on the information rights of adults.

3. Privacy, secrecy and transparency

Librarians and other information workers respect personal privacy, and the protection of personal data, necessarily shared between individuals and institutions.

The relationship between the library and the user is one of confidentiality and librarians and other information workers will take appropriate measures to ensure that user data is not shared beyond the original transaction.

Librarians and other information workers support and participate in transparency so that the workings of government, administration and business are opened to the scrutiny of the general public. They also recognise that it is in the public interest that misconduct, corruption and crime be exposed by what constitute breaches of confidentiality by so-called 'whistleblowers'.

4. Open access and intellectual property

Librarians and other information workers' interest is to provide the best possible access for library users to information and ideas in any media or format. This includes support for the principles of open access, open source, and open licenses.

Librarians and other information workers aim to provide fair, swift, economical and effective access to information for users.

Librarians and other information workers have a professional duty to advocate for exceptions and limitations to copyright restrictions for libraries.



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Librarians and other information workers are partners of authors, publishers and other creators of copyright protected works. Librarians and other information workers recognise the intellectual property right of authors and other creators and will seek to ensure that their rights are respected.

Librarians and other information workers negotiate the most favourable terms for access to works on behalf of their users and seek to ensure that access is not unnecessarily prevented or hindered by the mode of administration of intellectual property laws and that licenses do not override exceptions for libraries contained in national legislation. Librarians and other information workers encourage governments to establish an intellectual property regime that appropriately respects balance between the interests of rightsholders and individuals and the institutions such as libraries which serve them.

Librarians and other information workers also advocate that copyright terms should be limited and that information that has fallen in the public domain remains public and free.

5. Neutrality, personal integrity and professional skills

Librarians and other information workers are strictly committed to neutrality and an unbiased stance regarding collection, access and service. Neutrality results in the most balanced collection and the most balanced access to information achievable.

Librarians and other information workers define and publish their policies for selection, organisation, preservation, provision, and dissemination of information.

Librarians and other information workers distinguish between their personal convictions and professional duties. They do not advance private interests or personal beliefs at the expense of neutrality.

Librarians and other information workers have the right to free speech in the workplace provided it does not infringe the principle of neutrality towards users.

Librarians and other information workers counter corruption directly affecting librarianship, as in the sourcing and supply of library materials, appointments to library posts and administration of library contracts and finances.

Librarians and other information workers strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing their knowledge and skills. They aim at the highest standards of service quality and thus promote the positive reputation of the profession.

6. Colleague and employer/employee relationship

Librarians and other information workers treat each other with fairness and respect.



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Librarians and other information workers oppose discrimination in any aspect of employment because of age, citizenship, political belief, physical or mental ability, gender, marital status, origin, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Librarians and other information workers promote equal payment and benefits for men and women holding comparable jobs.

Librarians and other information workers share their professional experience with colleagues and they help and guide new professionals to enter the professional community and develop their skills. They contribute to the activities of their professional association and participate in research and publication on professional matters.

Librarians and other information workers strive to earn a reputation and status based on their professionalism and ethical behaviour. They do not compete with colleagues by the use of unfair methods.

Further study

- The Ethics of Librarianship. An International Survey. Ed. by Robert W. Vaagan with an introduction by Alex Byrne. München: Saur 2002 VI, 344 p.
- Gebolys, Zdzislaw, Jacek Tomaszczyk: Library Codes of Ethics Worldwide. Anthology. Berlin: Simon 2012. 267 p.
- Professional Codes of Ethics for Librarians. IFLA-Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Free Expression (FAIFE).
- Sturges, Paul: Doing the Right Thing. Professional ethics for information workers in Britain. In: New Library World. 104, 2003, n. 1186, p. 94-102.

Prepared by Loida Garcia-Febo, Anne Hustad, Hermann Rösch, Paul Sturges and Amelie Vallotton (FAIFE working group)

Endorsed by the IFLA Governing Board, August 2012

Adopted by the CFLA-FCAB Board of Directors on August 27 2018

American Library Association

Library Bill of Rights

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>

- I. The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.
- II. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- III. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- IV. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- V. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- VI. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VII. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.
- VIII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019. Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Although the Articles of the Library Bill of Rights are unambiguous statements of basic principles that should govern the service of all libraries, questions do arise concerning application of these principles to specific library practices. See the documents designated by the Intellectual Freedom Committee as Interpretations of the Library Bill of Rights.

Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

- attached

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programsdisplays>

Libraries Respond: Drag Queen Story Hour – attached

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/libraries-respond-drag-queen-story-hour>

Library-Initiated Programs and Displays as a Resource: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights

Library-initiated programs support the mission of the library by providing users with additional opportunities for accessing information, education, and recreation. Article I of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves." Library displays increase awareness of programs, resources, and services.

Library-initiated programs include, but are not limited to, lectures, displays, exhibits, community forums, performing and visual arts,¹ participatory workshops, technology programming, creative learning programming, wellness programs, story times, continuing education, fairs and conventions, book clubs, discussion groups, demonstrations, and presentations for social, cultural, educational, or entertainment purposes. Library-initiated programs may take place onsite at the library, off-site at other locations, or online, and may be provided by library workers, volunteers, or partners. Libraries may also choose to promote their programs, services, and resources through displays and digital signs.

Library-initiated programs and displays utilize library worker expertise for community interests, collections, services, facilities, and providing access to information and information resources. They introduce users and potential users to library resources and the library's role as a facilitator of information access. The library may participate in cooperative or joint programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions, or individuals to facilitate information access in the community the library serves.

Libraries should not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and shall ensure they have equitable access to library resources. Library-initiated programs and displays should comply with all applicable laws, including the standards and requirements of The Americans with Disabilities Act and state and local disability accessibility guidelines.² If a program is held in a location not controlled by the library, the library should assure that the space is accessible to all users. If users overflow designated event areas during library events, libraries should secure accessible public spaces (e.g., ramps, pathways, and emergency exit routes) to ensure access and safety for everyone. Reasonable accommodations should also be made to have interpretation or real-time captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing at library-initiated programs when needed or requested by library users.

"Socially excluded, marginalized, and underrepresented people, not just the mainstream majority, should be able to see themselves reflected in the resources and programs that libraries offer."³ Libraries should actively seek to include a variety of programming options representing diversity of genres, formats, ideas, and expressions with a multitude of viewpoints and cultural perspectives that reflect the diversity in our communities. Library-initiated programs that cross language and cultural barriers introduce community members to the library's resources and provide access to information. Libraries serving multilingual or multicultural communities should make efforts to accommodate the information needs of those who speak and read languages other than English, including advertising for such events.

Concerns, questions, or complaints about library-initiated programs and displays are handled according to the same written policy and procedures that govern reconsiderations of other library resources. These policies should apply equally to all people, including, but not limited to, library users, staff, and members of

the governing body. The policies should set forth the library's commitment to free and open access to information and ideas for all users.

Programs should not be canceled because of the ideas or topics of the program or the views expressed by the participants or speakers, nor should library workers censor or remove displays because someone may disagree with the content. Library sponsorship of a program does not constitute an endorsement of the program content or the views expressed by the participants or speakers, any more than the purchase of resources for the library collection or curation of a display constitutes an endorsement of the resources content or its creator's views. Libraries should vigorously defend the First Amendment right of speakers and participants to express themselves.

Article V of the *Library Bill of Rights* states, "A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views." The right to use a library encompasses all the resources the library offers, including the right to attend library-initiated programs. Libraries create programs for an intended age group or audience based on educational suitability and audience interest; however, restrictions on participation based solely on the gender, chronological age, or educational level of users violate this right and should be enforced only when not doing so would adversely impact the safety of the participants or interfere with the intended purpose of the program. Parents and guardians may restrict their own children's access to library programs, but no person or organization can interfere in others' access and participation. A parent or guardian may discuss their child's access to and participation in library programs with their child, but may not impose those decisions on others, including other people's children.

Libraries should not deny access to library-initiated programs if patrons owe the library for overdue fines or other fees. If libraries charge program participants for supplies used, they should make every effort to reduce economic barriers to participation.

Any collection and retention of program participants' personal information should be on an opt-in basis only. While attendees may need to demonstrate their eligibility to attend the program by showing a library card or student ID, they should not be required to share their personal information in order to attend a library program.

¹ "Visual and Performing Arts in Libraries: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/arts>)," adopted February 13, 2018, by ALA Council.

² "Services to People with Disabilities: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/servicespeoplesdisabilities>)," adopted January 28, 2009, by the ALA Council; amended June 26, 2018.

³ "Equity, Diversity, Inclusion: An Interpretation of the *Library Bill of Rights* (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/EDI>)," adopted June 27, 2017, by the ALA Council.

Adopted January 27, 1982, by the ALA Council; amended June 26, 1990; July 12, 2000; June 26, 2018 *under previous name* "Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource"; and June 24, 2019.

See Also

- "Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries (<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit>)," ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, January 2018.
- "Responding to and Preparing for Controversial Programs and Speakers Q&A (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/controversialprogramsqa>)," Intellectual Freedom Committee, June 2018.

Libraries Respond: Drag Queen Story Hour



Many libraries across the country have been hosting or participating in Drag Queen Story Hours. A few have experienced pushback from some members of their community. To support libraries facing challenges we have established this collection of resources. We will continue to add to it and welcome your contributions. ALA, through its actions and those of its members, is instrumental in creating a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive society. This includes a commitment to combating marginalization and underrepresentation within the communities served by libraries through increased understanding of the effects of historical exclusion.

Note: Decisions about programming are made at the local level and are based on individual library policy.

What is Drag Queen Story Hour?

Drag Queen Story Hour is a program or event featuring drag queens reading stories to children in libraries, schools, or bookstores. It was created by Michelle Tea and RADAR Productions (<http://www.radarproductions.org/>) in San Francisco, California. The official Drag Queen Story Hour website is www.dragqueenstoryhour.org (<https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/>)

Share Your Story

We want to hear your stories about Drag Queen Story Hour. Share your successes and your challenges using the hashtags:

#LibrariesRespond #DragQueenStoryHour

ALA Resources

Toolkits & Best Practices

- Open to All: Serving the GLBT Community in Your Library (<http://www.ala.org/rt/glbtrt/tools>)- created by the Rainbow Round Table
- Defending Intellectual Freedom: LGBTQ+ Materials in School Libraries (<https://standards.aasl.org/project/lgbtq/>) (AASL)
- Drag Queen Story Hour: Reading Fabulously- (<http://2018.placonference.org/program/drag-queen-story-hour-reading-fabulously/>) Program session from the 2018 Public Library Association (PLA) Conference
- Hateful Conduct in Libraries: Supporting Library Workers and Patrons (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/hatefulconduct>) - created in partnership with the ALA Office for

Intellectual Freedom (OIF) and Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services (ODLOS)

Relevant ALA Library Bill of Rights Interpretations

- Library-Initiated Programs as a Resource
(<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/programs>)
- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/EDI>)
- Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sexual Orientation (<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/accesslgbt>)

Relevant ALA Policy Development Resources

- Library Policy Development: General (<http://libguides.ala.org/librarypolicy>) - a LibGuide from the ALA Library
- Selection & Reconsideration Policy Toolkit for Public, School, & Academic Libraries
(<http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/selectionpolicytoolkit/criteria>)

Blog Posts from Across ALA

- Drag Queen Story Hour by Kat Savage from ALSC Blog, June 15, 2017
(<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2017/06/drag-queen-story-hour/>)
- Drag Queen Story Hour by ALSC Early Childhood Programs and Services Committee, ALSC Blog, July 22, 2017 (<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2017/07/drag-queen-story-hour-2/>)
- #PLA2018 Drag Up Your Storytime by Erin Douglass from ALSC Blog, March 24, 2018
(<https://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2018/03/pla2018-drag-up-your-storytime/>)
- Three Queens: Perspectives on Drag Queen Story Hour by Alex Falck from Intellectual Freedom Blog, July 5, 2018 (<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=14809>)
- When a Protestor Interrupts Drag Queen Storytime by Kristin Pekoll from Intellectual Freedom Blog, June 20, 2018 (<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=14725>)
- Ain't it a Drag? Program Challenges at the Public Library by James LaRue from Intellectual Freedom Blog, June 1, 2017 (<http://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=9902>)
- Defend Pride at Your Library by Kristin Pekoll from Intellectual Freedom Blog, June 10, 2018
(<https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=14620>)
- Drag Queen Story Hour: Q&A with Port Jefferson Free Library, Programming Librarian, Oct. 26, 2018 (<http://www.programminglibrarian.org/articles/drag-queen-story-hour-qa-port-jefferson-free-library>)

Resources Recommended by ALA staff and members**Books**

- Diversity programming for digital youth : promoting cultural competence in the children's library
(<https://ala.on.worldcat.org/oclc/862958393?databaseList=638>) by Jamie Campbell Naidoo
 - ISBN: 9781610694872 1610694872 OCLC Number: 862958393

- Queer library alliance : global reflections and imaginings
(<https://ala.on.worldcat.org/oclc/992225700?databaseList=638>) by Rae-Anne Montague, Lucas McKeever
 - ISBN: 9781634000314 1634000315 OCLC Number: 992225700
- Partnering with parents: boosting literacy for all ages (<https://www.abc-clio.com/LibrariesUnlimited/product.aspx?pc=A5758P>) by Mary Schreiber
 - ISBN: 9781440863929
- Serving LGBTIQ library and archives users : essays on outreach, service, collections and access
(<https://ala.on.worldcat.org/oclc/630498096?databaseList=638>) by Ellen Greenblatt
 - ISBN: 9780786448944 0786448946 OCLC Number: 630498096
- The First Amendment and LGBT equality : a contentious history
(<https://ala.on.worldcat.org/oclc/959649250?databaseList=638>) by Carlos A. Ball
 - ISBN: 9780674972193 0674972198 OCLC Number: 959649250

Articles & Websites

- Follow #dragqueenstoryhour (<https://twitter.com/hashtag/dragqueenstoryhour>) on Twitter
- Panel defends "Drag Queen Story Hour" during discussion at Spokane Library
(<https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/panel-defends-drag-queen-story-hour-during-discussion-at-spokane-library/293-22a80e76-7ac3-4d07-b82a-228cf89d9ce4>), June 13, 2019
- Drag Queen Story Time lawsuit could be dismissed after plaintiffs are found without standing to sue
(https://www.theadvocate.com/acadiana/news/article_0c60e358-1511-11e9-8d35-9bdc0335dad9.html), Advocate, January 10, 2019
- Far from a Drag: How One Library Embraced Drag Queen Story Hour, Children & Libraries, Volume 16, No. 1, 2018 (<https://journals.ala.org/index.php/cal/article/view/6589>)
- Some Libraries are Facing Backlash Against LGBT Programs -- and Holding Their Ground
(<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/mitchellkuga/librarians-drag-queen-story-hour-lgbt-safe-spaces>), BuzzFeed, November 15, 2018
- Drag Storytimes Bring Fierceness-- and Fierce Opposition
(<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/drag-queen-storytimes-bring-fierceness-and-fierce-opposition/>), American Libraries Magazine, September 20, 2018
- Inclusive Storytimes: Create a Space that Welcomes All Families by Megan Roberts from American Libraries Magazine, June 1, 2017 (<https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2017/06/01/inclusive-storytimes/>)



BC's Union for Professionals

September 17, 2019

Okanagan Regional Library Board
ORL Administrative Centre
1430 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3P6

To Board Members:

The Professional Employees Association (PEA) is the union representing accredited, professional librarians employed by Okanagan Regional Library (ORL). The PEA, represented by the librarians listed below, strongly objects to the policy related to Children's programming, as proposed by Library Chief Executive Office Don Nettleton. Our objections are based on principle and process.

Drafting of the policy was in response to a Drag Queen Story Time held at the Kelowna Branch on Saturday, September 14. While some community members have objected to this event, the overwhelming response has been positive, with attendance more than double what the library usually sees on Saturdays. Part of policy states that Children's programming should avoid "controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues". This policy would be contrary to several Values in the ORL Strategic Plan, including:

- Equity - Regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, wealth, or social status, you are welcome within our doors.
- Intellectual Freedom - We champion access to information and exposure to diverse points of view. The library as a public institution supports the free exchange of ideas as a fundamental part of democratic society.
- Community - We are here to connect people and to serve the needs of our communities. We are a gathering place, and a welcoming space for the lively exchange of ideas.

In terms of process, there has been no consultation with library staff about this proposed policy, which limits the ability of professional librarians to be responsive to their communities, and create programs reflective of their communities. Any issue related to religion, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, wealth or social

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status (all of our Equity Values) could be deemed as "controversial and/or potentially divisive". Such a policy places far too many restrictions on our professional staff, who should be trusted by Library Management and Board to create programming that is sensitive, inclusive and appropriate for a public forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Laitinen'.

James Laitinen
PEA Chapter Chair, Okanagan Regional Library

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Moroz'.

Melissa Moroz
PEA Acting Executive Director

Ardie Burnham
Youth Services Librarian, Salmon Arm Branch

Kristy Hennings
Head Librarian, Vernon Branch

Ashley Machum
Youth Services Librarian, Kelowna Branch

Christopher Stephenson
Head Librarian, Kelowna Branch

Stephanie Thoreson
Youth Services Librarian, Vernon Branch

Kristy Woodcock
Head Librarian, Salmon Arm Branch

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October 15, 2019

Policy and Planning Committee
Okanagan Regional Library Board
1430 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3P6

To Committee Members:

This letter addresses specific concerns about the memo and proposed policy on Children's programming, as issued by Chief Executive Officer Don Nettleton on September 9, 2019. Accredited librarians employed by Okanagan Regional Library (as represented by the Professional Employees Association) are deeply concerned about the potential ramifications of this policy, if passed by the Board.

The memo and proposed policy appear to be an emotional and visceral reaction to the Drag Queen Story Time offered at the Kelowna branch on September 14. Proper procedure would have been for Mr. Nettleton to discuss his concerns with library staff, and not to rush to judgment and dash off a poorly thought-out missive which has offended the LGBTQ2+ community ("sexual choice") and librarians ("pushing a liberal agenda to children"). With no prior consultation with staff, this is a limit on their professional autonomy, and librarians are concerned that this policy will set a precedent for further encroachment on their ability to do their work independently.

The proposed policy stipulates avoiding "controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues" in children's programming. The memo notes that this provides "broad policy direction to staff...while still allowing staff significant leeway for interpretation". This policy will, instead, have a chill on any kind of inclusive and innovative programming.

In Mr. Nettleton's *CEO May Memo to All Staff* email dated May 24, 2018, he notes that he does not have a degree in Library Science but that the "ORL has a strong group of trained librarians throughout the system who I will rely on to give the necessary library specific input". The memo and policy fly in the face of respecting and relying on this professional judgment.

Who will decide what is a controversial or divisive issue? Would a program that included stories touching on race or the environment or homelessness be deemed controversial? The proposed policy would deny the library and librarians the ability to reflect, when appropriate, on issues children will face as they continue to develop. As part of their professional responsibility to uphold intellectual freedom (an ORL Strategic

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Plan Value), librarians should have the option to shed a little light on people or issues that exist on the margins. The Canadian Federation of Library Association's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries states "Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination."

In the end, story times are about reading age-appropriate stories chosen carefully and thoughtfully by trained librarians. Any other objections to events such as Drag Queen Story Times (such as outlined in Mr. Nettleton's memo) are an overlay of politicized and knee-jerk assumptions that have no place in the realm of children's literature or programming. A policy put in place to placate a minority of viewpoints with the loudest voices will negatively impact our success as an institution, and harm our reputation. If this policy is approved by the Board, some librarians will inevitably question whether they will want to continue working here. We have had great difficulty filling librarian vacancies through 2018 – another round of vacancies will be an even greater challenge, as the library world sees a library that will not fully commit to the principles of intellectual freedom and inclusion.

Parents and caregivers should have the ultimate right to decide whether children should attend a story time. Attendance at the September Drag Queen Story Time was significantly above regular Saturday attendance. The ORL Facebook post on the Story Time has (as of October 13), 126 'Likes', 88 'Loves' and only 4 'Angry' Reactions. The people seemingly have spoken. Contrary to the memo, the program was not "offensive to a significant segment of our society". Instead, it could be argued, the program has led to the library being seen in a new light, as a progressive and creative social institution that is reflective of our evolving culture.

We thank you for your deliberation in this matter, and for the opportunity to address the Committee.

Librarians of the Okanagan Regional Library Chapter
Professional Employees Association

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October 25, 2019

To Board Policy and Planning Committee Members:

The Professional Employees Association (PEA), representing the librarians employed at the ORL, strongly recommends that the children's programming policy proposed by Library CEO Don Nettleton is rejected by the Committee. Our recommendation is based on the core values and best-practices of the library profession.

In 1939, the ALA adopted the *Library Bill of Rights*,ⁱ outlining the basic policies of the profession. These policies are all based on the principle of Intellectual Freedom, an individual's right to access information on any topic from any point of view without restriction. It has never been the prerogative of libraries to maintain the status-quo. In fact, the Canadian Federation of Library Associations (CFLA) clearly states:

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable.ⁱⁱ

This commitment to Intellectual Freedom is what makes the library a trusted and authoritative cultural site. Thus, the proposed policy is fundamentally in opposition to the professions' basic policies and threatens the position of the ORL in our communities.

Additionally, Intellectual Freedom rights do not discriminate based on age. Children also have the right to access information from diverse viewpoints. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the parent to decide how their children interact with the world around them. It has always been best-practice for librarians to provide access to the widest possible array of content and then assist families in finding materials and services that fit their specific needs.ⁱⁱⁱ The proposed policy will prejudicially restrict the ORL's services and also presupposes that families are not capable of making their own choices.

Children's programming like Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) recognizes diversity and fosters inclusion. Diversity and inclusion efforts are encouraged by the ORL and all of our closest library associations (BCLA, CFLA, ALA). The CFLA acknowledges that such efforts may place individual and collective values in conflict, but it recommends that libraries remain active despite this.^{iv} It is a core responsibility of the library profession to advocate for, contribute to, and defend social progress. The pejorative, alarmist, and reductionist language used by the CEO to describe DQST and the work of "activist librarians" at the ORL is antithetical to many aspects of library work. The proposed policy could actually lead to greater conflict, tension, or dissatisfaction concerning those who are marginalized by a library that always looks to a presumed "middle" for its offerings.

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We also urge the Board to consider the effect this policy would have on staff and their ability to serve the needs of families who belong to marginalized groups. The proposed policy would place an unnecessary, and inappropriate, burden on staff, management, and the board to make decisions about what perspectives are “safe” enough for ORL programs. It also sets an uncomfortable tone for programming topics beyond the children’s department, which may lead to widespread self-censorship among staff. It is in the best interest of our communities that the ORL upholds inclusion as a value, and not hide from that responsibility.

The PEA recommends that the proposed policy is rejected by the Committee. However, if there is to be a policy regarding children’s programming, we highly recommend that this policy be written in consultation with the practicing, accredited librarians who work closely with the public every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Helkenberg".

Dr. Davin Helkenberg BA, MLIS, PhD LIS
PEA Local South Area Rep
Reference Librarian, Kelowna Branch

James Laitinen
PEA Chapter Chair
Head of Collection Development

Tara Thompson
PEA Chapter Vice-Chair
Community Engagement Coordinator

Ashley Machum
PEA Secretary-Treasurer
Youth Services Librarian, Kelowna Branch

Sandra Bernier
Collections Librarian

Evan Burgess
Reference Librarian

Ardie Burnham
Youth Services Librarian, Salmon Arm Branch

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Peter Critchley
Reference Librarian, Vernon Branch

Mica Depner
Youth Services Librarian

Kara Desimone
Reference Librarian, Vernon Branch

Jennifer Finlay
Reference Librarian

Roën Janyk
Reference Librarian

Lisa Jurassovich
Head of Support Services

Chantelle McGee
Virtual Branch Head

Taryn Schmid
Reference Librarian

Christopher Stephenson
Kelowna Branch Head Librarian

James Stuart
Reference Librarian, Kelowna Branch

Naomi Vancaillie
Reference Librarian, Vernon Branch

Jessica Whu
Westbank Branch Head Librarian

Kristy Woodcock
Salmon Arm Branch Head Librarian
PEA Local North Area Rep

ⁱ <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/intfreedom/librarybill/lbor.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/statement-on-intellectual-freedom-and-libraries/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/censorship/faq#ifpoint12>

^{iv} <http://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/position-statement-on-diversity-and-inclusion/>

September 20, 2019

To: Okanagan Regional Library Board members and Board Chair Karla Kozakevich

Dear Ms Kozakevich,

As you are aware, as President of CUPE 1123, I have been attending the ORL Board Meetings for a number of years now. I had not planned on attending the September 18th Board Meeting as I was on vacation. However having heard about the backlash regarding the "Drag Queen Storytime" offered at the Kelowna Branch, and after reading the Memo to the Board from our CEO Don Nettleton regarding the Children's Programming Policy Discussion, I felt that it was imperative that CUPE 1123 members be represented at the meeting. CUPE 1123 wanted to be there to support this important initiative.

As an organization CUPE and all its Locals pride themselves on being a strong and respected voice in our communities. We are a Union that believes in building strong communities that represent all segments of the population. We are united in our fight against discrimination and harassment in our workplaces, and will continue to be allies in gender diversity. These are the values we bring to our workplaces and these are the values we believe our Employers need to recognize, in all sectors, but particularly in our libraries.

The content of the Memo by our CEO Don Nettleton was deeply disturbing and offensive to me and to the majority of the members. It goes against everything that CUPE stands for. Up to this moment, CUPE 1123 members were proud to work in a Library System that welcomed everyone. The "Drag Queen Storytime" was simply the next logical step in becoming a more inclusive Library system.

As with any new initiative that challenges the status quo, or the perceived order of things, opposition and negative comments were to be expected. Libraries are no stranger to controversy. Intellectual freedom issues, books whose content offends individuals or a segment of the population, and yes even innovative programs and activities, are a daily occurrence in Libraries. The question is how do Libraries respond to such challenges? Do they respond based on an individual's personal moral code or belief, or do they act as a responsible corporate citizen, one that believes in the democratic, equitable, stated purpose of libraries in our society?

The Board's action/response to the "Drag Queen Storytime" at the Kelowna Library will have a huge impact on how our communities view the Library as an institution they want to frequent.

It will also have a significant impact on staff morale and how they view their Employer, which will ultimately have a tremendous impact on retention and recruitment of staff.

At the September meeting, the Board spend some time discussing the proposed budget which included the addition of 2 new positions, the Accessibility Assistant, and a Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator. I certainly hope that the addition of the Curriculum Assessment Coordinator will be used to move the ORL into the 21st century by focussing on leading not following the lead of other libraries. Our programs should be reflective of our communities and have an important role in embracing and cherishing the diversity of our society. They should of course also align with the Strategic Plan the Board spent so much time, money, and, energy on. A Strategic Plan that they believed in, one they are now willing to allocate a significant amount of money to for a “placeholder budget” so the strategic plan updates can be actioned. The Board is well aware of the values they deemed to be important enough to have them become the backbone of our Strategic Plan. Values such as: Equity, Intellectual Freedom, Community, values that made the staff proud to be working at the ORL.

Are we going to stand up and continue to be instrumental in creating a more equitable, diverse and inclusive society? Or are we going to create a Regional Library System that only responds to the stated needs of the one perspective of our society? There really is only one viable option, for the Board to fight for the rights of all people, to fight for not only what libraries have historically been, but what they are today and what they will continue to be for generations to come. Libraries are a haven for all, a place of learning, freedom, information, a place where equality comes first no matter what your social status, your economic status, your gender, race, age or your sexual orientation. Libraries are and will continue to be champions of Human Rights and Freedom and it would be a shame if the ORL was to forget that and make an ill-advised policy decision that would effectively destroy our credibility in amongst our peers.

The Union recognizes that decisions about programming are not made by ORL employees, or the Union representing them. They are made at the local and Board level, and of course are or should be based on sound library policy. However such important decisions should never be made in a vacuum or without consultations. The only way the ORL can continue to fulfill their commitment to **all** of its stakeholders is if this Library System continues to be a welcoming space for all of its users, continues to be a library that believes in the important role it plays in combating marginalization, bigotry and underrepresentation within all our communities. That is the type of library that staff is proud to be a part of.

Over the last five years the ORL has been attempting to establish themselves as a leader in their field. We have heard reports on number of programs, program attendance, STEAM initiatives, building capacity, and a lot of talk about what other libraries are doing. Is it not time for the ORL to become that leader in their field? Shying away from programs such as the” Drag Queen

Storytime” or putting up more red tape around programming will not get us there. Is there a need for streamlining, recognizing that staff workload is already at capacity, making decisions on what is feasible or not based on realistic staffing levels and all the other tasks contained in the Assessment Coordinator position, absolutely. In order to get there the ORL needs to make policy decision that will enhance not destroy library services. They need to make a decision that will make the Library a hub that is truly representative of their individual communities and more inclusive. They also need to recognize the value of their employees, recognize their skills and abilities and give them the freedom to do the job they were hired to do based on their education, experience and qualifications.

Respectfully

Rose Jurkic

CUPE 1123 President

From: rose jurkic
Sent: October 4, 2019 6:12 AM

Cc: Nott Harry; Rhiannon Bray
Subject: Policy review submissions

Good morning

I understand that the Policy Committee is having its initial meeting this morning. As the union representing the front line workers at the ORL, CUPE 1123 would like to be present at any of the planned stakeholder meetings.

In the meantime we would like to draw the committee's attention to the Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries, approved by Executive Council June 27, 1974, Ammended November 17, 1983, November 18, 1985, and September 27 2015.

In particular we would like to draw their attention to two of the paragraphs contained in the document. "Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups might consider unconventional, unpopular and unacceptable. To this end according to their mandate and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources."

" library employees, volunteer, and employers as well as library governing entities have a core responsibility to uphold the principles of intellectual freedom in the performance of their respective library roles.

Please share this email with the members of the committee, to be added to our earlier letter to all members.

Thank you

Leah Samson

From: Berringer, Heather <heather.berringer@ubc.ca>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:26 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kozakevich@dos.bc.ca
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: Letter in support of Drag Queen Story Time event at Okanagan Regional Library

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and Mr. Nettleton (Don),

I write today to communicate, as a committed professional librarian, my deep support and appreciation for the Okanagan Regional Library's recent Drag Queen Story Time event at the Kelowna Branch Library. I'm sure you are aware that such events have been taking place in other major Canadian (and American) cities, including Edmonton, Ottawa, Toronto, Regina, Saskatoon, and Halifax – just to name a few. I'm also sure you are aware that these events are not without controversy, and recognize that you are facing this yourselves.

I cannot state firmly enough my belief that public libraries provide important civic space for our communities. These spaces support literacy, creativity, learning, and personal growth. I can think of no better place for all members of our community, including our children, to gain understanding of societal values. The Canadian Federation of Library Association's Position Statement on Diversity and Inclusion states "...that a diverse and pluralistic society is central to our country's identity. Libraries have a responsibility to contribute to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion."

As you may know, many of this year's Kelowna Pride events were the best attended in the city's history. During my own time in Kelowna, I have seen incredible progress toward the promotion of spaces and attitudes inclusive of all gender expressions and sexual identities. I am so very proud to see our city grow in this way, and to see our Library system lead and contribute to increased understanding. I sincerely hope that it will continue to take on this leadership role, and to provide space that challenges intolerance, ignorance, and bigotry.

I am sure it goes without saying that my comments are made as a private citizen and professional, and that I do not speak for my employer. This said, I am sincerely grateful to be employed by an organization that embraces the principles of academic and intellectual freedom, and is committed to the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion. I hope and trust that the Okanagan Regional Library is committed to these same values, and strongly support its efforts in this regard.

All my best,
Heather

Heather Berringer BA, MLIS
Chief Librarian and Associate Provost, Learning Services
The University of British Columbia | Okanagan Campus | Syilx Okanagan Nation Territory
Phone 250 807 9126
heather.berringer@ubc.ca | @UBCOLibrary
<http://library.ok.ubc.ca>

Okanagan Regional Library Administrative Centre
1430 K. L. O. Rd, Kelowna, BC V1W 3P6

25 October 2019

Dear Ms. Kozakevich and Mr. Nettleton,

As members of the Department of Sociology at Okanagan College, we are writing to you to express our concerns about the new proposed Children's Programming Policy, which arose in response to Drag Queen Storytime.

The proposed policy would limit programming to what some individuals deem "neutral" and "non-controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues." We understand that Mr. Nettleton has expressed concern that programs like Drag Queen Storytime could result in a loss of support from community members who do not support the full expression of gender in society, and that Drag Queen Storytime "will be offensive to a significant segment of our society." Further, Mr. Nettleton has argued that such programs could promote a "potentially unsafe environment, or at least one that pushes a liberal agenda to children which many will feel uncomfortable with or strongly oppose." He believes programs of this kind could serve as a catalyst for bigotry and divisiveness by radical groups in the community.

We respectfully suggest that there is nothing neutral about framing gender diversity as "offensive." By taking this position, the library would effectively be validating the very bigotry it proposes to avoid. Likewise, suggesting that children's safety could potentially be threatened by an environment that celebrates gender diversity is non-neutral. On the contrary, research demonstrates that people who fear gender non-conforming children, youth and adults present a real source of danger to the LGBTQ community. Libraries play an important role in creating a society that is safer for all. Preventing bigots from feeling uncomfortable is not a laudable goal. Public libraries are a perfect place for programming such as Drag Queen Storytime.

As community members and college professors who will eventually be teaching many of the children who engage with the Okanagan Regional Library, we respectfully ask you not to proceed with passing the proposed policy, and to continue supporting Drag Queen Storytime.

Sincerely,

Anelyse Weiler
Priscillia Lefebvre
Shelly Ikebuchi
Melissa Munn
Xiaoping Li
Mitchell Walker
Patrick Lalonde
Meike Janina May

Department of Sociology, Okanagan College
1000 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC, V1Y 4X8

From: President
Date: Oct 1, 2019 7:35 PM
Subject: DQST . ORL Board support
To: Karla Kozakevich

Hello Karla,

I am writing on behalf of the BC Library Trustees Association to extend our support to the Okanagan Regional Library board. BCLTA has followed the media interest regarding the letter sent by your CEO to the ORL board regarding Drag Queen Storytime. As your board contemplates a response, here are a few resources BCLTA can offer:

If BCLTA can assist in any way, please feel free to reach out to either Babs Kelly, Executive Director (copied) or myself. Thank you.

Regards,

Mike

Mike P. Gagel

BCLTA President

FW: VIRL & Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson

Fri 2019-10-04 12:49 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Redacted]

From: Monica Gaucher
Sent: October 4, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: VIRL & Drag Queen Story Time

[Redacted]

Monica Gaucher,
Activist Librarian and Director of Public Services
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Road, Kelowna BC V1W 3P6
250-860-4033 x2484

From: Christopher Stephenson
Sent: October 4, 2019 11:48 AM
To: Christine McPhee <cmcphee@orl.bc.ca> Michal Utko <mutko@orl.bc.ca> Monica Gaucher <mgaucher@orl.bc.ca>
Cc: Ashley Machum <machum@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: VIRL & Drag Queen Story Time

Hi All,

I realize perhaps you're meeting soon to discuss some materials to submit to the Board.

In addition to the PEA letter, the BCLA letter, and other avenues of support, I wanted to pass this on. It was sent by a concerned librarian outside our system.

I know 2 of the librarians in this very good video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M1XsLsiykiY>

Thanks,
Chris

Fwd: Drag Queen Storytime at the Kelowna branch of the ORL

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich
Mon 2019-09-23 7:19 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Melinda Worfolk
Date: Sep 21, 2019 9:14 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime at the Kelowna branch of the ORL
To: Karla Kozakevich
Cc:

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing to you and the rest of the library board in response to reading the CBC News article about Okanagan Regional Library CEO Paul Nettleton's response to alleged complaints against the Kelowna branch's Drag Queen Storytimes.

I am deeply disappointed that the CEO of a public library would fail to vigorously defend a children's program that builds inclusion and celebrates diversity. Historically, public libraries have been at the forefront of equity and intellectual freedom movements, standing up for marginalized people and ideas.

Mr. Nettleton's memo states, "The announced program, while claiming to be promoting diversity and acceptance, will be offensive to a significant segment of our society." However, the Drag Queen Storytime program does not merely claim to promote diversity and acceptance; it actually does so, by introducing children to expression of difference in a positive environment. The benchmark for whether something promotes inclusion and diversity is not whether someone will be offended.

Furthermore, Mr. Nettleton also states he is concerned the library could lose its reputation as a "middle of the road" or "neutral" safe environment for children's programming. However, it is not the library's mandate to be either middle of the road or neutral when it comes to championing diversity and inclusion of marginalized groups. His statement also incorrectly paints all drag performance as sexualized, which it is not, any more than various other types of performance—e.g. theatre, dance—are all sexualized. His statement erroneously conflates gender identity and expression with sexuality, when they are not the same thing.

Ms. Kozakevich, I appreciated your comments to the CBC from your personal viewpoint (not as board chair) about how it is parents' choice to bring their children to library programs. I encourage you to advocate for diversity and inclusion in your official role as board chair. Board members should not fall into the trap of tolerating intolerance from small segments of the community. Along similar lines, I also encourage the board to put in place diversity and inclusivity training for board, executive and staff that incorporates LGBTQ2+ issues.

I will close with a quote from James LaRue, director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom: "When libraries announce a drag queen storytime, then get community pushback, then cancel, it does not turn the people who were complaining into supporters." Instead, it sends the message that public libraries are willing to bend to the loudest voices calling for intolerance, not necessarily the most informed or representative.

Sincerely,

Melinda Worfolk

cc: Kelowna Daily Courier

From: H Tran
Sent: October 1, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: some encouragement

Dear Mr. Nettleton, Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing this letter to the ORL Board to express my wholehearted support for the exclusion of Drag Queen Story Time from the children's programming at the ORL under the influence of the BOD.

Please do not allow your decision to be swayed by those who write to you in protest of this latest reconsideration because of their past involvement with, or appreciation for, library services. Many of these people are trained writers and very educated, having been partly inspired by a childhood of frequenting Okanagan libraries as children. Many of them are not, however, parents, psychologists, or properly trained early childhood educators. As both a parent and educator of elementary age children I stress that celebrating gender diversity, even in a fun and accessible way, is not age appropriate or psychologically sound practice for educating small children.

At a young age children are seeking to build a foundational understanding of who they are. They have a deep need to define themselves to become secure individuals. Such definitions can not be established when those around them plead for attention to their own level of need with costumes and make up that distract and disturb. While playing a role in providing a safe community is certainly something the public library should concern itself with, as outlined in its values of Equity and Intellectual Freedom in its most recent Strategic Plan, this is not the responsibility of children and should in no way involve them.

Mr. Nettleton is quite right to recommend the exclusion of Drag Queen Story Time on the basis of safety. If children are not in immediate physical danger from those reading stories we must consider their social and psychological safety above the needs of those reading to them. While teaching children to read and appreciate literature is nearly as important as teaching them to love peers who are different, they are currently being asked to reassure adults in their role as a captive audience. This is an unhealthy reversal of roles.

According to the ORL's Board Policies, one of the library's goals is as follows:

To provide a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox and critical ideas so necessary as correctives and stimulants in a society that depends for its survival on free competition of ideas.

As a beacon of literacy, learning, and free thought in our communities, I affirm the ORL's desire to be culturally-sensitive and to refrain from alienating any particular group within the community. However with great freedom (of ideas) comes great responsibility. The protection of children as innately vulnerable people must be put before the promotion of individuals who are vulnerable only as they identify *themselves* to be so.

Instead of wavering before the opportunity to champion the most vulnerable minds in a developmentally sound way in the Okanagan, I hope the regional library will foster an environment that bravely guards the future-beginning within its own Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Rachel Tran

From: Luke McLeod
Date: Oct 3, 2019 2:29 PM
Subject: Children's Programming Policy Memo
To: Karla Kozakevich
Cc:

Hello Karla,

I'm writing in regards to the board memo that Don Nettleton sent to the board on September 9th.

It is very concerning to me that the CEO would put forward a policy that is so detached from Okanagan Regional Libraries stated values, as well as the values of libraries as a whole. It is unfortunate that in 2019, there are still those leveraging the "libraries are neutral entities" argument to exclude and suppress marginalized voices. Neutrality isn't a viable option when the playing field isn't balanced for it is weighed heavily in favour of those with privilege. Neutrality also just isn't possible; turning a blind eye to hatred and bigotry is in itself taking a stance.

Prior to my current role, I worked as a public librarian in Nanaimo. I organized the city's first Drag Queen Story Hour, which attracted a huge crowd and was well loved. Yes, we absolutely had those who did not approve, but our Executive Director supported us in delivering on Vancouver Island Regional Library's mission and values. Inclusive library programming does the exact opposite of what the memo suggest; it helps the community celebrate their differences. The proposal to exclude and suppress voices only allows hate, racism, and bigotry to grow.

Drag Queen Story Hour goes far beyond ORL. It's seen massive success across the continent. I encourage the board to look at the facts (which I'm sure librarians all over BC will cite, link, or footnote in letters they bombard you with). Please also look to larger library groups, like BCLA.

I also encourage the board to seek out training on gender identity and LGBTQ2+ issues. There are lots of local organizations that could shed some perspective, QMUNITY and TransFocus to name a couple.

Thanks for your time.

Luke

Luke McLeod

Learning Commons Librarian

Library Administration

Vancouver Island University

The VIU community acknowledges and thanks the Snuneymuxw, Quw'utsun and Tla'Amin, on whose traditional lands we teach, learn, research, live and share knowledge.

From: Shawn Feddes
Sent: October 4, 2019 10:11 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hi,

I just finished reading the ORL management memo to the Okanagan Regional Library Board and was dismayed and disheartened. The memo's casting of the Drag Queen Storytime as being associated with radical groups and somehow outside of mainstream society is deeply troubling. I think it betrays an unfortunate attitude on the part of ORL management towards the LGBTQ+ members of the community it serves.

I work in a public library system in British Columbia that has hosted a Drag Queen storytime within a suburban community not dissimilar to Kelowna. The response was overall positive and I think it was an important message to the local community that we are an ally. There was also mild controversy both within and outside the organization. In the end it was relatively minor but it was hard on my coworkers who hosted the event and are members of the queer community. Without speaking for them, it appeared the most difficult part was the few coworkers that were not supportive. I was very proud though to work in a library system that had the spine to stay the course and the management who was willing to risk some criticism to support their staff and to our LGBTQ+ patrons. In the end, a couple of staff complained, a few difficult phone calls were fielded from the public and then the event went off fine, was well attended and generally passed by as the hundreds of other storytimes do.

Truly supporting minority groups of any kind means you need to have the willingness to take risks and actually stake some sort of position. You can't just point and the few books you have on diverse families and call it a day. ORL Management's memo to the board is a clear message to any LGBTQ+ staff members that they don't have the support management. It is also a clear message to all staff that their management is terrified of any controversy or general risk-taking. Libraries will always struggle for relevancy and if this is the tone you take I worry about our future.

Thanks,
Shawn Feddes

Date: October 9, 2019 at 11:00:12 PM PDT

Subject: ORL CEO's comments concerning Drag Queen Storytime

Dear Councillor Wooldridge,

I am dismayed and quite dispirited by the comments from Don Nettleton in the memo to the ORL Board concerning Drag Queen Storytime. I am hoping that you, as my City of Kelowna representative, will be willing to ensure that these remarks do not go unchallenged, and that there will be no more crazy paranoia about something so successful.

I am now retired, but had a long career -35+ years -as a professional librarian. After university, I worked as a children's librarian in Kelowna Library, then left for a number of management positions in public libraries in Edmonton, Burnaby and North Vancouver. I also did community development work supporting & establishing public libraries in the NWT. I returned to Kelowna in 2010 and worked full time at ORL Headquarters as Adult Collections Librarian until my retirement in mid-2017.

I have always been involved in library associations & civil liberties groups, particularly in activities relating to intellectual freedom and equitable access. I was also active in one of the bargaining units at ORL - PEA (Professional Employees Association), which represents the professional librarians.

I would be happy to talk to you by phone or meet in person to give you my thoughts about what is going on at ORL and/or to help you with any general background information about public libraries, programming, etc.

But, here (briefly?!) is what I think should happen : the Board needs to look again at its strategic plan (& the mission, values, goals, etc that form that plan), and "lean" hard on that when discussing this situation (and particularly Mr. Nettleton's questionable opinions & beliefs.) This plan was completed with the help of one of Canada's finest public librarians, Ken Roberts, & is a really solid piece of work. This should help. It shouldn't come down to who has the loudest voice, most names on a petition, etc. It should be grounded in what this particular organization has said publicly about its purpose and its values, & should be informed by general library practices & principles.

Which brings me to another point: there is a long established principle in public libraries that libraries (staff, board members, management) do not act "in loco parentis" -- this means it is up to a parent (or legal guardian) to decide what a child borrows, or looks up on the Internet, & of course, which programmes or activities s/he attends.

Frieda Whales (how can you not love that name?!) did not pop up unannounced at that storytime...families chose to go to that advertised event! And it was so well attended, with Kelowna's fabulous children's staff there helping. Libraries everywhere occasionally have special guests at storytimes - mayors, firefighters, hockey players, people from other countries sharing their culture & stories, people with disabilities sharing stories, etc etc. Drag Queen Storytimes are popping up in many libraries...and, no, I don't think it's a nefarious plot by those folks in San Francisco!

If I can help you at all in understanding library "stuff" or what may be going on at ORL, please do not hesitate to contact me. My telephone [REDACTED]

I will be writing a letter to the ORL Board. I hope I can count on you to not allow this situation to be buried in a lot of talk about needed policies for programming, etc.

Thanks for reading this.

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Jo May

Leah Samson

From: Leslie Grenier [mailto:leslie.grenier@okanaganlibraries.ca]
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:38 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [mailto:don.nettleton@okanaganlibraries.ca]
Cc: Celine Thompson
Subject: Support for Drag Queen Story Time

September 18, 2019
Leslie Grenier MSW, RSW

Don Nettleton
Karla Kozakevich
Okanagan Regional Library

Dear Mr. Nettleton, Ms. Kozakevich,

I am aware that the ORL is meeting today and that one area of discussion is item 5.3 *Children's Programming Policy Discussion* specifically the question of whether or not Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) should continue at ORL locations.

I am a clinical counsellor- I work with young persons who are sexually and gender diverse, I also run Kelowna's sexual and gender diversity youth group. Sexually and gender diverse children, youth, and adults are at greater risk for anxiety, depression, and suicidality. The LGBTQ+ community experiences increased mental health challenges due to minority stress- the idea that society (though things are getting better) is hostile to minorities causing psychological distress.

In Mr. Nettleton's memo he states the program does not in fact promote diversity and acceptance, and will be offensive to a significant portion of society. It is supported in the academic evidence that exposure in a safe and supportive environment is one effective method to promote compassion and empathy and that this will align with Mr. Nettleton's desire for the library to be a safe place.

It is important to note that yes, DQST will be offensive to a portion of the Okanagan but they have the right to not participate. As previously mentioned, sexually and gender diverse persons experience poorer outcomes than their heterosexual peers, again, due to prejudice from society. Research shows that outcomes for LGBTQ+ children, youth, and adults can be improved if they have access to safe adults, the ability to engage with supportive peers and allies, and the ability to participate in sexually and gender diverse community. There is no research to support that indirect exposure to programs like these have any harm on those who find it offensive and choose not to participate.

DQST provides a setting for children and parents to engage with sexually and gender diverse persons in a safe environment. It allows children to see that to be sexually and gender diverse is accepted- this is beneficial two fold; as it encourages and normalizes allyship and lets children who are sexually and gender diverse themselves know that the library is a safe place for them.

Sincerely,

Leslie Grenier MSW RSW
Clinical Counsellor- YD33
Etcetera Team Lead
Pronouns: she/her

Leah Samson

From: Pride Resource Centre <prc@ubcsuo.ca>
Sent: September 18, 2019 2:57 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Cc: Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips
Subject: We love Drag Queen Story Time!

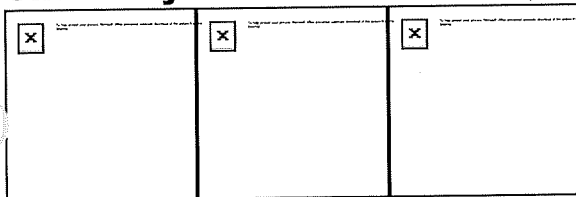
Hi Don,

Thank you SO much to the ORL for having Drag Queen Story Time at Kelowna's downtown branch. This is a much needed event that I wish was available when I was a child. Events like this are important in fostering a love for reading, diversity, and inclusivity in children.

Thank you again to the ORL for hosting Drag Queen Story Time events at Kelowna's downtown library.

Kiri Witmer

**Pride Resource Centre
University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus**



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Leah Samson

From: Kevin Craig [mailto:kcraig@gmail.com]
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:41 PM
To: [mailto:kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca]
Cc: Don Nettleton
Subject: Children's Programming at ORL

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing in support of an inclusive and welcoming public library system. With that in mind, I urge you and your fellow board members to vote in favour of Drag Queen Storytime at tomorrow's meeting.

The memo attached to your board package fundamentally misses the point: Queer people exist. Having LGBTQ+ representation in our libraries is not political; it is simply a reflection of the community you serve. There is nothing 'political' about parents choosing to take their kids to storytime with someone dressed extravagantly. What IS political is trying to cancel such an event or calling it inappropriate. The person delivering the programming is an early childhood educator and literally the only difference from any other storytime is the facilitator's outfit.

Cancelling a popular, well-attended program would send a clear and negative message to your users, in an attempt to placate outdated, bigoted views.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kevin Craig

From: Mary-Sue Nichols [mailto:msnichols2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:29 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: children's storytime

Hello Mr. Nettleton,

I don't often write letters like this, and am not well versed in how to do so. So I'll just cut straight to my point: I think you're offside in your language choice in the memo you sent the ORL library board. You're showing your biases in so many ways.

I don't have strong opinions, generally, but two of my children work as pages at the ORL in Vernon, and I attended story time when my children were young on a consistent basis. One of the reasons for that is that I wanted my children to be exposed to diversity and I relied on the library to provide that. I had enough on my plate trying to raise my three that I didn't want to have to look far and wide for exposure to diverse issues. I took them to the library for that.

Growing up my father worked for the Canadian Embassy and we traveled extensively. When I was 16-18 years old we lived in Pakistan. We had a privileged life there and I was raised in a rather protected Christian format. I went to a night market and saw my first drag queens performing and I was so shocked. I didn't even know such a thing existed and didn't know how to react. Thankfully, the people of Pakistan are very open minded about such things and have long accepted that everyone is born differently (until the Taliban infiltrated the villages and killed people who were born this way) and so I learned from them to be accepting and just stay curious about things like this that weren't part of my own reality. Here's the thing: children are curious and they want to be exposed to things so that they are normalized. It's only when they're taught that differences are BAD and not to be accepted do we have problems in our societies. Please don't be like the Taliban. Please be open to normalizing all parts of the human psyche. We can't all be born straight, white, privileged folk. We need help in accepting everyone. Please do some research of your own so you feel "safe" around these things that you weren't exposed to early enough in life.

All the best to you,
Mary-Sue Nichols

Leah Samson

From: crystal G [redacted]
Sent: September 18, 2019 8:55 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]
Subject: Diverse Programming

Hello,

I am writing to make it clear that I support the diverse programming available within the Okanagan Regional Library, specifically Drag Queen Story Hour. I think it is wonderful and important that children of all ages are exposed to the diverse members of our community. Over the past few years I have been very frustrated/saddened/angry that I was raised to fear or shun people who did not fall into the dominant cis culture. I think it is horrible that I had to unlearn hate. I felt so much distressing cognitive dissonance over the LGBTQ2IA community and now that I have unlearned that hate I no longer have that inner struggle. I feel that programming like this will allow children to grow up with a healthy worldview and feel free to make choices about who they are and who they want to be. And that is DQST if not a modern take on Mr Dressup??

This is coming from a concerned citizen in Kelowna, BC.

Crystal Grymaloski

Leah Samson

From: Trina Manca <Trina.Manca@sq23.bc.ca>
Sent: September 18, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: DQST--please prioritize

Dear Don Nettleton and Karla Kozakevich,

I have been informed that the Okanagan Regional Library Board is considering changing policy wordings and no longer hosting Drag Queen Story Time at local branches. I am sending this email to go on record in OPPOSITION of the removal of DQST and any other pushes to reduce diversity at our public library.

I am deeply saddened that you, Mr. Nettleton, do not understand the importance of diverse programming. The ORL mission statement includes a commitment to "relevant information and entertainment" of which Drag Queen Story Time fulfills both, and claims to be dedicated to "connecting curious minds" which is exactly what DQST does. How you can be considering no longer hosting this programming, which has been very well attended was beyond me, until I read your memo. Then it became clear. In this you state that management has been "made aware" of DQST. You then go on to include a number of phrases and statements that lead me to infer that you are not an ally, and that you do not recognize the rights of LGBT2QIA+ people in the Okanagan. While you acknowledge that "almost half of your staff" is "strongly in support," the issue is coming to the table because it could be "needlessly divisive" and you believe that it deviates from a safe, neutral environment that everybody in the community will find acceptable.

Again, I would like to go on record in opposition to changing board programming and policy language around children's programming to make it "more neutral." We are entering 2020 and it is certainly not a time for libraries to be taking giant leaps backward, to be devaluing diversity, to be undermining the power of children to make meaning with their own beautiful minds, or to be deciding as a board what topics are potentially "age inappropriate" or "divisive." If anything you should be actively working to broaden your policies.

Every person deserves to see themselves in the materials and the programming provided by the library. The library can prove itself as a SAFE and INCLUSIVE space by providing programming that recognizes the rights of all patrons, and CELEBRATES the diversity within. I implore you to recognize that your personal viewpoints should not direct how you run the Okanagan Regional Library as it is your mandate to serve the community as a whole. Drag Queen Story Time and other diverse programming should happen more frequently at ORL branches, not less.

Sincerely,
Trina Manca
Teacher Librarian and mom of 2

From: Chelsea McRandom
Sent: September 17, 2019 8:15 PM
To: Stephanie Thoreson
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Drag Queen Story Time

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to express my solidarity with the library and its inclusive environment. I firmly believe that by providing a space for children to see and experience, just another form of art, is important. These gentlemen who bring stories of acceptance, hearing, seeing and caring for one another, while evoking imagination with the character they portray as a drag queen, is an important learning experience.

Children learn by play and express with art, Drag has been around, as an expressive art, for centuries in all forms and across different civilizations. Not to take anything away from the insane amount of talent it takes to be a queen, but when broken down to a child it is as simple as; an adult dressing up, without fear and judgement but embraced with understanding, while creating a character. It's theatre.

Its providing a space where children can see, in real world examples, different mediums of imagination and creativity. These queens create representation. They are visible and I believe that those in opposition to their visibility have taken their beliefs and opinions and mistaken them for facts. Would they be the same adults that; shame a small boy for exploring play by using nail polish or playing dress up with a dress?

It's already known how detrimental and outdated that practice is.

The fact of the matter is, these opportunities allow for development of empathy, understanding, community and can help towards creating the cognitive ability to see there are ways to be imaginative and artistic outside of what they would normally see. All of this in taking place in an environment made for safety and education.

I truly hope that the voice of a small minority, who would use an agenda of division and exclusion (on children no less), is dismissed and the library stands on the side of community and education.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Turner
Early Childhood Educator

From: Erika Wiklund
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 12:08 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Good morning,

I am incredibly disappointed in your response to the drag queen story time. I believe your bigotry toward those of diverse culture and gender is completely unacceptable and should not influence young minds.

Having children engage with people of varying race, culture, religion, and gender can help expand their minds and create a less mentally and physically violent future for everyone.

Drag queens have been part of a marginalized community since the art began, and have been recipients of incredible violence including murder. Your statement, which stems from your personal discomfort and beliefs belongs nowhere near our public system, of which drag queens are a part of and belong to.

Those who are bigoted do not deserve to be protected. If they do not enjoy drag queen story time, they don't need to bring their children. They can go to the many other programs which are geared toward their beliefs.

I expect you to apologize personally to the drag queens who were kind enough to put themselves in the public spot light for the better of your library.

--

Thank you,

Erika Wiklund

Leah Samson

From: Andrew Greer <andrew@purppl.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:54 PM
To: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time - Support

Hi Don and Karla,

I'm hoping my email is repetitive and hardly needed.

I fully support the Drag Queen Story Time (DQST) at all library branches. As a new parent I expect to take my child to attend story time. If my child is indeed LGBTQ+ I expect a safe space rather than a place of exclusion.

The policy to exclude this type of programming is divisive and short sighted. We are a city who supports diversity - not one who shuts it out.

In addition, my company works hard every day to change systems that exclude people in our community. We want to see this sort of diverse programming continue. We are in the Innovation Centre next door to the downtown branch and would welcome a conversation about this.

I urge you to reconsider the policy direction to loudly and proudly support DQST and other inclusive programming.

Sincerely,
Andrew

Cofounder and new Father

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Matt Canzer <matthewcanzer@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:32 PM
To: Don Nettleton; <kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time - Support

Hi there,

I read with interest the CEO's backgrounder contained in the Agenda for tomorrow's AGM, setting out the potential issues with DQST. While I think the concerns are overblown and that this will not be as 'divisive' as you suggest, I understand why you would seek policy directives for future such events. It makes sense to have reasonable guidelines to ensure that children's programming is age appropriate.

Drag Queens are age-appropriate. They are (usually) men dressing as women, partly to entertain and partly to show how gender is performed by all of us. As long as they are fully clothed and use age-appropriate language, there is no good reason not to support DQST as age-appropriate.

If you are going to consider any guidelines or policies, I would encourage you to promote diversity and a multiplicity of cultures. The community in downtown Kelowna is not the exact same community in Vernon or it Rutland. Local programming should reflect the local community. Downtown Kelowna has a vibrant LGBT community, and we should have local programming that includes our community.

Respectfully,
Matt Canzer

Loah Samsor

From: Valene Johnson, valenedawn@gmail.com
Sent: September 18, 2019 7:29 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time (DQST)

To Ms. Kozakevich and Mr. Nettleton

I'm writing this email today to show support and gratitude for the Drag Queen Story Time that is happening at the Okanagan Regional Library.

I'm a parent and an Early Childhood Educator in Kelowna and when I heard that the library would be hosting this fabulous event, I was elated. It's amazing to see a prominent organization like ORL hosting such a diverse and inclusive event.

However, yesterday it was brought to my attention that you, Mr. Nettleton, have concerns about this event and are speaking on behalf of board members who also have concerns about this event.

I want to touch on a few points that were mentioned in the memo that was circulated on September 9th 2019.

First, "discussions related to sexual orientation, gender selection, religious teachings, politics and other diverse issues should be promoted and debated in adult or age appropriate settings..."

Now I'm not sure why DQST would encourage discussion related to sexual orientation or gender selection. Also, the term gender selection is incorrect as people do not choose a gender. Parents and Caregivers who choose to attend the DQST will be able to explain to their children exactly what they are going to watch. Families who choose to not attend can also explain to their children why they aren't going. This is a fairly easy conversation for families to have and doesn't impact their child's development at all.

The fact that some board members think that DQST pushes a liberal political agenda is so absolutely ludicrous that I'm left wondering if people still think that LGBTQ2+ is a political ideology. IT IS NOT. It is not a lifestyle choice, it is not attached to any political views...how absurd. People who are a part of the LGBTQ2+ community belong to all religions, all political views and all communities.

I'm appalled that you Mr. Nettleton could think that promoting inclusiveness and diversity would be a negative thing and could be offensive to a significant segment of our society. The only people who will be offended, are the same people that are actively against people simply because they are different. This is called bigotry and as a community we should not be catering to the views of bigots, racists or anyone who actively tries to deny rights to all people.

What I do know is this...children who grow up with acceptance, positive role models, diverse experiences and knowledge about the world around them, grow up to be respectful, caring, and inclusive of others. Community organizations like ORL should be promoting diversity and inclusiveness across the board instead of worrying about the bigots. As we know, people who are a part of the LGBTQ2+ community, belong, and should feel safe and included. There are children who attend DQST who are a part of the LGBTQ2+ community, and how amazing for a young person to grow up knowing that their community supports them and values them. This is what will build strong communities and a strong society. This is what will increase literacy rates among children and families. This is what will foster acceptance and belonging.

If the ORL chooses to not move forward with DQST, it will be a great loss to a community and a big win for people who hold such hateful views as thinking that gender identity or sexual orientation is a choice.

Sincerely,
Val Johnson

Leah Samson

From: Ian Taylor <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]@rdos.bc.ca; Monica Gaucher
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time Input

Hi folks,

I'm writing as a frequent user of the Downtown Kelowna Library branch, longterm kelowna resident, and supporter of Drag Queen Story Time events. As the turnout suggests, your community is ready for and enthusiastic about this excellent event.

Please continue to host them. Consider how discontinuing this event would reflect the library, and it's credibility as an organization that exists to support marginalized groups through education and programming. Events such as Drag Queen story time can be vital to showing LGBTQ youth that they have a home here in Kelowna, and a broader community that is also supportive of them.

Furthermore, please consider: ***An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code*** (Bill C-16, 2016) which has been law since June 19th 2017.

The bill is intended to protect individuals from discrimination within the sphere of federal jurisdiction and from being the targets of hate propaganda, as a consequence of their gender identity or their gender expression. The bill adds "gender identity or expression" to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the list of characteristics of identifiable groups protected from hate propaganda in the *Criminal Code*.

Our country is supportive - even in law - of differences in gender identity and expression, and should champion acts from marginalized communities.

Please continue to allow the library to be a progressive space.

Thank-you,
Ian Taylor

Leah Samson

From: S Crawford [seyvonne.crawford@gmail.com]
Sent: September 18, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Don Nettleton; [kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time Kelowna

Good afternoon,

I was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting today regarding the Drag Queen story time. I think that doing the drag queen story time is so great. I love that there are people that will volunteer their time and energy to create a fun activity for children to get them engaged in reading/stories.

I hope that there will be more Drag queen story times and that there will always be people who will want to make reading a fun and engaging experience.

Cheers,
Seyvonne

Leah Samson

From: Jen Bruce <jenthebruce@gmail.com>
Sent: September 19, 2019 8:16 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I read your memo regarding the potential perceived inappropriateness of Drag Queen Storytelling. While you have made your own personal political/cultural/ societal leanings abundantly clear in the way you have chosen to present your concerns, you claim to want to maintain the "safe and neutral environment that everyone in the community will find acceptable". It seems to me that disallowing the involvement of the LGBTQ+ community from participating in community literacy programs is a fairly good way to ensure that the people of that particular community know that the library is NOT a safe and neutral environment. You site concerns about alienating or losing support from a significant section of your community. I agree with you that this "controversy" has the potential to alienate a large group of people... my concern is that you are choosing to side with the wrong group of people. You are proposing to alienate a group who wants nothing more than the love and inclusivity that the rest of us have always been privileged to feel so that you don't risk alienating a group of hateful, bigoted people seeking to exclude them. Would you rather create a safe place for everyone to feel included and welcome or a place where only straight, gender binary, non-minority people feel welcome? Because that is the environment you are proposing.

According to Walton, a slippery slope argument is a logical fallacy in which one asserts that a relatively insignificant first step leads to a chain of related events culminating in some distant but significant event (usually negative). While you stop just short of actually claiming that Drag Queen Storytelling is a slippery slope to some untold travesty of good taste and safety, you come very close. I just want you to know that I (and likely others) recognize that for what it is: a logical fallacy. It does not strengthen your position.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Jennifer Bruce
Kelowna, BC

Walton, D. N. (1992). *Slippery Slope Arguments*. Clarendon Press.

From: Jodie Foster <jodielynnfoster@hotmail.ca>
Sent: September 18, 2019 11:05 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Dear Mr. Nettleton and Ms. Kozakevich,

It has come to my attention that there is discussion surrounding the appropriateness of offering a Drag Queen Story Time to children at Okanagan Regional Library Branches. I would like to take some time out of my day to explain my opinion as to why I think that these sessions are very important. I recently took my two nieces (5 and 6) to the Drag Queen Story Time at the downtown branch of ORL on September 14th. Let me share with you that the only explicitly LGBT thing there were the queens themselves. When talking with my nieces after the stories, the theme they took away from the stories that were read, were about bullying and how you should never bully or make fun of someone for being different. Yes, the themes of these stories can also be applied to LGBT issues, but at this young age, the kids are just learning acceptance and kindness to those who may be different.

Please don't take our story time away. I have been bugged for months about when there will be another one (we first went to the one offered at Indigo as part of Kelowna Pride). I acknowledge that some parents do not wish their children to attend, and I ask them to please come to the library before or after Drag Queen Story Time and let us have our hour.

Respectfully,
Jodie Foster MSc

[REDACTED]

From: megan potter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:44 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hello Don and Karla,

I has come to my attention that ORL Board is discussing one of the best attended story times at the library: Drag Queen Story Time. It appears there is concern that having Drag Queens tell stories to children is "too divisive." Don't you think that is an awfully closed-minded way to look at things? Aren't Libraries supposed to foster learning and the expanding on minds?

Canadians often proudly claim that our country and communities are a 'melting pot' or a 'mosaic' of cultures. The term 'culture' does not strictly apply to folks from different countries or religions. 'Culture' is "the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other **social group**." Drag is a *culture* that deserves to be seen and celebrated just like any other culture within our community. It is well recognized the *gender is not binary* It is a wide-spectrum of people who are complex. Through inviting a wide-array of cultures and genders to interact with youth and the general public we further people's understanding, respect and acceptance of different cultures in our community.

By inviting a diverse array of *people* to speak to our youth, we are educating them about alternative lifestyles outside our our traditional wester that may well reflect who some of those kids are at their core. Youth in the LGBTQ+ community are 14 times more likely to commit or attempt suicide. Give our local kids a chance to see that they are not alone, that they can be who they genuinely are, and that everyone deserves to be respected, seen and valued.

Do not take diversity away from our youth. Do not stay in a close-minded box.

Sincerely,

--

Megan Potter
Unceded Sylix Territory

Leah Samson

From: rghunt@telus.net
Sent: September 18, 2019 7:01 AM
To: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story time

September 18, 2019

To whom it may concern,

Re: Drag Queen Story Time

I am a lover of art and culture. As well as a believer of freedom of expression. As we live in our beautiful country of Canada we must acknowledge we are free to choose our leisure activities.

I support the LGBTQ+ community and encourage anyone to attend the Drag Queen story hour. There you will find children and parents entertained by talented members in our community.

The fantastic part of this is.... If you are offended by the contents you do not need to attend the event.

As a mother of two amazing children I have raised them to be accepting of every human being on the planet. We may not agree or understand the other person's ideas or attitude. We must respect everyone.

Going forward the library can choose between two paths: allow people who are uneducated to quash the talent and creativity of a story time Or stand up for people who are putting themselves out there to teach children we are not born in a box, we are all wonderful just the way we are. And can express ourselves in a beautiful way.

The library is a resource for every walk of life to utilize. I implore you to not remove the Drag Queen story time for our community.

Thank you for your time,

Rhonda Hunt

Leah Samson

From: TJ Roberts <tj@dualityprojects.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 11:12 PM
To: kkozakevich@rdos-bc.ca
Cc: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag queen story time

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

I am deeply disturbed by some of the assertions made by the ORL CEO in a memo within the agenda package for the meeting of September 18.

Given that the turnout for drag queen story time was over double the typical attendance, the speculation about so many people potentially being offended is ludicrous. Your CEO also seems undereducated on gender and sexuality - "lifestyle choice" is so archaic a view that it makes me wonder if your CEO has actually seen fit to do any reading on the subject in the last few decades. I'm sure there are some great recommendations that staff there could make for him.

As a resident, taxpayer, grandparent and queer woman, I can tell you that no one will be offended if anyone who believes that drag queen story time would not be for them just take a pass and not attend. If you think that excluding events that encourage diversity, empathy and understanding (ok, and maybe some fun as well) in order to avoid the possibility of causing offense is acceptable then we really aren't too far away from book burnings are we?

Oh, and by the way, links to similar events in US cities implying that there is an international conspiracy of drag queens is nasty, ignorant fear mongering. Seriously?

Leave the drag queens and the families that want to listen to children's stories out of whatever mess it is that Mr. Nettleton seems to be trying to kick up. And check on whatever HR policies or internal training seem to be missing that one of your employees can demonstrate ignorance and intolerance at the highest pay grade in the system.

TJ Roberts

430 - 925 Leon Avenue
Kelowna, BC

Leah Samson

From: Kendra L. [redacted] <kendra.langrish@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:57 PM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted] <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hello!

I read that there is a meeting tomorrow (Sept 18) at ORL headquarters to discuss the Children's Programming Policy in relation to Drag Queen Story Times in the Central Okanagan. Unfortunately I am unable to attend in person, but I wanted to email in to voice my support for Drag Queen Story Time.

I think this program is a great way to teach and promote inclusivity and diversity to kids. By seeing and interacting with drag queens in the casual and completely age-appropriate setting of Story Time, children learn that it is normal and acceptable (and fun!) for people to present themselves in whatever way makes them happy, regardless of expectations for their gender. The effects of this can be helpful both in teaching children to be accepting of people they interact with in their everyday lives who don't ascribe to gender expectations, and in helping kids who may identify as LGBT+ in the future to better understand themselves. As a gender non-conforming member of the LGBT+ community myself, I can totally see how attending a program like this as a child could have had a positive impact on my development by showing me visible proof that it was possible to step outside of the prescribed boundaries of my assigned gender and still be a regular, functioning member of society.

Programs like Drag Queen Story Time are evidence of the ORL's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, which I personally appreciate very very much! I hope this program continues on well into the future and gets more and more successful as time goes on.

All the best,

Kendra Langrish

Leah Samson

From: Stephanie Wade <spwade234@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:20 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag queen story time

Hello. I am writing this letter in regards to the drag queen story time. I am the parent of a transgender child who fits into the age group that this program would be ran for. This would be a beautiful event to run for ANY child. The wording in the society minutes is alarming, and disturbing. It's interesting that there is only the worry of losing those that you may offend by running a program of this type, and not worrying about the backlash of canceling it. To stay neutral would be to be supportive of every member of the community, not just the side that seems safest and most comfortable. If the main objective of a library is to have ALL families and children loving to read, then it would make sense to have members of ALL walks of life feel safe, wanted and accepted. To be a member of the LGBTQ2S community is not a "selection". This is who people are. If the worry is that there will be a greater division, well, they say knowledge is power, so maybe there's no better place for people to have to face this than in a library. Yes there could be complaints, yes there could be demonstrators, but there could also be acceptance, an opportunity for people to learn and grow as a community, and that is actually what matters most. Sometimes things need to get uncomfortable to change. Please reconsider stopping these events. You would be doing a great disservice to everyone in every community by not giving people a chance to be seen for who they are.

Steph

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Sydney Hunt <syd.hunt99@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:09 PM
To: Don Nettleton; <kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Good evening,

I am writing to you this evening to stress my support for Drag Queen Story Time at the Okanagan Library. Unfortunately, I will be unable to make it to your board meeting tomorrow morning due to scheduling conflicts.

I would like to point out that the inclusive space of the library has been known to welcome everyone, no matter of group they belong to, to engage in the sharing of knowledge and personal growth. It is for this reason I have the utmost respect for the ORL.

Drag Queen Story Time provides the magic of having princesses read to you, while also encouraging diversity and acceptance. It is everything I would have wanted when I was learning to read.

This event is appreciated by the community, and by removing a program providing a source of diversity, acceptance, and warmth, you will be shutting out a group of future scholars from feeling comfortable to proceed with their academic careers.

Thank you for establishing this program, it has been aa beloved event in the community, and I hope I will be able to bring my children in future years.

Thank you for your time,
Sydney Hunt

Leah Samson

From: Amber Choo <amber.choo04@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 6:29 PM
To: [redacted]@rdos.bc.ca; Don Nettleton
Subject: drag queen story time

Hi Don and Karla,

Just wanted to say that I fully support drag queen story time at our community libraries. The queens are cultural icons that support our community and we should love them back in return. That's all drag really is. It's about loving others and about loving yourself.

Thanks,
Amber Choo

[redacted]
Kelowna BC

Leah Samson

From: Carol Taylor <hicat2@icloud.com>
Sent: September 14, 2019 5:03 PM
To: Michal Utko; Don Nettleton
Subject: DRAG QUEEN STORY TIME

Dear Michael and Don,

This morning I attended Story Time in the downtown branch. Miss Frieda Whales and Ms Valerie Rose delighted children, their parents, grandparents and all others engaged with stories of a dancing giraffe and a singing beluga. The children danced and sang along with two impressive Drag Queens.

The nay sayers missed an opportunity to experience a natural outpouring of love and inclusion. I hope they will test their negative perspectives and venture into a future Drag Queen Story Telling event.

I thank you and the welcoming staff at the library.

Sincerely,

Carol Taylor
Teacher SD. 23 (retired)

Sent from my iPad

Leah Samson

From: Catie Balehowsky <cbalehowsky@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:13 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Story-telling

Dear Mr. Don Nettleton and Mrs. Karla Kosakevich,

I am writing to you regarding the discussion on children's programming policies at Okanagan libraries and specifically, the discussion on Drag Queen Storytelling and whether or not it is too 'controversial' for youngsters and their parents. I wholeheartedly disagree with those members in our society who believe Drag Queen storytelling should not be a part of storytelling in the Okanagan. It saddens me to hear that there is even a discussion surrounding whether or not to include this diversity at all, and furthermore, I believe this to solidify already toxic stigmas surrounding those who dress in drag, or who do not adhere to the binary categories of the hegemonic discourse.

Kelowna prides itself on inclusivity and diversity, and has the opportunity to continue to be a welcoming and safe place for those who are present - regardless of their sexual orientation or expressed gender identity. The wonderful thing about parents bringing their children to Okanagan libraries for story-time is that they can choose which sessions to attend (or not attend), and it allows them the opportunity to have discussions with their children regarding diversity and acceptance, or any other subject that came up during that time.

The political views of the ORL do not have to take sides, I only ask that we move forward with the rest of the world in inclusivity and acceptance of those who are different.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Catie Balehowsky

--

Catie Balehowsky

Kelowna, BC

Leah Samson

From: Erin Strong <eringaster@hotmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:18 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Cc: Erin Strong
Subject: Drag Queen Story-time - Inclusive and collective messaging must continue.

To whom it may concern.

The Downtown Kelowna, Rutland, Mission Libraries's best attended story time is seen by my personal segment of the community as collective, age appropriate and such a great way to teach empathy and inclusion to our kids. As a heterosexual mother of a 6 year old in grade two in the upper mission, our family is fully supportive of this programming directed towards my child's age group. I hope it continues to pave the way for inclusiveness and open mindedness in our community.

As a data driven business professional, I am curious as to where the data came from that drove the statement that "many people do not agree or are offended by Drag Queens". Was there a survey done? Did a particular segment of the community attend the event in great numbers and express great concern about a particular and specific aspect of the message? What number does "many" represent? What aspect of the message did they disagree with?

I am unable to attend the board meeting tomorrow as I have to work, however I needed to passionately express my commitment to diversity and its importance in shaping our leaders and citizens of tomorrow and express my support for this and many other diverse cultural communications to continue through out library to our children.

I am truly disappointed this continues as a discussion point in our community and I trust the OLA will do the right thing.

Thank you.

Erin Strong, BBA, CPHR, Heterosexual Female

2502128359

Leah Samson

From: Clea Haugo <clea.haugo@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:32 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

Hello,

I was so excited to see that the Okanagan downtown library was offering an inclusive program such as Drag Queen storytime for children. I have a toddler and attend lots of children's programs as well as being a frequent library user myself. I would absolutely take her to this program. I want her to grow up learning about diversity and meeting all types of people. It would be a huge disappointment especially for those in marginalized communities to see themselves reflected in the library public programming only to have that cancelled due to a small number of narrow minded individuals.

Frustrated citizen,

Clea Haugo

Leah Samson

From: Natalie Johal <natalie.johal@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:11 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

Dear Mr. Nettleton and Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing to express my profound disappointment upon hearing that the Drag Queen Storytime event may not continue.

This is deeply troubling on a number of levels. First, I believe that libraries are guardians of knowledge and havens of inclusivity. Libraries are, and should be, allies and antidotes to all forms of ignorance and bigotry.

To simply cancel the event in the face of some controversy signals to those few angry people that their opinions matter most and it only reinforces their power and privilege. It amplifies hatred, it emboldens those who choose not to open their hearts and minds to progress, and it gives strength to those who seek to oppress. At the same time, it tells marginalized folks that they are not welcome - that they belong on the outermost fringes of society and they dare not step out.

My feeling is that those who oppose drag have not bothered to learn what it's about: joy, self-expression, artistry, and self-affirmation. How many of the people online who rallied against this event even bother to read, I wonder?

People have every right to avoid the library when the event is taking place if they find drag to be out of alignment with their moral or spiritual beliefs. It would be very easy to do. The folks putting on the event are asking for a modest amount of time and space in our community - an hour or so every few months - surely we can offer that.

We also need to think about what kind of community we're trying to build - a number of my queer and gender diverse friends fled Kelowna because they didn't feel safe or free here. I thought that was changing. I was pleased to see how many people support Drag Queen Storytime. To take this event away is a step in the wrong direction. Progress is so hard fought and slow to achieve, but it can be squashed in an instant. Please choose wisely and with your conscience.

Best,
Natalie

Leah Samson

From: Tessa Russell <tdmrasset@hotmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 11:22 PM
To: Don Nettleton; Jeremy Sundin; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko; Leah Samson
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the program help at the ORL known as "Drag Queen Storytime". As a parent, business owner, proud holder of an ORL library card, I am voicing my belief that this program adds intrinsic value to the Kelowna community.

The library is a place of learning, entertainment and support for many people. As a parent, I have taken my children to many if the programs offered at the various branches of the ORL. I am proud to have them participate in this very important community institution. One of the many milestones of education in our family is the receipt of your library card.

I see programs such as Drag Queen Storytime as integral to the experience of being a member of the library and the Kelowna community.

I don't know if any of my children will identify as LGBTQi but I do know that the library would certainly be a place where they and I can turn for information and knowledge to strengthen our relationship.

One vital piece of the experience of living in a community and existing in its space is the diversity of programming that shows young children that they need not be afraid of being themselves.

As adults, we have a responsibility to lead the way in offering opportunities for young people to find a safe place to be who they are without fear of reprisal.

It is a hallmark of a good community when there is a safe space for all to gather. The library had been that space for many and should continue to be so.

In your consideration about continuing this vital community program, I hope that you will bring forward the statistics on suicide rates and crimes among and against Trans youth and children.

Drag Queen Storytime may be just another program to some people but the potential in its recognition by a community institution such as the ORL, has greater implications.

Perhaps the question to be asked is "Who do you serve as an institution?" If the answer is the entire community but does not work to include LGBTQi youth and families and their allies, then you've lost sight of your purpose along the line.

I copied the following from your website home page:

"We are at the heart of our communities.

We are books, and we are so much more than books. We are a place for knowledge, opportunities and personal development. Now more than ever, access to lifelong learning and technology is essential to help people transform their lives. They are foundations for personal wellbeing as well as shared economic prosperity and social cohesion. The Okanagan Regional Library has a vital role to play in providing that access freely and equitably."

I hope that you vote to keep this program and fulfill your stated mission of foundational transformation and equitable service.

Sincerely,

Leah Samson

From: Lynn Tran <lynntran@live.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:56 PM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

To Don and Karla,

My two children, ages 3 and 7, attended the first ever Drag Queen Storytime at the Kelowna library downtown on Saturday September 14th. I have to commend Freida and Valerie for their courageous and inclusive learning program for our children and community. I am proud to witness the community grow in terms of acceptance and diversity. The book selections were hilarious and engaging and had a good moral story. As a parent, I was impressed and almost had tears when Valerie said something that I won't ever forget. She said, "never let anyone dim your shine." My daughter now calls her new library teacher "Miss Freida Whales" and has asked to go to the library everyday since! We will definitely be back with our friends and family on November 16th.

Please continue to offer Drag Queen Storytime! We had an unforgettably positive experience.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tran

Leah Samson

From: Caley Krantz <cckrantz@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:07 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

Hello,

I am writing this email as I am not able to attend the meeting being held with regards to the Children's Programming Policy and changes that are being suggested regarding Drag Queens reading books to children.

I appreciate that we live in a conservative area that has difficulty accepting diversity of any kind, let alone that that might offend the bible, however, the library has always been a haven for the outcasts and "weirdos" of society and the idea that you're planning on making changes to a policy that would rob children of that aspects of that amazing diversity is wrong.

The library is supposed to be a place of educating against prejudices and bigotry and not bend to the pressures of closed mindedness.

Preventing children from seeing and interacting with Drag Queens teaches them that the "other" is scary and something to be wary of and avoid, rather than to question and learn about differences.

There is nothing insidious about Drag Queens and thinking otherwise is more telling of the person who thinks so.

Please do not cave to the pressures of the conservative masses and continue to stand for the minority.

Thank you,

Caley

Leah Samson

From: Devon Loerchner <devonraeloerchner@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:13 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime: Support

Hi Don,

Please accept this letter as a message of support for the Drag Queen Storytime to continue. You are welcome to share this at the board meeting taking place Wednesday September 18th. I have been bringing my two daughters to the downtown library for Storytime with "Miss Judy" and "Miss Ashley" for the past six years. My girls were thrilled to see "Miss Freida" join the dynamic story time team for a guest appearance. Our daughters are ages 5 and 7. The first time they saw Freida Whales they were in awe, of her kind message of inclusivity, and because "SHE IS AMAZING AT DRESS UP". Make no mistake, our kids know that these queens actually identify as male, but "well ya, who doesn't want to be a princess sometimes?" as my 7 year old pointed out. "Boys get to dress up too."

What message will we be sending to our kids if we give into a few disgruntled, unaccepting, can't-think-outside-of-the-box- , adults that are actually bullies who are dissatisfied with this inclusive approach?

Also let's remind ourselves, no one is being FORCED to attend story time with the queens. I'd say they are missing out on a great, natural, community inclusive opportunity... but rather than stopping this programming, the few that are unhappy can choose not to attend. It IS that simple.

The majority of us, and this beautiful progressing city of ours, welcomes the Queens. And we are very grateful for their vulnerability, message, gifts and talents.

Regards,

Devon Loerchner

250.864.6334

Sent from my iPhone

Leah Samson

From: Colby Johnson <colby@heritagelawgroup.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Story Time

To call Drag Queen story time political or controversial is narrow minded and small. Shame on you for creating a socially divisive memo which only inspires fear, bigotry and hate.

A person in your position ought to know better that a public library is exactly that: public. Drag Queen story time is no different than having a pantomime or other characters dressed up telling, playing or acting out stories. If the public doesn't like it – the public doesn't have to go. The only difference between the former and latter example is your view.

For you to impose your narrow minded and uneducated personal views onto something which brings so many families and children joy is pathetic.

The link below is to Prime Kelowna, maybe one of their physios or kins can work on your spine strength.
<https://primekelowna.ca/>

Colby Johnson.

Leah Samson

From: Elana Bizovie <elana.bizovie@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:56 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag-Queen story time

Hello Mr Nettleton,

I'm writing to express my disappointment in your recommendations as written in the September 18, 2019 board agenda notes for the ORL regarding the issue of Drag-Queen story time.

While I can appreciate that the library would like to avoid controversy or divisive community issues in order to maintain their audience and community support, I strongly believe that cancelling or refusing to allow the Drag-Queen story time to continue or be integrated into the ORL programming at other branches sends a very clear message about who in the community the library places a priority on. This, of course, leads to a larger conversation about acceptance of individuals who belong to the LGBTQ2+ community, many of who are obviously part of the larger community here in Kelowna. Stating that the library is a 'safe and interesting source for lifelong learning' fails to recognize that by refusing to allow certain individuals to exist in your space, you are supporting a homophobic message that ensures that spaces are less safe for members of the LGBTQ2+ community. Furthermore, limiting the exposure of young children to drag queens does not eliminate their existence in the world, and exposing and educating individuals from a young age about diversity within communities only serves to foster understanding, compassion, and empathy.

I ask that you reconsider your recommendations regarding the children's programming at the ORL and perhaps reach out to local LGBTQ2+ groups to engage in meaningful conversation about the significance of running inclusive programming for the entire community. As a supporter of the library, I would not feel comfortable continuing to engage with its programming or in supporting it further if it tailors its activities to an exclusive sector of this community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your every consideration in helping to move this community toward a more inclusive and safe place for us all.

With warm regards,
Elana Bizovie

Leah Samson

From: TayTay Knight <tsk16knight@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:01 AM
To: [redacted] Kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Don Nettleton
Subject: I support Drag Queen story time

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing in support of an inclusive and welcoming public library system. With that in mind, I urge you and your fellow board members to vote in favour of Drag Queen Storytime at tomorrow's meeting.

The memo attached to your board package fundamentally misses the point: Queer people exist. Having LGBTQ+ representation in our libraries is not political; it is simply a reflection of the community you serve. There is nothing 'political' about parents choosing to take their kids to storytime with someone dressed extravagantly. What IS political is trying to cancel such an event or calling it inappropriate. The person delivering the programming is an early childhood educator and literally the only difference from any other storytime is the facilitator's outfit.

Cancelling a popular, well-attended program would send a clear and negative message to your users, in an attempt to placate outdated, bigoted views.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylor Knight

Leah Samson

From: Lisa Evasiuk <lisalux@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:17 PM
To: [REDACTED] Nettleton
Subject: In regards to Drag Queen Story Times at the library

I am in awe of the intelligence, forward thinking and open mindedness that has been demonstrated by the library having Drag Queen Story Times in Kelowna. I can think of nothing more helpful in giving children this exposure, to having them become wise, compassionate and accepting individuals of both others and themselves in their uniqueness and self expression. Hats off to all involved in making this happen, and in letting it continue. A wonderful example to the world. And if there are those folks who are not yet comfortable or open minded enough to see the brilliance and beauty of this program, perhaps suggest they stay home during these story times and work on learning about living honestly, with love and reality, until they can appreciate the importance of promoting and valuing this great idea. Don't lose this spectacular program.

With great sincerity and respect,

Lisa Evasiuk

Leah Samson

From: James Balehowsky <jamesbalehow@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 9:47 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: In support of Drag Queen Story time

Good morning Don,

I am writing you to express my support for the ORL Drag Queen Story Time. As a young father and Kelowna born and raised citizen, I believe it is extremely important that we foster a community where our children are able to see that they are loved and respected regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or identity. As a community we need to offer diverse and supportive programming to our residents and I believe Drag Queen story time is a perfect example of this. It is important that we give voices to those who are marginalized in our community, and by denying the opportunity to do so, this will create lasting negative and damaging effects on our community.

I urge you to please consider continuing this amazing program. I want my son to grow up in a community where he feels loved and respected and has the opportunity to engage with people from all walks of life.

Sincerely,

James Balehowsky

Leah Samson

From: Kelsie Balehowsky <kelsie.balehowsky@hotmail.ca>
Sent: September 18, 2019 9:24 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: In support of Drag Queen Story Time

Good morning Don,

I am writing you to express my support for the ORL Drag Queen Story Time. As a young mother and Kelowna raised citizen, I believe it is extremely important that we foster a community where our children are able to see that they are loved and respected regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, or identity. As a community we need to offer diverse and supportive programming to our residents and I believe Drag Queen story time is a perfect example of this.

I understand that you have to consider things such as keeping the ORL a neutral organization. As an education coordinator at a regional Art Gallery, this too is something that I need to consider daily. That being said, it is important that we also give voices to those who are marginalized in our community, and by denying the opportunity to do so, will create lasting negative and damaging effects on our community.

I urge you to please consider continuing this amazing program. I want my son to grow up in a community where he feels loved and respected and has the opportunity to engage with people from all walks of life.

Sincerely,

Kelsie Balehowsky

Leah Samson

From: Kristen Thompson <kristen.thom@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:13 PM
To: Don Nettleton <don.nettleton@dsb.ca>
Subject: In support of Drag Queen Story Time

I'm writing to express my support of Drag Queen Story Hour, and ask that the Okanagan Regional Library continue to host and promote this incredible program.

My family attended Drag Queen Story Time on the weekend. I watched as dozens of children in capes, costumes, tutus, tiaras and superhero masks sang, danced, laughed, and listened to stories about acceptance and self-love. The event reinforced to my own children that the library is a place of inclusion, and creativity, and that everybody is celebrated within its walls.

That the future of Drag Queen Story Time is now up for debate, because some people in our community are offended by Drag Queens, is absurd to me.

At its core, Drag Queen Story Time teaches children that people of all ages should be free to express themselves however they want, free from the constraints of prescribed gender roles. THIS is the type of programming the library should be celebrating.

It teaches children that there are many ways to express themselves and their gender, while helping them develop empathy, learn about gender diversity, and tap into their own creativity. It can also be life-saving for LGBTQ kids and teens, letting kids know there is a safe place in our libraries and in our communities. Ultimately, it teaches all children to follow their passions and embrace gender diversity in themselves and others, which helps to curb bullying of any kid who may be perceived as different.

LGBTQ people are present in in our community, and children deserve to be exposed to all the people who call Kelowna home, in age-appropriate ways.

If you end this programming, you let people motivated by bigotry, hatred, homophobia and fear win. You raise their voice over the voices of LGBTQ people - and their allies. And most importantly, you send a message to children that the stories that heard on Saturday were merely fairy tales. That it's only okay to be true to yourself if you are exactly like everybody else.

The voices that should be heard are the voices celebrating everyone for who they are, regardless of the clothes they wear.

- Kristen Thompson

Leah Samson

From: Jessica Carroll <jcarl@hotmail.ca>
Sent: September 17, 2019 6:24 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Monica Gaucher
Subject: In support of Drag Queen Story Time

Hello,

I'm writing as a frequent user of the Downtown Kelowna Library branch, longterm kelowna resident, and supporter of Drag Queen Story Time events. As the turnout suggests, your community is ready for and enthusiastic about this excellent event.

Please continue to host them. Consider how discontinuing this event would reflect the library, and its credibility as an organization that exists to support marginalized groups through education and programming. Events such as Drag Queen story time can be vital to showing LGBTQ youth that they have a home here in Kelowna, and a broader community that is also supportive of them.

Furthermore, please consider: ***An Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Criminal Code*** (Bill C-16, 2016) which has been law since June 19th 2017.

The bill is intended to protect individuals from discrimination within the sphere of federal jurisdiction and from being the targets of hate propaganda, as a consequence of their gender identity or their gender expression. The bill adds "gender identity or expression" to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the list of characteristics of identifiable groups protected from hate propaganda in the *Criminal Code*.

Our country is supportive - even in law - of differences in gender identity and expression, and should champion acts from marginalized communities.

Please continue to allow the library to be a progressive space.

Thank you,

Jessica Carroll

Leah Samson

From: Sue Cairnie <sucairnie@gmail.com>
Sent: September 19, 2019 10:30 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: It's 2019 - we accept LGBTQ+ folks now

Hello Don,

Well, I was certainly shocked to read the divisive and fear-based language on page 33 of your agenda. Just wanted to remind you that its 2019 - we as a community, and even Kelowna city council, support LGBTQ+ rights and identity. In case you have somehow missed it, RuPaul is a huge hit among all kinds of folks, and drag queens are much more normalized and accepted. They are humans with rights and a valuable part of our diverse society.

The insinuation that a drag queen is somehow "unsafe" and pushing a "liberal activist agenda" is frankly offensive and hilarious. Libraries have always championed freedom of expression and information and been a safe place for people to explore all ideas without judgement.

The wording of this agenda item is concerning, it shows a clear lack of understanding of LGBTQ+ rights, and seems rooted in antiquated, fear-based and homophobic ideas that hark back to a long time ago. It's 2019 now and making our libraries, and communities, safe places for LGBTQ+ and all folks is the priority, not catering to this supposed "significant section of our community" that I don't see existing.

There are no reported instances of drag queens being unsafe around children and that is a very offensive statement. It appears the first drag hour was a huge success. It's an amazing opportunity to include a part of our community that has been ostracized in the past. Homophobia is learned, not inherent, and your average parent these days doesn't want to raise a homophobic kid who is scared of diversity. They want to raise a child who sees LGBTQ+ folks as a friendly, safe part of their community, deserving of respect and understanding.

The person whose safety is most at risk is a drag queen, because of homophobic ideas like these. Normalizing and accepting this valid form of self expression will go a long way towards making the world safer for drag queens (and for the children listening, some of whom are undoubtedly LGBTQ+ themselves. Growing up with drag queens normalized will go a long way to helping these kids accept their own gender and sexual identities when the time comes).

Kids just want to have fun. To be read stories by a fun and friendly person. Who cares what that person is wearing or what their sexual orientation is. Are we going to start banning gay and lesbian folks from reading stories to children? Transgender people? Where does this antiquated homophobia end?

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO DO BETTER.

And if you can't, then find someone who can. It's 2019.

Sincerely,

Sue Cairnie

Leah Samson

From: Amanda Martin <amandamartindoula@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 7:04 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Keep Drag Queen story time!

I was saddened to hear that there had been a drag queen story time at our Kelowna library and I didn't know about until after it happened. I very much support keeping public spaces like the library inclusive and open places to connect and learn.

Currently our country is going through some changes and I am upset to see that many people so openly spew hate, which often comes from a place of ignorance. Please do not let people who are opposed to the drag queen story time out of fear due to a lack of factual information take away this amazing opportunity to teach empathy, openness, being oneself, and inclusivity in our community.

I honestly feel if some people don't agree with this offering, then they don't need to come or bring their own children. But many others feel this is a great opportunity, and would like to have it continue to be available.

And please make sure the next drag queen story time is well advertised so I can bring my kids!

Sincerely,

Amanda

Leah Samson

From: Courtney Kindlein <ckindlein13@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:28 AM
To: Don Nettleton; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Let the Drag Queens Read!

Mr. Nettleton and Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing in support of Drag Queen Story Time.

I am asking you to consider the statement you would be making if you were to disallow this program. I understand that the Library wants to remain "non-controversial", but if there was ever a time to become controversial, it is now. Having a diverse set of programming means that some kids will see people and maybe they won't understand why they look like that. That's okay. Let them learn. When they are adults, that means that they will have an understanding that some people don't, and they will hopefully learn to be more accepting and open to people of all backgrounds. Which will hopefully lead to Library Boards in the future to not have to have this discussion. Quite frankly, I can't believe we're having it now.

Furthermore, maybe a kid will see someone that looks a certain way and they will realize it's okay to look different. It's okay to want to wear makeup if you're a boy. Because really, we should be teaching children is to be true to themselves. They, and people in general, should be able to do what makes them happy. Wear what makes them happy, love who makes them happy.

In your memo you state that this program "is claiming to be promoting diversity and acceptance" .. how is it not? You also state that it "will be offensive to a significant segment of our society". Personally, I think if these people will be offended because they see a man in a dress, they need to reevaluate their priorities and values. To add to that, no one is forcing them to bring their children to this specific program. If they are that offended, they can skip this one. If you say now that no, a drag queen cannot read a story to our children, you are showing a "significant segment of our society" that being different is wrong. Children and adults will feel this blow, no matter how small of a decision that you may feel this is, closing down this program lets fear and bigotry win again.

I am a big fan of drag shows (and books) and I can tell you that the only things that drag queens have ever taught me are to love myself, help others, and maybe some better makeup tips.

Please, be on the right side of history here.

Courtney
Kelowna, BC

Leah Samson

From: Sage Thomas <delving.thomas@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]
Subject: Re: drag queen story time

Hello,

I am a resident of Kelowna - I grew up here as a child and youth, and have just returned home after being gone for 15 years. Kelowna is my home and I love it here. I moved back to work as a nurse here, and because of the increasing diversity and acceptance that has grown - the community landscape is much safer and more accepting than it was 15 years ago. As a member of the LGBTQ community I urge you to keep embracing drag queen story time. It's an optional activity for families to go to and harms no one, but does bring joy which is what our world needs more of. Thank you kindly,

Sage Thomas

Leah Samson

From: Angela Holmes <angela.marie.holmes@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 11:09 PM
To: Don Nettleton; <kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Drag Queen Story Times

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a community member living in Kelowna who periodically attends local library locations across the Okanagan and I am absolutely in support of Drag Queen Story Times at Okanagan Regional Library. I am appalled that they could be viewed as divisive or offensive. If anything, these types of events are a perfect example of the range of events we need to support in an active effort to educate and diversify. If people don't like them, they don't need to attend them.

Children are more commonly growing up in families with openly diverse family members and I believe programming like this helps to support, educate and normalize these so called differences. I do not believe that gender or sexuality is the black and white check boxes (with only two options) as past generations have been ignorantly and systemically indoctrinated into believing.

Drag Queen Story Times is exactly what our community needs and I hope to see more of these and similar events.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Angela Holmes

Leah Samson

From: Cynthia Gunsinger <cynthia@gunsinger.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 8:46 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]
Subject: Re: Drag Queen Storytime Board Agenda Item

Dear Don and Karla,

I am a downtown Kelowna resident who, with my partner, Robert, and toddler, Daniel, regularly use the Downtown Library, it's services and programming, as well as the Library's event and maker spaces.

This letter is in regards to today's board meeting point regarding Drag Queen Storytime. I apologize for not being in attendance. As a working parent, I could not make the time work, but not for lack of interest or support of this event.

I am writing in support of Drag Queen Storytime, which we attended as a family last week and very much enjoyed. My toddler sang songs, heard a story, did crafts and climbed the library's stairs for an hour. A very successful, almost naptime outing, it was nice to see so many families and citizens out. I'd estimate more than 60 people filled and enlivened the Downtown Library for Drag Queen Storytime.

I have read the Memorandum written regarding this supposedly "divisive" event by your CEO, Don Nettleton, and it turned my stomach. The misinformation and fear-mongering came through loud and clear and it read like a 1980's anti-gay propaganda piece. Wording around "lifestyle choice" "activist librarians" and more was completely out of date and embarrassing and I suggest that prior to assuming that sexual orientation and gender diversity are being discussed, you attend an event. I feel very sad for the librarians both whose voices are being seen as disruptive and "activist" and for the ones concerned about the event - clearly education would be helpful on the latter and I can't imagine this discussion is improving morale for these boundary-pushing, community building librarians.

Please allow this event to continue, I want to live in a community with Drag Queen Storytime and in one in which all people can be accepted and welcomed. There is nothing wrong with dress up, play, singing, and love an acceptance, which are the things our family (and hopefully our toddler) walked away with.

ORL - please continue the exceptional work and curtail this discussion. The divisive nature of the event is non-existent unless you count the perspectives like the Don Nettleton's of the world, and to those community members, I suggest that on those days they might choose to stay home. Be on the right side of history here, ORL and keep building an inclusive and amazing community.

Cynthia Gunsinger

- I welcome any follow up questions via email or phone [redacted]

Leah Samson

From: Jessica Hopkins <jsschpkns7@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:53 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Story time at the library

To whom this concerns,

I wanted to share my support for Drag Queens at the library leading story time. I believe that having performers tell stories is such a great idea.

Parents have the right to allow or disallow their children to join the group, if they think this does not align with their values, then that's their choice. I will choose to participate.

Thanks, hope this continues!

Jessica

Leah Samson

From: Amanda Poon [redacted]@gmail.com
Sent: September 18, 2019 11:13 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [redacted]@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Story Time with a Drag Queen

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

My 7 year old step-son and I attended "Story Time" with Ms. Frieda Whales last Saturday. It was a wonderful day that resulted in him excited to choose a few books of his own to take home afterwards. He's not a strong reader yet, so our Saturday trips to the library (even when story time may be a bit young for him) are helping build his interest in literacy. We knew many of the other parents and children in attendance. It was delightful to see our friends at the library - a setting we may not commonly engage one another in. My step-son's God Parents are two married Gay men, and we feel it is important to include LGBTQ+ role models in many areas of his life.

I also saw my former partner Curtis Stone and his associate at the back of the room, filming the event and making rude comments. This person is an avowed anti-Trans and anti-LGBTQ bigot. I believe he was later asked to leave the event by the library security guard. We did not feel unsafe due to Ms. Whales, but we did feel uncomfortable by the presence of two grown men filming our children for their hateful agenda, especially when I know the depth of this person's depraved ideologies.

I understand from your memo you believe the presence of bigots and their reaction to this event is somehow evidence this event furthers division, rather than inclusion. I am saddened that you are allowing hateful people to cast such a dark cloud on what would have been an otherwise very positive event. Ms. Whales welcomed everyone, her story choices were age appropriate and motivational. We promote inclusion by extending our welcome to her, not bending to the pressure of bullies.

You should be aware that Mr. Stone is also an avowed "Libertarian". He does not believe in paying taxes or in services like Public Libraries. By kowtowing to his, and his associates complaints over this event, you may believe yourself to be making a neutral, apolitical choice, but if you took some time to read enough of the books your library contains, you would understand that "if you are neutral in times of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor" (Desmond Tutu).

Dressing up as a princess is not a political choice, regardless of your gender. If I dress up as Princess Elsa and read stories to my step-son, would you consider story time at our house an act of "radical liberal politics"?

Life is political, Mr. Nettleton, and so are our publicly funded services, and how you manage them. You cannot avoid this by using your position to dictate who "belongs" in the library. By empowering this cohort of Libertarian bigots, you are supporting a group of people who, if granted more power, would eagerly thank you by cutting public library services entirely.

You are correct, we live in politically charged times. But Frieda Whales and her supporters are not the "radicals" you ought to be worrying about.

Now is the time to choose courage. Choose love over hate, Mr. Nettleton.

Leah Samson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:13 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [REDACTED]
Subject: Children's Programming at ORL

I am writing in support of an inclusive and welcoming public library system. With that in mind, I urge you and your fellow board members to vote in favour of Drag Queen Storytime at tomorrow's meeting.

The memo attached to your board package fundamentally misses the point: Queer people exist. Having LGBTQ+ representation in our libraries is not political; it is simply a reflection of the community you serve. There is nothing 'political' about parents choosing to take their kids to storytime with someone dressed extravagantly. What IS political is trying to cancel such an event or calling it inappropriate. The person delivering the programming is an early childhood educator and literally the only difference from any other storytime is the facilitator's outfit.

Cancelling a popular, well-attended program would send a clear and negative message to your users, in an attempt to placate outdated, bigoted views.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deirdre Bauer

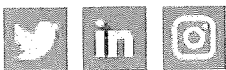
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Leah Samson

From: Sheena Daye <edaye@moduloc.ca>
Sent: September 18, 2019 9:51 AM
To: M. Kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Don Nettleton
Subject: Storytime

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing in support of an inclusive and welcoming public library system. With that in mind, I urge you and your fellow board members to vote in favour of Drag Queen Storytime at tomorrow's meeting.

The memo attached to your board package fundamentally misses the point: Queer people exist. Having LGBTQ+ representation in our libraries is not political; it is simply a reflection of the community you serve. There is nothing 'political' about parents choosing to take their kids to storytime with someone dressed extravagantly. What IS political is trying to cancel such an event or calling it inappropriate. The person delivering the programming is an early childhood educator and literally the only difference from any other storytime is the facilitator's outfit.

Cancelling a popular, well-attended program would send a clear and negative message to your users, in an attempt to placate outdated, bigoted views.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sheena Daye

Sheena Daye | Account Specialist
edaye@moduloc.ca | C



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Leah Samson

From: Arnica Rowan <arnica.rowan@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:37 PM
To: Don Nettleton; Linda Youmans <lkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca> Monica Gaucher
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: Support for Drag Queen story time

Dearest library leaders,

I was in the library last week to organize a library activity for my teen girls, and saw the poster for a drag queen story time.

Awesome! I thought. I was really impressed that the library was including LGBTQ members of our Kelowna community and normalizing the participation of the drag queens in family activities. My girls just turned 13, but I would've gladly taken them to a drag queen story time when they were little.

What an excellent opportunity for children and families to get to know people they may not usually have the opportunity to connect with, and for other families to see their own family members represented at the important institution of the public library. Just like meeting a person from a non-dominant cultural background or religion, it's a great opportunity for all Kelowna folks to celebrate the diversity in our community. The role of the public library is to include all parts of the community in the learning process, and this program fits the bill perfectly.

On a sidenote, you know you are showing leadership and doing something important if people shout and protest at the "new thing." If there were no objections, then obviously you would not be innovating nor doing important work.

Our family's full support to the public library, librarians, and drag queens who graciously volunteered to be pioneering this program.

Take care, Arnica

Arnica Rowan

Kelowna, BC, Canada
Mobile: 250-899-3227

Leah Samson

From: Michele Rule <michele@michelerule.ca>
Sent: September 17, 2019 8:00 PM
To: Don Nettleton <donnettleton@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Support re Drag Queen Storytime

Dear Don and Karla,

I see there is an item on Wednesday's agenda about policy around children's programming based on complaints about last week's Drag Queen Storytime.

I want to express my support for these, and other events, that introduce the concepts of equality and acceptance to young children.

The age group that attends these storytimes are exactly the age group that should hear these messages, so that they become real to them instead of something they read later in Canada's Charter of Human Rights. The books that were shared and the manner in which they were read is completely appropriate as well.

I am happy that our professional librarians are interested in promoting diversity and equality within our library walls.

I know there have been some angry voices directed at the library because of these events. These are the same people that 50 years ago were angry about blacks being allowed onto buses or into hotels or schools. Please don't let their narrow-minded bigotry dictate what happens in our libraries.

If we want children (and everyone) to feel safe and welcome in our libraries, then we need to show that they are indeed welcome, and included, no matter what their gender or sexuality. Storytimes that are done by someone "different" can do just that.

Thank you for listening.

Michele

Michele Rule

[redacted]
250-717-6359

Taking it one day at a time in the beautiful Okanagan

Leah Samson

From: W Phillips <socialpsyc411@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 8:00 AM
To: Don Nettleton <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: the future of Drag Queen Story Times in our community

The memo written for this morning's ORL meeting regarding Drag Queen Story time is clearly biased. It is concerning that the individual who wrote this memo is making decisions regarding ORL programming based on their own biases and in this case based on misinformation. For example, "gender selection" is a term used which is not only contrary to scientific truth but is highly contentious and insulting to members of the Pride community.

I hope that ORL makes decisions based on empirical evidence and keeps this colorful, professional, and diverse programming. It is important to include diverse programs to reduce the feeling of isolation and to promote acceptance for all members of our community.

I'm flabbergasted that ORL is considering to push these Drag Queens back "in the closet". This is a terrible choice and sends a terrible message to children and youth.

Winona Phillips

Leah Samson

From: V Krisp <veekrisp@gmail.com>
Sent: September 14, 2019 9:05 AM
To: Michal Utko
Cc: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher
Subject: YES to drag queen story time

Hi Michal,

I read about Drag Queen Story Time this morning in the Kelowna paper. I really wish I would have known about this awesome event because I am behind it 110%. Thank you for bringing this event to the downtown library!! I'm sorry you've had to deal with haters, Kelowna is a city of very little tolerance it seems. This intolerance to anything that is not christian, heterosexual, white and privileged must STOP!

I will support Drag Queen Story Time in any way I can and if that means marching in the streets of Kelowna I'll do it. Please do not cancel events/ programming like this, if anything the library needs to lead this city to understand and embrace diversity.

I must ask you, as the director of marketing and communications why was this event not publicized in the Kelowna newspaper, on Castanet, in the library via posters, etc. If you have a mail out for such events please add my email to the subscription list.

I have been living in Kelowna for 2 1/2 years and am shocked by the lack of publicity for cultural and community events in this city.

Please let me know how I might support programming like Drag Queen Story Time in the future! The only reason I will not be there today is because I didn't know about it and made other plans.

Thank you!!

Vee Krisp

Fwd: Drag Queens

✕ DELETE

← REPLY

↶ REPLY ALL

→ FORWARD

⋮

Mark as unread



Don Nettleton

Sat 2019-09-21 1:08 PM

To: ORL Policy

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Laura Fulton [mailto:laurafulton@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2019 8:45 PM

To: Monica Gaucher; Don Nettleton

Subject: Drag Queens

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/kelowna-drag-queen-story-time-1.5292257>

As a transwoman I find this deeply disturbing, please don't do it again. It's making my life a lot more dangerous. Drag Queens are not transwomen, and thanks to events like this the general population is now confused and thinking we're all the same. This is such a nightmare

thanks

Fwd: Support for Drag Queen Storytime

✕ DELETE

← REPLY

↶ REPLY ALL

➔ FORWARD

⋮



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Sat 2019-09-28 9:06 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cindal McCabe <cindalmccabe@gmail.com>

Date: Sep 28, 2019 7:30 AM

Subject: Support for Drag Queen Storytime

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Cc:

Dear Ms. Kozakevich

As a thirty-year ORL user, I am writing to express my support of Drag Queen Storytime and any and all other programming supporting love, understanding, and inclusivity. I am beyond livid at direction CEO Don Nettleton wishes to take the ORL. Libraries must be safe places for ALL people, not just a narrow section of people whom Don Nettleton selects.

Children are not born racist, homophobic, bigoted, or judgemental. Those behaviors are taught to them by the adults in their life. So we can also teach children to love everyone regardless of sex, gender, race, or anything else.

The world does not need any more hate. Don Nettleton is trying to make more. A child who likes to wear dresses needs to be able to see that there is absolutely nothing wrong with that and that they should never be ashamed of who they are. A child who feels they are different from their classmates should be able to go to the public library and learn that everyone can be whatever they want to be.

Drag Queen Storytime is a fantastic event and I plan to attend the November event. People who don't like it can stay home. I do not support Don Nettleton's attempts to make the library heteronormative and judgemental. Goodness know the world has enough of that already; we don't need it in our public libraries.

Sincerely,
Cindal McCabe

Fwd: Children's Programming Policy Memo

X DELETE

← REPLY

↶ REPLY ALL

→ FORWARD

⋮



Karla Kozakevich

Thu 2019-10-03 2:59 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <t.lavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Luke McLeod <luke.mcleod@viu.ca>

Date: Oct 3, 2019 2:29 PM

Subject: Children's Programming Policy Memo

To: Karla Kozakevich <k.kozakevich@idos.bc.ca>

Cc:

Hello Karla,

I'm writing in regards to the board memo that Don Nettleton sent to the board on September 9th.

It is very concerning to me that the CEO would put forward a policy that is so detached from Okanagan Regional Libraries stated values, as well as the values of libraries as a whole. It is unfortunate that in 2019, there are still those leveraging the "libraries are neutral entities" argument to exclude and suppress marginalized voices. Neutrality isn't a viable option when the playing field isn't balanced for it is weighed heavily in favour of those with privilege. Neutrality also just isn't possible; turning a blind eye to hatred and bigotry is in itself taking a stance.

Prior to my current role, I worked as a public librarian in Nanaimo. I organized the city's first Drag Queen Story Hour, which attracted a huge crowd and was well loved. Yes, we absolutely had those who did not approve, but our Executive Director supported us in delivering on Vancouver Island Regional Library's mission and values. Inclusive library programming does the exact opposite of what the memo suggest; it helps the community celebrate their differences. The proposal to exclude and suppress voices only allows hate, racism, and bigotry to grow.

Drag Queen Story Hour goes far beyond ORL. It's seen massive success across the continent. I encourage the board to look at the facts (which I'm sure librarians all over BC will cite, link, or footnote in letters they bombard you with). Please also look to larger library groups, like BCLA.

FW: Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Mon 2019-10-07 3:06 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Emily Mayne <emmayne@icloud.com>

Sent: October 7, 2019 12:50 PM

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Storytime

Dear Ms. Kozakevich,

My name is Emily and I am writing today to express my support for the "Storytime with Drag Queens" program at the Kelowna library.

I am a semi-retired social worker in the South Okanagan. I live in [redacted] and work in Penticton. I am personally supportive of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and two spirit community. I believe diversity is very important in our communities and in our pedagogy and I appreciate the goals and message of a program like storytime. It is very important for children to be exposed to diversity at a young age as my son was growing up in Vancouver. Today he is a tolerant, compassionate, understanding young man and I attribute that directly to exposure to programs just like yours. I hope the 'Storytime with Drag Queens' program continues and that the goal of inclusivity in community remains one the Kelowna Library upholds.

Thank you,
Emily Mayne

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

Re: Drag Queen Storytime

Letter via Facebook messenger

We are fortunate to live in a country that embraces diversity, and is working toward creating safe and caring communities for all its citizens. By not supporting someone in our community who is volunteering their time to enrich the lives of youth, we are sending a message that they are not welcome, they do not matter, and that they are less than what many may consider the mainstream. As with any person working with children, it is important that their message is age appropriate, encourages kindness, acceptance, inclusivity, diversity, and general care for others. As with any performer or presenter working with children, it is important that the hosting organization gathers information on this person to ensure they are suitable for working with that particular age group.

Having someone who is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community read to children at the library is an excellent opportunity for our young people to learn about diversity, and to show how we as a community embrace and encourage it. This is supported by the British Columbia Teaching Federation and its SOGI 123 initiative that is part of the curriculum in schools.

<https://www.sogieducation.org>
<http://www.pflagvancouver.com>
divinediversity.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Michal Utko; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Aaron Young using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:48 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Aaron Young using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Aaron
Last Name*: Young
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Branch:
Subject*: Compliments
Message*: Absolutely love the inclusion of the LGBT community by having the "Story Time" with drag queens. Please continue doing so! Will definitely be recommending all of my friends and family to attend!!

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]@ori.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Michal Utko; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Ben Moody using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:00 PM
To: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]@ori.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Ben Moody using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Ben |
| Last Name*: | Moody |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I am really looking forward to storytime with Freida Whales. Introducing children to drag queens and SOGI/LGBTQQ2IPA culture is so important I'm forwarding our culture towards acceptance and love. As a teacher candidate at UBCO, I know that children are open to this kind of event. |

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Carrie Broughton using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:22 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Carrie Broughton using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Carrie
Last Name*: Broughton
Phone Number: 2508632924
Library Card:
Email*: carcielynnbroughton@gmail.com
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
Just a quick shout out to thank you SO much for hosting Drag Queen Storytime! Visibility and modeling inclusion and acceptance is, I believe, at the very core of institutions like libraries. My son is 14 but he insisted that we all go this Saturday! :) and so we will! I so wish this program was around when he was little. Thank you for standing up for diversity and FUN! I know you are probably getting some negative comments too. I run a nonprofit that helps support parents and families of transgender youth. I know a little something about negative publicity and negative comments. ;) but please know that for every negative comment there are hundreds of us out here who are so proud of you, so thrilled for the young people. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Cindy Finnigan using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 10:13 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Cindy Finnigan using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Cindy

Last Name*: Finnigan

Phone Number: 250-864-7567

Library Card:

Email*: cinbifin@gmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I think it is so wonderful that you are hosting drag queen story time. It is so important to support kids in any way we can, especially kids who may not be the same as most. Kelowna continues to be an amazing supporter of LGBT and beyond community! Thank you!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 19, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Grant Crossley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

- Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 19, 2019 7:24 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Grant Crossley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Grant

Last Name*: Crossley

Phone Number: 778-363-4108

Library Card:

Email*: Lauracrossley@shaw.ca

Branch: Not Applicable

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I would like to set up a meeting with the CEO to discuss the drag Queen story time. I have particular interest in this subject and advocate for the LGBT community. I am also transgender and feel the CEO is inept with this issue as I can see he is clearly not educated on the matter from what I have read within his reports.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Heather Larkin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Heather Larkin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Heather |
| Last Name*: | Larkin |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | heatherlarkin@live.ca |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | Thank you for supporting programs like Drag Queen Storytime! Such a wonderful experience for our children. |

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <[redacted]@samson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jay Pozo using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 14, 2019 3:04 PM
To: Leah Samson <[redacted]@samson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Jay Pozo using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jay
Last Name*: Pozo
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*: [redacted]@gmail.com
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments
Message*: Thank you for having events like Drag Queen Storytime. Kelowna needs more inclusive events like this. It was fun and very positive there today. Thank you!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:20 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jenica Frisque using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:08 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Jenica Frisque using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jenica

Last Name*: Frisque

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: jenica.frisque@gmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
Hello, as a long time library member and as a mother, I am so excited about the Drag Queen story time! I think it is so wonderful that you are leaders in the community around inclusion and diversity. Finally Kelowna is becoming a more welcoming place for LGBTQ+ people, and this event is a reflection of the community we want to build. Keep up the great work! PS. I work at UBC's Equity & Inclusion Office, and we have held Queer positive events at the Library before, we are so appreciative for your support and connection to UBCO. Thanks again, Jenica Frisque

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jenna Hindley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:57 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Jenna Hindley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jenna

Last Name*: Hindley

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: mldnyte-sun@hotmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
I just wanted to express my excitement and gratitude for the upcoming drag queen story time event. As a child, I would have benefitted tremendously from this. As a parent, I'm grateful that I have an the opportunity to bring my daughter along. I understand that an event like this might make people who are unfamiliar with drag feel uncomfortable. So I am also excited for first timers to learn about drag, meet some fun new people, and witness the creativity involved with it all. Growing up, going to the public library in Rutland felt more like a punishment than a privilege. (Especially after I lost my first book! Late fees are no laughing matter to a 9 year old!) It's been motivating to see our library grow and evolve into the bright, fun, all-inclusive place it is today. It is atmospheres like this, that truely allow us to flourish. Thank you, Jenna

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jillian Karpick using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~ Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 9:30 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Jillian Karpick using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jillian

Last Name*: Karpick

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: jllhankarpick@gmail.com

Branch:

Subject*: Other

Message*: I just wanted to say that I am so excited that you are having the Drag Queen Story Time event. I have been to one of Freida's story time events before, and seeing the way the children, and their families, light up is truly beautiful. One of the most touching moments was watching children meet the drag artists and, each in their own words, explain how much they admire them for showing it is ok to be different. It is crucially important to have these events, as they are a positive show of support for diversity and acceptance. I have been sharing the details for this event with everyone I can, and will absolutely be there myself.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Laura Stuart using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 9:50 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Laura Stuart using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Laura

Last Name*: Stuart

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: stub@hotmail.com

Branch:

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I want to thank you for hosting a drag queen story time. My children are learning about things I cannot teach them. The experience is so rich for me and them. To have a public place be just that helps heal society.

Children's Programming - 2019

IN SUPPORT

of Dept

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Carla Phillips; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Leesa Resch using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Leesa Resch using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Leesa

Last Name*: Resch

Phone Number*: 2508598143

Library Card:

Email*: leesa_resch@live.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Good afternoon, I just wanted to reach out and thank you for putting on the drag queen story time. I have a younger cousin who is a member of the LGBTQ community and events like this are so important to us. Its hard for our younger members to find events that aren't in a nightclub situation. These kind of events are validating and make us very grateful to be living in a town that goes above and beyond to make every child feel included.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 13, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Leslie Grenier using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 13, 2019 8:16 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Leslie Grenier using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Leslie
Last Name*: Grenier
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*: Leslie.grenier@gmail.com
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I am so pleased that the library is supporting sexual and gender diversity and modelling acceptance through drag queen story time on Saturdays. Reading is an important part of creating a healthy life and having mentors that represent you is inspiring. Thank you for creating a Kelowna I want to live in.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Linda Christie using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 5:20 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Linda Christie using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Linda

Last Name*: Christie

Phone Number: 7782141337

Library Card: 23132000294565

Email*: J@hotmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
Storytelling with drag queens. Very brave new territory for the public library. Not sure how I feel about it but an area we can't just ignore. Mistakes will be made along the way but the page needs to be explored.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 13, 2019 11:35 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Marissa Rafuse-Brown using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 13, 2019 11:30 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Marissa Rafuse-Brown using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Marissa

Last Name*: Rafuse-Brown

Phone Number: 2503077822

Library Card:

Email*: marissa.a.brown@hotmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I'm so happy to see ORL engaging youth with a creative, inspiring, authentic event like drag queen story time. Our libraries are amazing bastions of knowledge, acceptance, and community. Thank you for being a role model for Kelowna!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Nikita Blumhagen using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:30 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Nikita Blumhagen using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Nikita

Last Name*: Blumhagen

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
I really love that you guys are being diverse and accepting of all walks of life. The drag story time is such a wonderful event, and I love that people get the opportunity to meet the local drag queens, and get entertained while also learning! I'd love to see more events like this happen in Kelowna, and also surrounding areas!!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Carla Phillips; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Rebecca Wright using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Rebecca Wright using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Rebecca

Last Name*: Wright

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: rebeccawright12@gmail.com

Branch: Salmon Arm

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I am sending this message in support of the ORL's upcoming event "Drag Queen Story Time". I am very excited for an event that celebrates freedom of expression and individuality. Not only that, but I think that it is a great way to encourage discussion in families about being open and accepting of both your own qualities and those of others. I truly hope that this program continues so that I can attend it with my 8-year old son.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell; Christine McPhee; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Savannah Bagshaw using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:54 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Savannah Bagshaw using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Savannah

Last Name*: Bagshaw

Phone Number*: 250-317-8528

Library Card:

Email*: savybagshaw@gmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I absolutely LOVE that you guys offer a place for inclusive and inviting activities. The Drag Queen Story Time events are an incredible opportunity to connect children with our LGBTQ2+ community, letting them know early on that no matter who they are, they have people around the city who will love and support them. It also shows them that their city is diverse and accepting of all! Plus! Who doesn't love story time with! Please keep it up :)

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@ord.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Siobhan Jennings-bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 10:33 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@ord.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Siobhan Jennings-bates using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Siobhan
Last Name*: Jennings-bates
Phone Number: 2509798856
Library Card:
Email*: Siobhanjc@gmail.com
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments
Message*: I love that you guys are supporting diversity and inclusivity by doing the Drag Queen Storytime! I'm very excited to bring my daughter to it.

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Tina Joslin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:29 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Tina Joslin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Tina
Last Name*: Joslin
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*: tjoslin@oranjifitness.com
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I am sooo excited for the Drag Queen story time! I think it is so cool and forward thinking that something like this is going to be offered in our city! All of the awesome Drag events in this city are really amazing and inspiring, but what I love about this is that it is for all ages. Thank you so much for bringing this in!

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

No Reply
September 17, 2019 7:48 PM

This is a response sent by Rick Caruk using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Rick

Last Name*: Caruk

Phone
Number:

Library Card:

Email*:

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Other

Message*: Please don't cancel drag story time! It is really important for inclusion in the community. Important to teach our children inclusion! Please keep it.

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 18, 2019 8:15 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Sydney Lekei using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Sydney |
| Last Name*: | Lekei |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Lake Country |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I am so excited to see that ORL library is hosting the Frieda Wales story time. What a creative way to include diverse experiences in our community. I can't wait to go to the next one. Well done! |

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 18, 2019 11:15 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Laura Haslam using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Laura |
| Last Name*: | Haslam |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | Thank you for hosting Drag Queen Storytime last Saturday, our kids absolutely loved it and our family is in full support of any similar future events! What a fantastic opportunity to model inclusivity and acceptance in a super fun and engaging event. We are big supporters of the library and storytimes and would love to see this wonderful and age-appropriate storytime again! Kind thanks, Laura Haslam |

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 19, 2019 7:24 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Grant Crossley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Grant

Last Name*: Crossley

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Not Applicable

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I would like to set up a meeting with the CEO to discuss the drag Queen story time. I have particular interest in this subject and advocate for the LGBT community. I am also transgender and feel the CEO is inept with this issue as I can see he is clearly not educated on the matter from what I have read within his reports.

Leah Samson

RECEIVED 10/1/19

From: No Reply
Sent: September 20, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: This is a response sent by April Balducci using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | April |
| Last Name*: | Balducci |
| Phone Number: | 78-363-3438 |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | April.Balducci@hotmail.com |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I absolutely loved Drag Queen story time. thank you for being so open minded. You made me proud to be from Kelowna ♥ |

Loan Sanction

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 11:35 AM

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Mark Wells using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Mark

Last Name*: Wells

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Thank you for offering story time with Freida Whales! This is so lovely and important for diversity and empathy in our community. Thank you also for resisting the homophobic fallacy that there is something intrinsically "adult" or "inappropriate" about someone reading a story in drag. I appreciate that our public services are not swayed by the loud, ignorant voices of some community members.

Children's Programming - 2019

IN SUPPORT

of Dept

Leah Samson

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: This is a response sent by Tracey Appelbohm using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Tracey

Last Name*: Appelbohm

Phone Number: 2507540811

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: I am so excited your offering drag story time. It's a wonderful representation of a segment of our population that is not often enough showcased. It gives those children who have a desire to dress out of gender stereotypes a chance to see someone like themselves who are accepted in society and showcased in one of the most wonderful places in our city... the library!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 12, 2019 3:07 PM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; [REDACTED]; Carla Phillips; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Rebecca Wright using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 1:45 PM
To: Leah Samson, samson@orl.bc.ca
Subject: This is a response sent by Rebecca Wright using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Rebecca

Last Name*: Wright

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]@gmail.com

Branch: Salmon Arm

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I am sending this message in support of the ORL's upcoming event "Drag Queen Story Time". I am very excited for an event that celebrates freedom of expression and individuality. Not only that, but I think that it is a great way to encourage discussion in families about being open and accepting of both your own qualities and those of others. I truly hope that this program continues so that I can attend it with my 8-year old son.

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Michael Liko; Jeff Campbell; Christine McPhee; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Savannah Bagshaw using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:54 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Savannah Bagshaw using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Savannah |
| Last Name*: | Bagshaw |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I absolutely LOVE that you guys offer a place for inclusive and inviting activities. The Drag Queen Story Time events are an incredible opportunity to connect children with our LGBTQ2+ community, letting them know early on that no matter who they are, they have people around the city who will love and support them. It also shows them that their city is diverse and accepting of all! Plus! Who doesn't love story time with! Please keep it up :) |

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 13, 2019 9:37 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Jan Campbell; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Leslie Grenier using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 13, 2019 8:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Leslie Grenier using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Leslie |
| Last Name*: | Grenier |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I am so pleased that the library is supporting sexual and gender diversity and modelling acceptance through drag queen story time on Saturdays. Reading is an important part of creating a healthy life and having mentors that represent you is inspiring. Thank you for creating a Kelowna I want to live in. |

From:

No Reply

Sent:

September 13, 2019 11:30 AM

To:

Subject:

This is a response sent by Marissa Rafuse-Brown using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First
Name*:

Marissa

Last
Name*:

Rafuse-Brown

Phone
Number:

504077922

Library
Card:

Email*:

marissa.rafusebrown@hotmail.com

Branch:

Kelowna

Subject*:

Compliments

Message*:

I'm so happy to see ORL engaging youth with a creative, inspiring, authentic event like drag queen story time. Our libraries are amazing bastions of knowledge, acceptance, and community. Thank you for being a role model for Kelowna!

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Carrie Broughton using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:22 PM
From: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Carrie Broughton using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Carrie |
| Last Name*: | Broughton |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | <p>Just a quick shout out to thank you SO much for hosting Drag Queen Storytime! Visibility and modeling inclusion and acceptance is, I believe, at the very core of institutions like libraries. My son is 14 but he insisted that we all go this Saturday! :) and so we will! I so wish this program was around when he was little. Thank you for standing up for diversity and FUN! I know you are probably getting some negative comments too. I run a nonprofit that helps support parents and families of transgender youth. I know a little something about negative publicity and negative comments. ;) but please know that for every negative comment there are hundreds of us out here who are so proud of you, so thrilled for the young people. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.</p> |

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Tina Joslin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:29 PM
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@ori.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Tina Joslin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Tina |
| Last Name*: | Joslin |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] <[Redacted]@oranifitness.com> |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I am sooo excited for the Drag Queen story time! I think it is so cool and forward thinking that something like this is going to be offered in our city! All of the awesome Drag events in this city are really amazing and inspiring, but what I love about this is that it is for all ages. Thank you so much for bringing this in! |

Leah Samson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Jeff Campbell; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Nikita Blumhagen using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:30 PM
To: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: This is a response sent by Nikita Blumhagen using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Nikita
Last Name*: Blumhagen
Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Library Card:
Email*: [REDACTED]
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments

Message*: I really love that you guys are being diverse and accepting of all walks of life. The drag story time is such a wonderful event, and I love that people get the opportunity to meet the local drag queens, and get entertained while also learning! I'd love to see more events like this happen in Kelowna, and also surrounding areas!!

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Carla Phillips; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Leesa Resch using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:44 PM
To: Leah Samson <leasamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Leesa Resch using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Leesa

Last Name*: Resch

Phone Number: 2508598143

Library Card:

Email*: leesa_resch@live.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: Good afternoon, I just wanted to reach out and thank you for putting on the drag queen story time. I have a younger cousin who is a member of the LGBTQ community and events like this are so important to us. Its hard for our younger members to find events that aren't in a nightclub situation. These kind of events are validating and make us very grateful to be living in a town that goes above and beyond to make every child feel included.

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Michal Utko; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Aaron Young using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

-Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:48 PM
To: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Aaron Young using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Aaron |
| Last Name*: | Young |
| Phone Number: | [REDACTED] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | Absolutely love the inclusion of the LGBT community by having the "Story Time" with drag queens. Please continue doing so! Will definitely be recommending all of my friends and family to attend!! |

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Michal Utko; Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Carla Phillips; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Sean Hogan using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:50 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Sean Hogan using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Sean
Last Name*: Hogan
Phone Number: [REDACTED]
Library Card:
Email*: seanbarickhogan@gmail.com [REDACTED]
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments
Message*: Who wouldn't want the fabulous Freida Whales reading storytime to them? Kudos to the Downtown Kelowna Library for bringing such a creative and talented storyteller in Freida Whales / Tyce Cook

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:20 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jenica Frisque using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:08 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Jenica Frisque using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jenica

Last Name*: Frisque

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
Hello, as a long time library member and as a mother, I am so excited about the Drag Queen story time! I think it is so wonderful that you are leaders in the community around inclusion and diversity. Finally Kelowna is becoming a more welcoming place for LGBTQ+ people, and this event is a reflection of the community we want to build. Keep up the great work! PS. I work at UBC's Equity & Inclusion Office, and we have held Queer positive events at the Library before, we are so appreciative for your support and connection to UBCO. Thanks again, Jenica Frisque

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@oil.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:26 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Carla Phillips; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Jenna Hindley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[REDACTED]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 5:57 PM
[REDACTED]
Subject: This is a response sent by Jenna Hindley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Jenna
Last Name*: Hindley
Phone Number:
Library Card:
Email*: [REDACTED]
Branch: Kelowna
Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
I just wanted to express my excitement and gratitude for the upcoming drag queen story time event. As a child, I would have benefitted tremendously from this. As a parent, I'm grateful that I have an the opportunity to bring my daughter along. I understand that an event like this might make people who are unfamiliar with drag feel uncomfortable. So I am also excited for first timers to learn about drag, meet some fun new people, and witness the creativity involved with it all. Growing up, going to the public library in Rutland felt more like a punishment than a privilege. (Especially after I lost my first book! Late fees are no laughing matter to a 9 year old!) It's been motivating to see our library grow and evolve into the bright, fun, all-inclusive place it is today. It is atmospheres like this, that truely allow us to flourish. Thank you, Jenna

Leah Samson

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@oklib.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Michal Utko; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Jeff Campbell; Carla Phillips
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Ben Moody using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:00 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@oklib.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Ben Moody using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Ben |
| Last Name*: | Moody |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | I am really looking forward to storytime with Freida Whales. Introducing children to drag queens and SOGI/LGBTQQ2IPA culture is so important I'm forwarding our culture towards acceptance and love. As a teacher candidate at UBCO, I know that children are open to this kind of event. |

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Monica Gaucher; Christine McPhee; Michal Utko; Jeff Campbell
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Dawna Turriss using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:03 PM
To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@ok.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Dawna Turriss using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Dawna

Last Name*: Turriss

Phone Number: [Redacted]

Library Card:

Email*: [Redacted]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*:
I cant wait for story time with Freida whales!! so wouderful to see a community working together to suport local talent and all ways of life !! My son likes to where my pink girly cloths and its so important for our youth to see that's ok to feel and look different from others ,that theirs now box to be put in ,that being free to be yourself and feel safe excepted And normal . not something to be ashamed of and hiden . its just so amazing how equality for all is promoted at our local library. My son said mom i feel accepted for the first time !! Thats enormous in the life of a child to know your not alone or the only one that feels this way in side . he told me that hes never bin able to tell me in words how he was feeling inside and now hes so much happier and joy full i just wanted to take a moment to applud you as an organization and pillar of our society to make all kids feel welcome as we left he said mom i cant wait to go back to story time&the library!!

Leah Samson

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:23 AM
To: Don Nettleton; Christine McPhee; Carla Phillips; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Bernie Burger using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:45 PM
To: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Bernie Burger using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Bernie

Last Name*: Burger

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED]

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Compliments

Message*: There is an event going on at the Kelowna Dt Library On Sept.14 11am-12 that I think is absolutely wonderful and diverse storytime with frieda whales(Tyce cook). Please don't cancel this event as alot of people are interested in coming to this like myself.

[REDACTED]

From: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:22 AM
To: Management
Cc: Christopher Stephenson
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Heather Larkin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

~Leah

From: No Reply
Sent: September 11, 2019 6:53 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Heather Larkin using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Heather |
| Last Name*: | Larkin |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Other |
| Message*: | Thank you for supporting programs like Drag Queen Storytime! Such a wonderful experience for our children. |

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: September 19, 2019 11:20 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Grant Crossley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

[Redacted]

From: No Reply
Sent: September 19, 2019 7:24 AM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: This is a response sent by Grant Crossley using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|---|
| First Name*: | Grant |
| Last Name*: | Crossley |
| Phone Number: | [Redacted] |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [Redacted] |
| Branch: | Not Applicable |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | I would like to set up a meeting with the CEO to discuss the drag Queen story time. I have particular interest in this subject and advocate for the LGBT community. I am also transgender and feel the CEO is inept with this issue as I can see he is clearly not educated on the matter from what I have read within his reports. |

SUPPORT DQST FW: This is a response sent by Ellen N using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson

Tue 2019-10-15 11:43 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: No Reply

Sent: October 11, 2019 8:25 AM

To: Leah Samson

Subject: This is a response sent by Ellen N using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Ellen |
| Last Name*: | N |
| Phone Number: | |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Compliments |
| Message*: | <p>I'm a librarian in BC and I just wanted to compliment the Kelowna library on their decision to have Drag Queen Story Time. Regardless of what ORL CEO has said in his memo to the board, which I believe is an insult to libraries/librarians actually working the frontlines and helping patrons, I believe what you're doing is indeed the true and necessary work of libraries and regardless of what others say, that promotion of such events is important and needed. Thank you for upholding library values and promoting diversity and inclusivity.</p> |

Children's Programming - 2019

IN SUPPORT

of Dept

Date: Oct 9, 2019 8:13 PM

Subject: Kelowna library

Karla Kozakevich,

Although I hate writing and am even slower at typing, I felt a need to share my opinion with you and the Board on the controversy about the Drag Queen story time. I am a 66 year old woman, and at no time in my life would I have restricted my kids from having an open mind or curiosity which I believe broadens the mind and the imagination. To me, the mind is like a book or umbrella, unless opened, it doesn't work.

I do not inflict my opinion on other people and would like to think others have the same respect, although in Don Nettleton's case I believe he is sorely lacking in that department.

Two different signs I have seen for Kelowna Library are "Connecting Curious Minds" and "A Haven For Curious Minds". Don Nettleton would like to curb that so perhaps the signs should be changed.

I would also suggest that he reads the information on the on the O.R.L. Web site

BOARD POLICY & REGULATIONS September 18, 2019

SECTION I: MISSION STATEMENT, VISION, VALUES, FUNCTIONS AND STRATEGIC PLAN A. MISSION STATEMENT Connecting Curious Minds

B. VISION AND VALUES VISION The ORL provides for learning, innovation, creativity and a connected community.

Equity To the best of our ability, we provide equity of access to the tools of discover, learning, creation, and connection. Regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, wealth, or social status, you are welcome within our doors.

Intellectual Freedom We champion access to information and exposure to diverse points of view. The library as a public institution supports the free exchange of ideas as a fundamental part of democratic society.

C. FUNCTIONS OF THE OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY To assemble, preserve and administer in organized collections, books and related educational and recreational material in order to promote, through guidance and stimulation, and, communication of ideas, an enlightened citizenship and enriched personal lives. To serve the community as a centre of reliable information. To provide a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox and critical ideas so necessary as correctives and stimulants in a society that depends for its survival on free competition of ideas.

News From CBC Online -

Drag Queen Story time is 'controversial' and 'potentially divisive,' says Okanagan Library CEO

One of its participants is speaking out against a memo issued by the Okanagan Regional Library's CEO, Don Nettleton, which called the branch's first ever Drag Queen Story time event "controversial" and "potentially divisive."

(I believe the only divisive person in this scenario is Don Nettleton as he seems to be the person intentionally and actively fanning the flames of latent hostilities)

"The announced program, while claiming to be promoting diversity and acceptance, will be offensive to a significant segment of our society," Nettleton said in the memo. Nettleton said he's also concerned the library could lose its reputation as a "middle of the road" or "neutral" safe environment for children's programming.

When it comes to being offensive to a significant segment of our society, I'm sure there are people and or

groups that find many books, DVD's, T.V. shows, internet information and the like offensive as well, but they don't read the books or watch the shows. They don't engage if they find something unappealing or offensive. That is called freedom of choice, a concept that doesn't seem to apply to Don Nettleton.

Due to the fact the story time had double the attendance, I don't believe his concern about the library "could lose its reputation as a "middle of the road" or "neutral" safe environment for children's programming" is realistic . How may I ask does he see this story time as being unsafe?

In the 2019 World Freedom Index under-

B. POLITICAL PLURALISM AND PARTICIPATION: 16 / 16

The rights and interests of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) people are protected. A 2017 law explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, affording transgender individuals among others more protection against hate crimes.

It is my greatest hope that you will instruct Don Nettleton to make a public apology concerning his bigoted statements, and have him withdraw his remarks. The Okanagan Regional Library Board should be reassessing Don Nettleton's suitability for being the CEO of this important organization. If this CEO is not comfortable with championing Intellectual Freedom and Human Rights for all, he may be better suited to find employment where he can practice his personal beliefs in good conscience.

Sincerely,
Dulcie Doyle

Wilbur Turner

Email: wilburturner@gmail.com

Tel: 587-432-4100

September 21, 2019

Letter to:

Okanagan Regional Library Board Policy Committee (via Board Chair),
Karla Kozakevich, ORL Board Chair
Loyal Wooldridge, ORL Board Member

cc Carrie Broughton, Transparent Okanagan
cc Blake Edwards, Kelowna Pride
cc Tyce Cook, Frieda Whales

I am writing in response to the memo dated September 9, 2019 to the ORL Board Members with the subject Children's Programming Policy Discussion. To provide some context I held the position of President of Kelowna Pride from 2012 to 2015 and am a past President of Fierté Canada Pride, the association of Canadian Pride organizations. I am also one of the founders of Etcetera Kelowna, a peer support group for Kelowna's LGBTQ youth. I am intimately familiar with the challenges, discrimination, and overt opposition the Kelowna LGBTQ community has faced over the years. This discrimination has also come from elected officials, mostly disguised in the name of morality but in reality due to fear of political risk. As a community leader and builder, and advocate I worked to help create Kelowna and the Okanagan as a fully inclusive community that went beyond tolerance toward embracing everyone regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. It has been rewarding to see examples of this in the growing attendance to thousands of participants in the Kelowna Pride activities which many families and children of all ages attend. When I read this memo I was dismayed that someone in a position of privilege and authority would use language, rhetoric, fear mongering and inaccurate descriptions that only serves to fuel prejudice, discrimination and division. Even if this was unintentional and/or well meaning it is misguided and needs to be called out.

Intent of This Letter

The intent of this letter is to both inform and educate on the impacts/harms of the subject memo as well as provide some ideas for a positive path forward for the policy committee and the board as a whole to ensure ORL lives up to its mission and promises, updates policies as necessary to ensure it fully supports diversity and inclusion, and eliminates harmful language from its operations. This letter is provided in the spirit of enrichment of our communities as a whole.

Harmful Language

Reading or hearing words and language that fuels prejudice and discrimination is unfortunately a commonplace experience for LGBTQ people. This harmful language delegitimizes who we are at a personal and human level. Terms such as sexual choice, lifestyle choice, and gender selection creates the illusion that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer is simply a choice that one makes in life. In the case of the writer of this memo it is also implies that this "lifestyle choice" is controversial, divisive, and unsafe (in particular around young children).

I must also inquire how promoting equality and supporting diversity is a liberal political agenda being pushed to children? While liberal politicians have most often been the recent champions of LGBTQ equality this hasn't always been the case and it isn't necessary to hold liberal values to want equality. The expression of this opinion in the memo further stigmatizes a group of people who already hear themselves being called snowflakes, libtards, and other terms meant to be demeaning and derogatory.

The use of the term traditionally accepted is also problematic in that this most often excludes same-sex relationships and single parents. This term is often interchanged with family values and traditional families. In the context of this memo the use of this term appears to seek to convince the reader that the agenda behind Drag Queen Story Time to promote community acceptance is less than wholesome. We are constantly bombarded by the efforts of family values activists decrying what they call the gay agenda of having TV shows, movies, and advertisements showing non-traditional families, same-sex relationships, transgender characters, etc.

Labeling staff members as activist librarians and advocating controlling them through policy is hugely problematic and will only lead to a less than desirable work environment. Part of a healthy work environment includes a strong values statement regarding a workplace that promotes diversity and inclusion.

The constant barrage of this harmful language through social media, in the workplace and the public domain is a constant and overwhelming stress on the emotional wellbeing of millions of LGBTQ people around the world. In the North American political world we watch the swinging pendulum of equality gained and equality taken away, adding to our fears of a more hostile and unsafe world becoming a new reality. In many parts of the world the seemingly fragile hard earned equality that we do enjoy is only dreamed of, and we as a community do not want to regress to that point. Thus, when this type of language is used with the intention of influencing policy it understandably opens old wounds, causing hurt, emotional pain and distress. The idea of "choice" in this matter is seriously outdated and flawed not only from a current cultural and social perspective but also from a medical and scientific viewpoint. When these ideas and this language comes from our public institutions it is even more distressing.

Fear of the Community

The memo speaks to a fear of losing support or "alienating a significant section of our communities." The fact according to Gallup is 49% of Canadians support same sex relationships and most people are committed to the values of tolerance, respect for diversity, and equality. It should also be noted that this percentage rises to 64% in young people ages 18-29.

The memo mentions that adverse reactions will be stronger in smaller communities. This may sadly be true, however it is events such as Pride festivals and Drag Queen Story Time which are likely the only means of bringing enlightenment and education to these communities that will make a positive difference. ORL is uniquely positioned to deliver this through community driven accessible events such as Drag Queen Story Time.

The whole premise of the memo seems to be based around this fear of backlash due to Drag Queens being around young children, with emphasis on very young children. For whatever reason, be it exposure to Drag, gay people, transgender people, etc., or the possible defamatory association of LGBTQ as pedophiles, this fear mongering and use of inflammatory

language is very concerning and part of the learning that needs to take place to open hearts and minds and prove the fear unfounded.

For whatever reason the thought seems to be missing that parents and guardians are entrusted with and given the choice of what programming their children participate in.

What needs to be acknowledged is that we are not yet at the time where it is safe for same-sex couples to hold hands or demonstrate any kind of affection to each other in public, and transgender people face constant discrimination in all kinds of situations as well as fear for their life and personal safety. Compared to this very real fear, how can one measure or justify the fear of public backlash from a few vocal citizens against efforts to provide education, enlightenment and fun for children and their families through the art form of Drag?

ORL Mission and Values Statements

The memo for the most part seems to be overwhelmingly contrary to parts of the ORL mission and values statements. In particular:

- Mission - Connecting curious minds
- Values - We are here to help you learn, discover, create, and connect.
- Most pointedly: We value innovation and fresh thinking. We work to understand the needs of the people we serve, and we embrace change in order to meet those needs.
- To provide opportunity for recreation through the use of literature, music, films, videotapes and other art forms.
- To provide a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox and critical ideas so necessary as correctives and stimulants in a society that depends for its survival on free competition of ideas.

The History and Importance of Drag Culture

Drag has been in existence since at least the time of early theatre when women were not permitted to be actors. When a female part was required it was played by a male and was referred to as DRAG, an acronym for dressed as a girl. Drag culture in North America evolved out of vaudeville productions and underground bars where gay people associated as they were not permitted to be served alcohol at regular bars. Drag entertainers became some of the front-line protesters in the Stonewall Riots in 1969 which evolved into Gay Pride and modern Pride festivals. Drag performers have not only provided entertainment, bringing levity to a community who were forced to live in the closet and associate in underground culture, they are often leaders in fundraising for community charities and instrumental in educating, being community leaders and catalysts for change.

One great example of the influence and importance of Drag is the entertainer Panti (Rory O'Neill) in Ireland. O'Neill was influential in the successful campaign for marriage equality in Ireland. Information about Panti is available at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panti>. O'Neill was awarded an honorary degree from Trinity College Dublin for his contribution to LGBT rights and marriage equality.

Drag Queen Story Time was started in the US by a performer at Radar Productions, an organization for POC artists. In creating this they envisioned creating support for autonomous local chapters once they saw the popularity and demand for the programs. The popularity of the event at the Downtown Kelowna Library demonstrates the community demand for this and points to the "needs of the people we serve" element of ORL values.

It needs to be understood that Drag is inextricably linked to LGBTQ culture and any attempt to label it as dangerous, unsafe, or inappropriate will only be seen as an attack on the LGBTQ community.

Recommendations

1. What appears to be missing is an overarching position statement on diversity and inclusion. One possible reference is the statement from the Canadian Library Association:

“The Canadian Library Association believes that a diverse and pluralistic society is central to our country’s identity. Libraries have a responsibility to contribute to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion. Libraries strive to deliver inclusive service. Canada’s libraries recognize and energetically affirm the dignity of those they serve, regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities, or income. Libraries understand that an acceptance of differences can place individual and collective values in conflict. Libraries are committed to tolerance and understanding. Libraries act to ensure that people can enjoy services free from any attempt by others to impose values, customs or beliefs.”

The above statement addresses the possibility of conflict as well as the attempt by others to impose values, customs or beliefs. It also addresses the responsibility of the library in contributing to a culture that recognizes diversity and fosters social inclusion.

2. Update language in the values statements to include gender identity.
3. Recognize Drag as an art form.
4. Add wording for the policy on children’s programming similar to what is already in place for children’s use of the Internet:

“Parental Responsibility and Child Safety on the Internet. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for their children’s use of the Internet. Parents are encouraged to work closely with their children in selecting and viewing material that is consistent with personal and family values and boundaries.”

5. Work at the strategic level to create a truly diverse and inclusive workplace. Organizations that thrive are moving beyond mere compliance to a strategic level of effort and demonstrating that a diverse and inclusive workplace can still produce intended business results.
6. Incorporate diversity and inclusion training into the organization. This will help to uncover unconscious biases, improve employee and stakeholder engagement and foster an inclusive climate.

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide input to the policy committee on this matter. I trust it will be taken in the spirit it has been provided. ORL is perfectly poised to enhance the value of the public library system in the Okanagan by welcoming and fully supporting diversity and inclusion through updated policies and programming. I encourage ORL to continue in providing children a safe place for learning opportunities in support of these community values.

Best regards,

Wilbur Turner

From: Edwards, Blake
Sent: Saturday, October 12, 2019 4:30 PM
Subject: Re: Board Policy on Children's Programming

Hello Karla, et. al,

I haven't heard any updates on when consultation will be taking place with the Policy Committee. I am assuming that Kelowna Pride will be on that invite list.

Thank you in advance,

Blake

On Tue, Sep 17, 2019 at 8:03 PM Edwards, Blake wrote:
Hello Karla (cc'd Don),

Please share with your Board before your meeting.

Dear ORL Board,

On behalf of the Kelowna Pride Society - a group of elected officials with the mandate to represent the LGBT2Q+ community - I am writing you today to disregard Item 5.3 - Memo: Children's Programming Policy Discussion.

First off, thank you for representing your communities on the Board - it is not always the easiest task.

Second, I believe it is the responsibility of librarians to decide programming that occurs within libraries. To discuss policy change on programming, I believe, would be a gross overstep in your responsibilities as Board members.

Thirdly, There are a number of fallacies proposed in the memo concerning drag, fuelling bigotry and divisiveness. Drag is a form of artistic expression and entertainment. By creating space for these events, the ORL is making a concerted effort to diversify its offerings and allow freedom for expression. This was the best attended Story Time with over 100 peoples turning out. It is obvious that the ORL met a programming need for the community. Sometimes it can be seen as controversial because it is different. Naturally, people do not like change, but taking away space from those most vulnerable in society (LGBT2Q+, people of colour, indigenous, etc.) is providing an even bigger disservice.

Lastly, speaking on behalf of LGBT2Q+ youth, when youth can see themselves in adults it has been proven to greatly reduce the potential for depression and suicide. I recommend you review some information on [LGBT2Q+ Suicide in Canada](#).

I hope that you choose the right side of history. I'm sure 50 years ago, a Black person reading Story Time would be controversial - but naturally, we have learned. Knowledge is power.

--

Blake Edwards, BA, PMP

Co-President and Director of Communications
Kelowna Pride Society | Pride Festival June 15-22

Leah Samson

From: Elise Hjalmarson <elisehjalmarson@gmail.com>
Sent: September 18, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Don Nettleton; k.kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

Dear Mr. Nettleton, Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing this letter to the ORL Board to express my wholehearted support for the recent addition of Drag Queen Story Time to the children's programming at the ORL as well as my profound dismay with the BOD's interference.

I have frequented the Okanagan Regional Library since I was a child. As I was home-schooled for many years, the public library was one of the few key institutions in our local community which encouraged me to cultivate my love of reading and writing. Indeed, at the age of eleven, I won the Rutland Regional Library's short story contest. You can imagine my jubilation!

Twenty years later, I was impressed to see that the downtown location of the Okanagan Regional Library had begun a Drag Queen Story Time. Such events, as described in the library's own description of the program, comprise a fun, accessible way to celebrate gender diversity and to promote acceptance in our community. Following this year's vandalism of the rainbow sidewalk in Coldstream, we clearly have work to do to build more inclusive, hospitable, and safe communities for people of diverse expressions and identities. That the public library should play a role in these efforts seems, to me, quite clear, as captured in its values of *Equity* and *Intellectual Freedom* in its most recent Strategic Plan.

Following my initial excitement, I was deeply troubled to learn that—not as a response to complaints but professedly due to the discomfort of its own members—the ORL Board is reconsidering its policy on child programming. I was particularly astonished by the CEO's recommendations in a memo written on September 9 in which he amplifies these concerns, suggesting that Drag Queen Story Time has the potential to be 'divisive' and 'offensive', and to lead to 'polarization and bigotry'.

In his final policy recommendation, Mr. Nettleton emphasizes 'safety' as key to ORL children's programming and suggests the narrowing of library programming (notably, to exclude the future scheduling of Drag Queen Story Time) in order to preserve such safety. What is Mr. Nettleton's true concern? Is Mr. Nettleton suggesting that the drag queen, either figuratively or personally, constitutes a danger to children during story time? Is Mr. Nettleton unaware of the exclusion, violence, and hate that LGBTQ people continue to face in Canada and the world? *Is not teaching children to love and respect one another and those different from them equally important as teaching children to read?*

According to the ORL's Board Policies, one of the library's goals is as follows:

To provide a place where inquiring minds may encounter the original, sometimes unorthodox and critical ideas so necessary as correctives and stimulants in a society that depends for its survival on free competition of ideas

As a beacon of literacy, learning, and free thought in our communities, I affirm the ORL's desire to be culturally-sensitive and to refrain from alienating any particular group within our community. However, in this instance, I fear that this important library goal is at risk of being misapplied. Will all future stories read as part of the library's programming for children ages 3 to 6 be read by drag queens? I suspect the answer to this question is no. So long as there continues to be an array of diverse options available as part of the library's children's programming, I believe the library is fulfilling its mandate. Indeed, the inclusion of Drag Queen Story Time—itsself undoubtedly "an encounter with the original, sometimes unorthodox"—ought to be applauded.

Instead of wavering before the opportunity to champion equity, inclusion, and diversity in the Okanagan, I hope my regional library will continue to foster an environment that bravely forecloses bigotry—beginning within its own Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Elise Hjalmarson

.....
Elise Hjalmarson, B.A., M.A.

PhD Candidate, Anthropology and Sociology | The Graduate Institute, Geneva
Institut de Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement

ehjal@ehjal | +1 778 214 8366 | Kelowna, BC

Gahman, L., and Hjalmarson, E. 2019. "Border imperialism, racial capitalism, and geographies of deracination." *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, 18 (1): 107-129. Available at <https://www.acme-journal.org/index.php/acme/article/view/1823>

Cohen, A. and Hjalmarson, E. 2018. "Quiet struggles: Migrant farmworkers, informal labor, and everyday resistance in Canada." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*. (Online first).

Got food? Thank a migrant farmworker!

Tienes comida? Dale gracias a un trabajador agrícola!

Leah Samson

From: Ben Moody <benjmoody@gmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 8:11 PM
To: Don Nettleton; kozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Future of Drag Queen Storytime

Hello Don and Karla,

First of all, thank you kindly for taking the time to read this, and supporting public libraries throughout the Okanagan. They are a vital service to children and adults alike. As a kid I spent hours and hours in the library, reading books and using the computers to discover the internet and the many amazing things that can be learned there. I also attended many storytime sessions at the Lake Country branch. I am a current elementary teacher candidate at UBCO, and I have previously coordinated the pride center there for two years. I have also worked in men's health with the BC Centre for Disease Control and a provincial government working group.

Back in the early 90's, I didn't know anything about sexual orientation or gender identity, and I certainly did not know what a drag queen was. When Mrs. Doubtfire came out, I didn't bat an eye - I was 5 at the time - I just loved it. (Who wouldn't? Robin Williams is an eternal legend!) But no one thought that it was age inappropriate. Likewise, in the film Robots, one of the characters slowly discovers a joy in cross-dressing. (Funnily enough, this character is played by Robin Williams as well...) Anyway, my point here is that men dressed in women's clothing has been a staple of the film and acting business for a long time (indeed since Shakespeare's day at least!) So it certainly cannot be this part that is "age inappropriate".

So I begin to wonder what it really is that is inappropriate for young children here? I don't think it's the story being read (those are selected for young children specifically). I don't think it's the dancing (kids love to dance!) and I don't think it's the other activities such as colouring (fun fact: I designed the colouring sheets!). So if it's not any of these things, what then could it be?

Well, I've obviously been purposely naive here, as the clear answer is that the supposedly age inappropriate topic is connotations of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. But, wait a second, we know from numerous studies (see mayo clinic, kidshealth.org, etc) that children recognize their sexual identities at a very young age. Indeed, as a child, I found myself interested in other boys in Kindergarten! It was very confusing at that age to not understand why I was feeling that way. No one talked about Sexual Orientation back then. Not openly at least. It was hushed whispers about the neighbours or protests in the newspapers. I had no frame of reference for my feelings and no one to talk to about it.

Had the local library (which I attended frequently) promoted a diverse portfolio of activities, I may have understood myself more. Ultimately it was not until I was 20 before I realized that I was homosexual, and not until I was 24 when I came out to my family.

Today I am supported and I work to support others where I can. But I can only do so much. That is where public awareness and inclusivity comes in. Programs like storytime offered by the public library, the school district's SOGI curriculum, and information at doctor's offices. Had these been available to me as a child, I think things may have turned out differently for me. I may have accepted my sexuality much earlier and essentially avoided a second adolescence wherein I explored my newly understood sexual orientation in my 20's.

Libraries have given so much to our communities, but I think they can give just a little bit more. Please consider allowing Drag Queen Storytime to continue. For removing it may feel as though the library does not support children like myself in the 90's.

I will not be able to attend the meeting, however, I encourage you to read my story aloud as one of many voices of concerned citizens.

Sincerely,

Ben Moody

Leah Samson

From: J Kar [mailto:lliankarpick@gmail.com]
Sent: September 17, 2019 11:13 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Regarding Sept 18th ORL board meeting - support for diverse programming

September 17, 2019

Dear Don Nettleton,

I would like to begin with my praise for the September 14 Drag Queen Story Time event.

Curious what people's thoughts were after hearing of backlash for the event, I spent a lot of time listening to and chatting with attendees. I probably spoke with over 40 adults and children who were there to enjoy a unique Story Time with exciting new presenters. Most of the adults I spoke with even shared a longing that they could have had something similar in their Library when they were children.

One person I spoke with wasn't even attending the event, simply visiting the library. They stopped on the stairs to tell me how much they used to love story time as a child, and that this looked like so much fun - they were even jealous they weren't one of the kids seated on the floor.

Everywhere I looked, there were smiles and laughter and joy. The children and people in attendance were happy to laugh and sing with the queens, much like every story time put on by any host. And these hosts, Freida Whales and Valerie Rose, due to their learned stage charisma for performance, were even more well-equipped for holding an audience's attention (which can be next to impossible with young children). After the story and song portion of the event was over, attendees were ecstatic to meet and take photos with the queens, and I saw many children treat them as if they were meeting a cherished hero. Freida Whales, and the library staff, planned an overwhelmingly beautiful event, which was entirely age appropriate and respectful of everyone, and filled with all the fun and learning a children's story time should have.

I would also like to address the Memo referenced in the September 18 Agenda for the **(5.3) Children's Programming Policy Discussion**.

There is a statement in the Memo that I would like to point out:

"We may reposition ourselves away from being an accepted, middle of the road, non-controversial (neutral) and safe environment for children's programming in the minds of many."

I do actually agree with the statement that the library should remain a neutral environment, which is why I would like to reference the **Canadian Library Association Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries**. It states:

Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and facilitate access to constitutionally protected expressions of knowledge, imagination, ideas, and opinion, including those which some individuals and groups consider unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable. To this end, in accordance with their mandates and professional values and standards, libraries provide, defend and promote equitable access to the widest possible variety of expressive content and resist calls for censorship and the adoption of systems that deny or restrict access to resources. Libraries have a core responsibility to safeguard and foster free expression and the right to safe and welcoming places and conditions. To this end, libraries make available their public spaces and services to individuals and groups without discrimination.

If the library is to remain neutral, I believe that this statement perfectly references how it should do just that - by defending and promoting this type of program. It provides a space where children are able to see that there is a place in the world where imagination and open expression can be a reality. Having Drag Queen Story Time provides children, their families, and caregivers, with role models who express themselves with confidence and freedom, and do not conform to negative and outdated gender normalizations/stereotypes.

This in no way means that the Library is opening "Discussions related to sexual orientation, gender selection..." (as quoted from the Memo), and anyone in attendance at the September 14 event can attest that this topic was not brought up in the slightest. What it does mean is that the library is providing a neutral space for attendees to take part in this program celebrating diversity and freedom of expression.

It should also be stated that if the library is to amend their policy for Children's programming, the suggestion of wording in the *Memo RE: Children's Programming Policy Discussion* is in direct conflict with what the CLA's Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries states.

In the *Memo RE: Children's Programming Policy Discussion*, concern over community support is expressed in regards to these programs. In trying to remain inoffensive "to a significant segment of our society", it could actually be alienating to a massive portion of it. In not supporting diverse programming such as Drag Queen Story Time, in this instance it puts up a wall between not only those of the LGBTQ2A+ community, but also those who are allies of that community, which is a far larger number when they are part of the calculations.

The negative voices may seem to have a lot to say at this moment, but my question is this: what is the goal of the ORL Children's Programming? If parents and caregivers are supporting these events, literacy and reading is being promoted, which is stated as being the goal of the library according to the *Memo RE: Children's Programming Policy Discussion*. At the September 14 Drag Queen Story Time, there were over 160 people in attendance, meaning that the program met its goal; I would even say, exceeding it.

Thank you for reading my letter, and I hope that I have assisted in providing some food for thought in regards to this issue.

Sincerely,

Jillian Karpick



[REDACTED]

From: Mark Reinelt <mreinelt@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Christine McPhee; Monica Gaucher; Michal Utko; Don Nettleton; Jeff Campbell; Carla Phillips; Jeremy Sundin
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Amanda Poon using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Hi folks, thought the management team should see this. I am proud to be a part of this organization and what we do. Thank you all.

Cheers,
Mark

From: KL Reference
Sent: September 12, 2019 9:21 AM
To: Mark Reinelt <mreinelt@orl.bc.ca>; Christopher Stephenson <cstephenson@orl.bc.ca>; Ashley Machum <amachum@orl.bc.ca>; Catherine Leif <cleif@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: This is a response sent by Amanda Poon using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

Another one to keep us going!

Kelowna Branch Reference Department
Okanagan Regional Library
1380 Ellis Street
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 2A2
Phone: 250-762-2800

From: No Reply
Sent: September 12, 2019 4:34 AM
To: KL Reference <klreference@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: This is a response sent by Amanda Poon using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Amanda

Last Name*: Poon

Phone Number: 250-861-0620

Library Card:

Email*: [redacted] mandapoon84@gmail.com [redacted]

Branch: Kelowna [redacted]

Subject*: Library Programs

Message*:

Hello, Thank you for hosting "Story time with a drag queen". When my mom was a single mom, taking us kids to story time at the library was the most anticipated event in our lives. We didn't have much money but I didn't know it at the time because with enough books you are rich. Sometimes the librarian would use puppets to read the stories or wear costumes. This sparked my imagination, and inspired me to write and perform my own plays. The library was a place of wonder & imagination. As a dark skinned kid, I felt included when the librarians wore costumes or used puppets that were red, blue, purple, glitter. There wasn't a lot of representation for me back then, so seeing that you could be smart, funny, wise, entertaining no matter what you looked like gave me confidence. I bet there's a kid today who needs to know that too. A good story is a good story no matter what you wear when you're reading it.

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Children's Programming - 2019

OPPOSED

to DQST

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I am happy to see that the Library Board is taking a serious look at the continuation of the Drag Queen Story time for preschoolers. Promoting gender selection and sexual orientation for an audience of innocent three to five year olds is not age or developmentally appropriate. Children have a right to their innocence and it is the responsibility of adults to guard this innocence. To promote gender confusion in preschoolers is simply not fair.

I ask that you please cancel the Drag Queen Story hour. I do not want my taxpayer dollars spent on this divisive program.

Yours Sincerely,

Elaine Phelps

*209-4433 Gordon St
Kelowna BC V1W 1S9*

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,

Rose Ann Forster

310-5100 Benvenuto Ct.,
Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z3

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,

Ana Traljević

4572 Hayes Rd.
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 5A7

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2019

OCT 8, 2019
[Redacted]
Kelowna BC
[Redacted]

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,



RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Oct 8, 2019
4310 Gordon Dr
Kelowna BC
V1W 4P3

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,

Judy Bryczyk

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,

D. Van de Mosselaer

D. VAN DE MOSSELAER

208-688 LEQUIME RD.

KELOWNA, BC

V1W 1A4

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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Yours Sincerely,

Ann M Day

ANN DAY

~~4132 BEDFORD RD~~

~~KELOWNA BC~~

Marianne Figuera
[Redacted]
Kelowna BC

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,

Marianne Figuera

508-2075 [redacted]
Kelowna BC V1W 0K

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,

Benita Spencer

523 Metcalfe Ave
Kelowna BC
V1W 5K8

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED
OCT. 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,

Jean Heggie

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

6534 Raymer Rd
Kelowna BC

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Yours Sincerely,

Mary Hobbs

1075 - BARNES AVE
KELOWNA, BC

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,



Jene Caron
2435 Monashee Court
Kelowna BC
V1V1J6

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,

Jene Caron

605-1947 Underhills
Kelowna BC
V1X 7Z5

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2019

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I ask that you please cancel the Drag Queen Story hour. I do not want my taxpayer dollars spent on this divisive program.

Yours Sincerely,
Anne Chabley

Annette Pelletier

1201 Cameron Ave
Kelowna BC V1W3R7

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

RECEIVED
OCT 21 2019

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Yours Sincerely,



RECEIVED

OCT 21 2019

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Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

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I ask that you please cancel the Drag Queen Story hour. I do not want my taxpayer dollars spent on this divisive program.

Yours Sincerely,

Emily Bekean

*45-3775 Springbrook Rd
Kelowna BC
V1W 4A3*

Children's Programming - 2019

OPPOSED

to DQST

Leah Samson

From: Carly Perryman [redacted] carlyperryman@hotmail.com
Sent: September 18, 2019 10:46 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hi there,

I usually do not get involved in political issues such as this but I just wanted to share that those that are opposed to the drag queen story time are not bigots. I for one am very respectful of everyone.

I would like to highlight that the particular drag queens involved in this event in the community promote hyper sexuality in both their personal and professional lives. That is not an example for young children.

Below are some screenshots from their Facebook accounts which are shared publicly.

I am sure the other people that read to the kids do not have this kind of content on their social media pages. And if they do, they should not be doing story time for children either.

I hope that the Okanagan Regional Library will make a good decision as to the role models we put on a pedestal for our children.

Carly

Ranked Page Photos



 Like  Comment  Share

Ranked Page Photos

ne Photos



Like

Comment

Share

Options



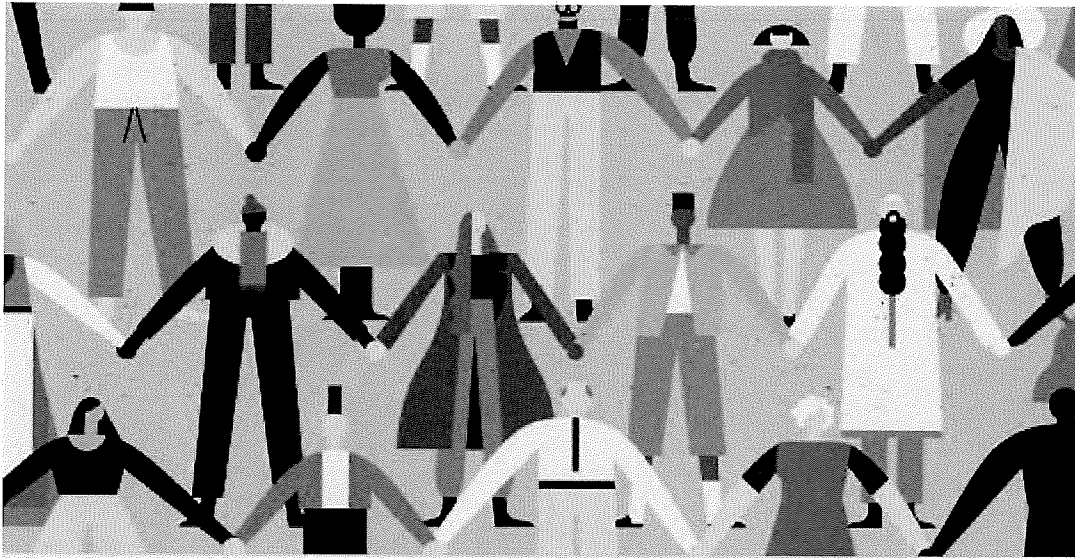
Grayson Hope Nordgren created a fundraiser.



September 13 at 12:50 PM · Facebook Fundraisers · 🌐

Hey my birthday is coming up, and no one needs go get me any presents, but Jenna could definitely use a pair of tits. If you donate I guarantee I will let you squeeze them.

Silicone breastplates aren't cheap so I appreciate the birthday tips 😊



Buying myself a breast plate

Fundraiser for Grayson Hope Nordgren

Hey my birthday is coming up, and no one needs go get me any presents, but Jenna could definitely use a pair of ... Continue Reading

\$0 raised of \$500



Be the first to donate!

Donate

Photos of Grayson Hope Nordgren

in Profile Pictures



Like



Comment



Share

Tag Photo

10/20

From: Erin McGeachy
Sent: September 24, 2019 8:56 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour

To whom it may concern,

Please consider this a letter of disapproval and of request to cancel all further upcoming Drag Queen Story Hours.

Preceding the one last Saturday, I had a good conversation with Chris Stephenson and expressed my concern. Drag Queens in general, and certainly the ones reading to the children last weekend, have a sexual persona.

One look at either person's facebook or social media sites would have one conclude nothing about their 'act' is suitable for children. Highly sexual in nature. Raunchy is an understatement. Experts have said its a 'grooming tactic'. Would we enlist a stripper to read to our kids next? Frieda Whales has a video of his act, where he mouths the words 'I love sex'. Hmmmm, not exactly kid friendly. Barely adult friendly. Suitable for Level Night Club, maybe. But our publicly funded PUBLIC LIBRARY, absolutely not. Any child that would be led to the 'performers' social media sites would be exposed to sexual innuendo, even pornographic. It's actually unfathomable and ridiculous we even need to point this out. If you would like to offer something to display diversity, how about a syrian refugee, or an athlete that has overcome a disability? Something the whole community could support. Exposing children to sexuality is not okay, and this now creating division in the community.

My family is strongly requesting all further Drag Queen Story Hour's be cancelled, and not something that would be offered again. Please please reconsider. You are responsible for what you are exposing children too.

I have attached a couple of photos from Freida's facebook page. Quite appalling that this is considered suitable for children. If it was a straight man in regular clothes with a facebook page like this we wouldn't even be having this discussion.

Thank you for taking the time to review my letter.

Erin & Wayne McGeachy



Freida Whales

August 14 at 9:31 PM · 🌐



Contest alert!! Go check out Naughty Girls page for the contest!



Naughty Girl Essentials Lingerie August 14

Send Message



[REDACTED]

From: Tom & Allison Millar <tmillar@shaw.ca>
Sent: September 17, 2019 9:24 PM
To: Don Nettleton; [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen story time ...

Hello Mr. Nettleton and Ms. Kozakevich,

I am writing to you both regarding the Drag Queen story time that I saw advertised on the ORL website. To say that I am shocked and appalled that this would be taking place in my community is an understatement and I want to formally state my disapproval of this decision of the ORL to hold such an event.

Children should not be subjected to sexualization of any kind. As a tax-paying citizen and patron of your library, it's my right to vocalize what type of programs I believe my local library should endorse. A drag queen story hour is NOT one of them. I believe that it should be cancelled.

Does the library allow strippers to bring their poles to the library to read to innocent children? So why should the library allow a drag queen (part of a HIGHLY sexualized group of people) to come?

Did you and your staff not see the news article the other day about how a drag queen in a Portland library was photographed with children lying on top of him whilst he "read" books? Or how the drag queen in Seattle was twerking whilst reading? You do not have to have people twerk or dress up in sexy costumes to read a book to a child! There was also a library in New York state who had drag queens reading and they were convicted pedophiles!

Please reconsider how this negatively affects children in the Okanagan and spend time and energy finding ways to instill a love of reading instead ... whilst protecting their innocence ... instead of bowing to perceived societal pressures to embrace a controversial program.

Thank you for your time in reading this email,
Allison Millar

Leah Samson

From: Miranda Shuba <m.shuba@hotmail.com>
Sent: September 17, 2019 10:29 PM
To: Don Nettleton; dkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag story time

I realize this email may be untimely as the meeting to address this is scheduled for tomorrow. I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the diversity on the shelves of the library. I like that I can read books to my young children (I have 4) and teach them about our beautiful world. I have enjoyed coming to the library for story time and my children have really enjoyed participating in the summer reading club. I have enjoyed requesting books and the thrill of taking out that book that is so specific to my own desire for knowledge and reading pleasure. I'm thrilled to return it at the thought of others enjoying it too. How exciting it is to see the waitlist grow! I love the library. However, if drag queen story time were to take place at my local library, I would stop taking my children there. I'm not driven by fear or hate, I just believe it is adult content that should not be promoted to children. We homeschool our children so we use the library A LOT. Please don't take that option away.
Library cardholder of 25 years,
Miranda



Sent: September 7, 2019 8:08 PM

To: [REDACTED] samson@orl.bc.ca

Subject: This is a response sent by Ryan Price using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

First Name*: Ryan

Last Name*: Price

Phone Number:

Library Card:

Email*: [REDACTED] price_005@hotmail.com

Branch: Kelowna

Subject*: Complaints

Message*: Hi there! Although this message is under the "Complaints" it is also an honest and genuinely sincere question that I am wondering the answer to... I noticed that you will be having a Drag Queen come in this Saturday to read stories to kids. In the spirit of EQUALITY and DIVERSITY, will you guys also allow someone to come in and share a different perspective? To share the facts and evidence of how this is unhealthy and harmful to children? Or have someone come in to do Bible reading for kids? Would love to see two-way tolerance from the Kelowna Library being exercised. Thank you for your time and consideration! Hope to hear back from you soon :)
Sincerely, Ryan Price

[Redacted]

From: Matt & Tania Driediger <mtodriediger@gmail.com>
Sent: September 20, 2019 5:40 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: storytime

I think that story times for young children should be about animals, transportation, and ocean creatures! Hosting a story time by drag queens does not seem like an appropriate topic for young children. Especially when presented by an outside source (not a staff person). It's pretty shocking that the library would let an outside source "teach" a story time. That actually isn't a story time-it seems more like an activist agenda . . . what's next on the topic list- how to grow your own marijuana? Yes it is that crazy of a topic for little ones!

I sincerely hope that these type of events won't happen.

Tania Driediger

Fwd: Storytime with leaders that are drag queen

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Thu 2019-09-26 8:15 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <t.lavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Glenn Perran <gperran@gmail.com>

Date: Sep 26, 2019 7:57 PM

Subject: Storytime with leaders that are drag queen

To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Cc:

To whom it may concern,

I have read about the Drag Queen Storytime at the local Kelowna Library. It is very disturbing to allow this to take place to children who are so young and impressionable. As a taxpayer of Kelowna, BC Canada, and someone who votes, I hope that I have a voice that is heard. There are better role models who could be leading Storytime at the local library. Children could become confused by such behaviour and it is very unacceptable to have men dressing up in flamboyant female outfits leading story time at the local library to young children. Let us have children be children, they are frequently exposed to many issues that are best left to their understanding when they are mature, not at a young impressionable age where confusion can easily set in in regards to gender.

Best Regards,

Glenn Perran

Leah Samson

From: Daniel Nunez <daniel@newlife.bc.ca>
Sent: October 18, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Leah Samson, kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Drag Queen Reading time

Hi, my name is Daniel

A parent here in Kelowna. Please don't host this drag queen storytime. No hate to the people of the LGBT community. Gathering children together to read books is awesome, praising a very sexualized culture is inappropriate for children. It saddened me that the Library would consider hosting this.

Please reconsider,

Daniel Nunez

Leah Samson

From: Therese Steuri <thsteuri@hotmail.com>
Sent: October 18, 2019 2:45 PM
To: Leah Samson, kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca, Michal Utko
Subject: Proposed drag queen story time for Okanagan libraries

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable among us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not OK.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas and lifestyles when they are not mature enough to process it. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Respectfully,

Therese Steuri

thsteuri@hotmail.com
Telephone 250-863-5919

Fwd: Drag Queen Reading time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Fri 2019-10-18 4:51 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Daniel Nunez <daniel@newlife.bc.ca>
Date: Oct 18, 2019 12:25 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Reading time
To: <admin@orl.bc.ca>, Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

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Please reconsider,

Daniel Nunez

From: ALLAN CARLSON
Sent: October 9, 2019 10:05 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Good work Don

Saw the BCLA open "bully" letter. Stand firm Don, the vast majority of folks are right behind you. You're right, there are a lot of folks who will decline to bring their kids to the library if they think they are going to be assaulted by "drag queens" seeking to inculcate impressionable minds with fringe "tastes".

Fwd: Library Drag Queen Story-time and links to explain why it is harmful to children

Don Nettleton

Sat 2019-09-21 9:15 PM

To: ORL Policy [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: jd lew [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, September 21, 2019 7:53 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Library Drag Queen Story-time and links to explain why it is harmful to children

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I agree with you that Drag Queen Story time at the Okanagan Regional Library should be suspended and is not appropriate for children. I would like to share some links to articles that explain why these events are harmful to children.

Transgenderism is a Gateway to Pedophilia

<http://www.ncregister.com/blog/benjamin-wiker/transgenderism-as-a-gateway-to-pedophilia>

How the Sexual Revolution Has Corrupted the Professions (and What You Can Do About It!)

COMMENTARY: The American Library Association's promotion of 'Drag Queen Story Hours' is just one example. <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/how-the-sexual-revolution-has-corrupted-the-professions-and-what-you-can-do>

Drag Devouring Children; Millstones Await [Drag Devouring Children; Millstones Await | The Stream](#)

Meet a 10-Year-Old Boy Who is Being Raised as a 'Drag

Queen' <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/segelstein/meet-a-10-year-old-boy-whose-parents-are-raising-him-as-a-drag-queen>

Drag Queen Story Hour: Coming to a Library Near You/ How should a Catholic respond? [Drag Queen Story Hour: Coming to a Library Near You](#)

and even the CBC has a controversial show called Drag Kids:

Fwd: Drag queens at story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sun 2019-09-22 8:34 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Nancy Turner <nturner@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 8:32 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag queens at story time

I brought my children to the Mission Library for a great magic show this summer! Thank you! I will not, however, be bringing them to the drag queen story times. The idea of accepting others who are different is right on! But drag queens have more of a message than just being different. Their agenda is to make everyone believe that if you don't agree with gender choice, you are homophobic. This is not fair to people of various faiths. There is a majority of Canadians being slandered for believing in a Creator that made two genders: males and females.

Please do not encourage these story times to continue with this agenda.

It is offensive to many of your library users.

Thank you,
Nancy Turner

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Drag story

✕ DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sun 2019-09-22 4:39 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Harley Lockhart [mailto:harleylock@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2019 4:20 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag story

Hi Don,
Thank you for representing my perspective. I definitely see no reason to permit a drag story time at any library. Please pass on to the appropriate destination.
Harley Lockhart

Fwd: Drag story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Mon 2019-09-23 7:21 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Harley Lockhart <harleylock@gmail.com>
Date: Sep 22, 2019 4:23 PM
Subject: Drag story time
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Please include my opinion in delivering the issue of drag story time, which I consider to be abusive to children. No organization should ever expose small children to such abuse.

Harley Lockhart

FW: Drag Queen Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Mon 2019-09-23 2:35 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: Adrienne Bailie <adrienneb@gmail.com>
Sent: September 23, 2019 2:31 PM
To: Korakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Storytime

Hello,

As a ORL member and concerned citizen, I wanted to write and express my unease about the story time by drag queens that has been scheduled this fall at the library. I usually do not get involved in political issues such as this but I felt I needed to share that those that are opposed to the drag queen story time are not bigots. I try to be very respectful of everyone.

I would like to highlight that the particular drag queens involved in this event in the community promote hyper sexuality in both their personal and professional lives. That is not an example for young children.

I hope that the Okanagan Regional Library will make a good decision as to the role models we put on a pedestal for our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Adrienne Bailie

Fwd: Storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rddb.bc.ca>
Mon 2019-09-23 4:51 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: mandi metcalfe <mandimet@hotmail.com>
Date: Sep 23, 2019 3:20 PM
Subject: Storytime
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rddb.bc.ca>
Cc:

To whom it may concern,

I usually do not get involved in political issues such as this, but I just wanted to share that those that are opposed to the drag queen story time are not bigots. I for one am very respectful of everyone.

I would like to highlight that the particular drag queens involved in this event in the community promote hyper sexuality in both their personal and professional lives. That is not an example for young children. Would we allow scantily clad women to come and read a story to our children? I should hope not, and no one else (regardless of their sexual orientation) should be permitted to either.

I hope that the Okanagan Regional Library will make a good decision as to the role models we put on display for our kids.

Thank you for your time,

Amanda Kalf

FW: storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Mon 2019-09-23 10:21 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: September 23, 2019 10:16 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: storytime

[REDACTED]
~Leah

From: Matt & Tania Driediger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 20, 2019 5:40 PM
To: Leah Samson <[REDACTED]>
Subject: storytime

I think that story times for young children should be about animals, transportation, and ocean creatures!

Hosting a story time by drag queens does not seem like an appropriate topic for young children. Especially when presented by an outside source (not a staff person). It's pretty shocking that the library would let an outside source "teach" a story time. That actually isn't a story time-it seems more like an activist agenda . . . what's next on the topic list- how to grow your own marijuana? Yes it is that crazy of a topic for little ones!

I sincerely hope that these type of events won't happen.

Tania Driediger

Children's Programming - 2019

OPPOSED

to DQST

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Hour & board policy

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Tue 2019-09-24 7:05 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <lavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Yvonne Maddess <ymaddess@attglobal.net>
Date: Sep 24, 2019 7:03 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour & board policy
To: admin@orl.bc.ca, Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc: mayorandcouncil@kelowna.ca

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this email as a respectful request to not approve drag queen story hour. While I respect the freedoms of the individuals to live their life as they choose, I do not believe it is necessary to promote at a taxpayer funded public library. If you use the argument, well parents want it, then would you allow a Bible story hour, which I am sure many parents would take their children to. Irregardless of any decision you come to I would like to know and think the public needs to know, via Daily Courier, Castanet and KelownaNow, what policies are in place for staff and any volunteer working with or coming into contact with children. I have volunteered with children and was required to take a "Plan to Protect" course and had to have police background checks. Does this policy apply to the library also and if not, that is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Respectfully Yours,
Yvonne Maddess

Sent from my iPhone

FW: HORRIFIED!!!!!!!

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson

Tue 2019-09-24 9:07 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

~Leah

From: Frank Family <markandshannonfrank@gmail.com>

Sent: September 23, 2019 8:13 PM

To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>

Subject: HORRIFIED!!!!!!!

To whom it may concern;

I have been an avid library user and have instilled the love of books in my children through your libraries, first in West Kelowna, and now in Kelowna. They are 16 and 17 years old now and love to read books!

I am absolutely disgusted and horrified that the library, an institution for reading and knowledge, would even consider having a "drag queen story hour".

The library is NO place for this.

Regardless of any religious beliefs or "politically correct non-offensiveness", this is just not the right place to showcase such a blatant and pornographic topic.

I honestly can say **I would never use your services again if this happens.**

From my heart, I love books! Love them! I love the opportunities of learning through books and teaching my children about the library.

Please feel free to contact me if need be.

Thank you,
Shannon Frank

778-477-4054

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]>
Mon 2019-09-23 12:38 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <[REDACTED]>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Karin Fink <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sep 23, 2019 12:36 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Karla Kozakevich <[REDACTED]>

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Karin Fink and I live in [REDACTED] was informed by a friend and encouraged to write a letter to you about the concern of introducing Drag Queen Story Time into our community libraries. I am all for educating our kids through all the beautiful resources that the library has to offer from books to audio to DVDs, to having speakers come in to show how to knit, do Lego mechanics, to plants to playing chess, and to read stories on Saturday morning with our young ones. BUT, when it comes to sharing and saying you are NOT a boy and you are NOT a girl, then I do need to stand up and say that this is wrong what we are teaching our children based on someone else's feelings and their experience.

God made us to be female or male! Nothing else...what the Drag Queen Story Time has to offer brings only confusion to our young people and obviously to our mature people. Why would we want to bring more confusion to our society by promoting this in our public libraries? This is an individual journey that requires each "adult" to find the truth, but it doesn't need to be exposed to our innocent children through a Drag Queen Story Time. There is a place and time for everything, and this certainly is not a place for grown men to dress up like flamboyant women to bring gender confusion to an already confusing world.

Please take this as a wake-up call for our future generation and to promote what is right, not more "identity" confusion.

Praying for the right decision to be made here for our children, our grandchildren, and our future!

Yours truly,

Karin Fink

Fwd: Drag Queen Story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich [redacted]
Mon 2019-09-23 7:17 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) [redacted]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Liana Perran <[redacted]>
Date: Sep 22, 2019 12:31 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story time
To: Karla Kozakevich [redacted]
Cc:

Hello,

My name is Liana Perran and I live in [redacted]. I want to first thank you for helping being involved with the library program. I have lived in different areas of the world and many do not have a local library but are working hard to establish one for the community. I had the pleasure of using BC libraries in the past, taking my children to pick out their favorite books and videos. I also have enjoyed the libraries resources and many years ago, when I could not afford a computer, I would use that particular service at BC libraries. It is people like yourself who allow this to happen.

I have a home in Kelowna and love how large the library is. I recently heard that there was a "Drag Queen Storytime" at this library in Kelowna. Storytime is something that my children loved when they were growing up. And I expect that when my grandchildren are old enough they will be enjoying it too. However it was disturbing to hear that there were two people dressed up in drag queen at the library doing story time. The drag queen segment only represents less than .2% of Canadians. For children, seeing grown men dressed up like flamboyant women, reading a story to them, seems like it would be disturbing. Children are easily influenced because of a lack of critical ability to understand certain things. A storytime should consist a real hero, an athlete, someone with a disability but able to function in society, a fireman, doctor, police officer, etc. To have a drag queen sit and read to children can confuse them and a study published at Brown University last year, titled "Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria", found increasingly there are reports that post-pubescent children who suddenly decide they're transgender have reported being exposed to this behaviour in the past and are 70 times more likely to have gender confusion. Also, over the past five years, referrals of children to gender identity clinics has quadrupled in the U.K. " Experts have warned that the huge spike is, in part, due to the promotion of transgender issues in school which they say has encouraged children to question their identity, and 'sowed confusion' in their minds," The Telegraph reports.

As a taxpayer of BC and Canada, I do hope that the Drag Queen Storytime never is offered again. I am not in support of tax dollars going to this storytime and we do not need to have the next generation face more issues than they already will have.

I do not support this storytime at the local libraries.

Thank-you for your time,

FW: Drag queen library time?

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Wed 2019-09-25 9:11 AM

Mark as unread

To: CRL Policy,

Leah

-----Original Message-----

From: Lori Butler <lori.butler@telus.net>

Sent: September 25, 2019 7:44 AM

To: Leah Samson <leah.samson@ohl.bc.ca>

Subject: Drag queen library time?

To whom it may concern:

I am disturbed to hear that a drag queen is being allowed to have Story time at our local public library?

It makes me wonder if this means that anyone with an agenda can use the library as a platform/have the freedom to speak it into children?

What about religious groups? Are they also allowed to come in for Christian story time? Or Hindu? Or Muslim? All those groups also identify with their belief system.. are they too allowed?

How about people who identify as being racist? Or as pedophiles? Drug addicts? Sex traffickers? Will there also be "tolerance" and acceptance for these things as well? I'd like to know how you decide, and where do you draw the line?

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Lori Butler

FW: Drag Queen Story Hours

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Wed 2019-09-25 9:14 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy

Leah

From: Leah Samson
Sent: September 24, 2019 1:21 PM
To: Leah Samson <[redacted]@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: Drag Queen Story Hours

From: MarlaLee Martin <[redacted]@staw.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2019 12:17 PM
To: Leah Samson
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hours

I wish to express my disappointment with our Okanagan Regional Library hosting Drag Queen Story Hours at various locations.

This is not an example (judging by their FB account) of who should be teaching our children, nor should this be the example for our children in a TAX PAYER Library supported program.

I hope the O.R.L. will make a good decision as to the the role models for our children.

Respectfully submitted by a very concerned mom, grandma & great grandma.

MarlaLee Martin



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Fwd: Children story time/drag queen

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <[redacted]@rdos.bc.ca>

Mark as unread

Wed 2019-09-25 3:16 PM

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <[redacted]@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Gayle Funk <[redacted]@shaw.ca>
Date: Sep 25, 2019 3:15 PM
Subject: Fwd: Children story time/drag queen
To: Karla Kozakevich <[redacted]@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

From: "gaylefunk" <[redacted]@shaw.ca>
To: "admin" <[redacted]@orl.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2019 3:12:41 PM
Subject: Children story time

To the Board Members

I am writing to outline a great concern as to whom the public library has brought in as an example for teaching our children. We must be advocates for our children.

I have respect for everyone but due diligence must be met when the public library decides whom. The library is funded by us. Have you viewed the facebook screenshots whom you have chosen to be a role model for these young children.

We sincerely hope that you will revisit this decision. There are so many whom are not inline with this.

There are many other choices when it comes to sharing about diversity.

Thankyou for looking into this matter. We know you are for the children and best interests.

FW: storytime at Kelowna library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton

Thu 2019-09-26 10:39 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

From: dennis neufeld <dennisjanae2@gmail.com>
Sent: September 26, 2019 10:12 AM
To: Don Nettleton <dnettleton@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: storytime at Kelowna library

Good Morning Mr. Nettleton,
I am aware of the controversy over the recent drag queen story time at the Kelowna library. As a tax payer and long time supporter of the public library, I would just like the board to know my feelings on the matter. Simply put, I believe 3-6 years are too young for this kind of story time.

Thank you for hearing me.

Janae Neufeld

Fwd: Miss Freida Whales' Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sat 2019-09-28 8:37 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Gary Morris" <garymorris895@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Sep 28, 2019 at 7:31 AM -0700
Subject: Miss Freida Whales' Drag Queen Story Time
To: "Don Nettleton" <[REDACTED]>

Hello Mr. Nettleton,

I just want to say that I believe the drag queen story time is a misuse of the library system.

I believe children should be aloud to develop and mature under the direction of their parents and that using any controversial cultural ideology is just wrong. Children of today are being exposed to far to much confusion. I am not sure who controls these kind of agenda's but it just seems so misleading and a disservice to our young people. Let the story itself do the teaching without the purposeful distractions of an attention seeking individual to distract from the reading he/she is doing.

Just because our society has slackened it's principals does not mean it is right or proper.

Respectfully,

Gary Morris
[REDACTED]

Fwd: Opposition to the Drag Queen story time at our Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sun 2019-09-29 8:01 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Kim Stokes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 7:25 AM
To: Don Nettleton; [REDACTED]
Subject: Opposition to the Drag Queen story time at our Library

To Mr. Don Nettleton:

I would like to present my opposition to the drag queen story time that you have scheduled.

I believe that the library is a public space with neutrality. The men participating with the drag queens have an agenda & a desire to promote their life-style choices to children.

The library is a safe place to bring our children, without any fears of their innocence being manipulated. This choice to allow the drag queens to have a story time is not a story of equality, as the thought of extending the same invitation to a local Baptist church would not be entertained.

I strongly disagreed with the Public Library allowing the drag queens to have a venue in which to advance their alternative life-styles.

Please cancel the November drag queen story time as well as all future drag queen events at our library.

Respectfully,
Shawn Stokes

FW: Drag queen story time concern

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Wed 2019-10-02 1:45 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <t.lavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Matti Koopman <matti@newlife.bc.ca>
Sent: October 2, 2019 1:32 PM
To: admin@orl.bc.ca; Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag queen story time concern

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Respectfully and with kind regards

Matti Koopman
Senior Leader
New Life Centre

1-250-878-2888
www.newlife.bc.ca

From: Eric Kirstein

Sent: October 22, 2019 10:49 AM

Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour

I'm confused and disappointed that the Kelowna Public Library has decided to continue this Drag Queen Story Time. Who is making these decisions? Are we going to be seeing you host a Burlesque Arts and Craft Fairs next? Maybe have strippers come and talk to kids about how they got into their unique line of work? If parents want to expose their children to sexualized performance art, that's their prerogative, but let Mosaic Books or Chapters take that on and put their reputation on the line to accommodate this stuff. The fact that public tax funds are going towards this is beyond infuriating.

Okanagan Libraries

TO Whom It May Concern:

Re: Drag Queen Story Telling to Children

While I am sure this is in vogue, and while I am sure many “drag queens” are dynamic storytellers and engaging personalities, I am against this event in a public library. Why? Because a drag queen presents a confusing message to children. The messenger - drag queen - makes a statement about sexuality and gender which I believe is not appropriate, even confusing, for children. Please do NOT allow this event to proceed.

Thank-you.

John Brinkerhoff

FW: Okanagan Drag Queen Reading

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Thu 2019-10-03 9:21 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

This message was sent with high importance.

Leah

From: Mark <mark@thebridgekelowna.com>

Sent: October 2, 2019 6:00 PM

To: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>

Subject: Okanagan Drag Queen Reading

Importance: High

Dear K Kozakecich

I am writing you concerning something that was brought to my attention from concerned local parents. I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries. I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, no matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a **civic facility**, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok. Children so not have the emotional or social intelligence to process this kind of information. Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them. Please stop this plan before it starts.

FW: Putting Children at risk

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Thu 2019-10-03 11:12 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

~Leah

From: Walter Fehr <wfehr2@telus.net>
Sent: October 3, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Putting Children at risk

Attention:
Okanagan Library

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an idealogical game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

FW: Regarding DragQueen Story-time at Ok Libraries

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Thu 2019-10-03 11:00 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

~Leah

From: Rachel Marie <rachelmarie0987@gmail.com>
Sent: October 3, 2019 10:59 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>; kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Regarding DragQueen Story-time at Ok Libraries

To the Board and Admin Staff at the Okanagan Library,

I am deeply concerned about the drag queen storytime that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, no matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

My hope is that the Okanagan Regional Library will make a good decision as to the role models we put on a pedestal for our children."

Regards,

R.Marie

FW: Ideological harm to children

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Fri 2019-10-04 9:28 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: Marc Miles <marcmiles.can@gmail.com>
Sent: October 4, 2019 9:27 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@ori.bc.ca>
Subject: Ideological harm to children

For the attention of Okanagan Library:

As a parent I am deeply concerned about the proposed “drag queen story time” that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child’s sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, no matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me clearly and take note - I am not looking for the rights of “drag queens” to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. The most vulnerable in society are our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in a destructive ideological and political propaganda campaign. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. You are duty bound as a public service provider to protect them. While the current federal government has decriminalized various offences relating to sex offenders, this does not give license to promote this form of sexual grooming and dysphoria. Let me reiterate, this does not make me a bigot or a trans/homo-phobe, this is simply me expressing my freedom to speak and express myself which is my right under the constitution.

FW: Libraries are Supposed to be Places Where EVERYONE Feels Safe !

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Fri 2019-10-04 12:48 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: Lynn Jackson <forhim008@gmail.com>
Sent: October 4, 2019 12:36 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@ori.bc.ca>
Cc: kazakevich@rdos.bc.ca
Subject: Libraries are Supposed to be Places Where EVERYONE Feels Safe !

Dear Sir/Madam,

Libraries are supposed to be safe places where everyone can feel at home . Politicizing our local libraries with adult agendas to promote gay lifestyles by introducing Drag Queen Story Time is so offensive to many in our community.

If a Christian group were to ask permission to lead story time with Bible stories promoting their lifestyle beliefs - I'm quite sure the library would not permit that.
Why are some groups being given special favour in this case.

Please block and ban these kind of agendas from our local libraries.

yours truly ,
L Jackson, [REDACTED]

Fwd: Drag Queens in the Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Sun 2019-10-06 8:02 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonfarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Don Shewchenko <donshe@outlook.com>
Date: Oct 6, 2019 6:35 PM
Subject: Drag Queens in the Library
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Really? Drag queens reading to our kids? Have you all gone crazy?

This needs to be halted immediately.

Very concerned Kelowna Resident.

Don

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time in Okanagan Libraries (not in favour)

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Fri 2019-10-04 4:39 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <lavery@saimoniam.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amanda Morey <amandaumorey@gmail.com>
Date: Oct 4, 2019 1:19 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time in Okanagan Libraries (not in favour)
To: a[redacted]@bc.ca, Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

Dear Sir/Madam

I read with dismay the news that Drag Queen Story Time could become a regular occurrence at public libraries in the Okanagan.

Libraries are meant to safe places for us and for our children and this looks like an adult agenda being forced upon impressionable minds.

I love our LGBTQ community but fervently disagree with showing one aspect of society more/unequal favour than others. I suspect the religious community (Islamic/Sikh/Christian) would not be permitted to lead story time, would they?

I am not in favour of this agenda and ask that you reconsider and remove it.

Thank you

Amanda Morey

Date: Oct 4, 2019 8:36 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time
To: Karla Kozakevich
Cc:

Hi,

The reason for my e-mail today is that I've been informed that The Kelowna Library is hosting a drag queen story hour. I wanted to formally state my disapproval of this decision. I believe that children should not be subjected to sexualization of any kind. As a tax paying citizen and patron of your library, it's my right to vocalize what type of programs I believe my local library should endorse. A drag queen story hour is not one of them. I believe it should be cancelled.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Scott

From: Jonathan Gale
Date: Oct 4, 2019 3:03 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

Hi there,

I understand the library is now advocating for Drag Queen Storytime, which is a bit concerning. The library has traditionally been a safe space where parents know kids will be safe in a healthy environment. It's a space that's communally trusted.

If the library continues advocating for Drag Queen Story Time, it is no longer is a safe space that parents can trust will be fine for their kids, regardless of the parents belief system.

Trust is hard to earn and easy to lose; I'd appreciate if you put some more thought into this, and stopped pushing for it.

All the best,
Jonathan

From: Tim Young
Sent: October 3, 2019 11:38 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

To The Leadership of the ORL:

Please be advised that I am totally against this type of activity in our public library system, if anyone under the voting age is present. Further, if this activity continues to target children, I will dispose of my library card and ask the same of all of my friends, family and business associates.

Sincerely,
Tim Young
Kelowna

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Fri 2019-10-04 8:37 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Blayre Caplan <blayre.caplan@gmail.com>
Date: Oct 4, 2019 8:34 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time
To: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>, admin@orl.bc.ca
Cc:

To whom this may concern;

We are concerned parents and members of the Okanagan community.

We truly value the gift of our local library. Our family is there weekly, we take part in the events and love the opportunity to treasure hunt for that perfect book.

We are deeply distressed to hear that the library may no longer be a safe environment for us to walk into on any given day with the proposed Drag Queen Story Time implementation across the Okanagan. Publicly funded and publicly accessed institutions should strive to create spaces that make all feel safe and comfortable, without fear of encountering political agenda.

As Christians, we wouldn't be allowed to host Bible story readings for preschoolers; it is grossly unjust to permit one social demographic to have a voice above all others.

We hope you will reconsider bringing Drag Queens into our beloved local library, keeping political agenda out of such a beautiful space.

Joshua and Blayre Caplan
Sent from my iPhone

FW: "Drag Queen Story Time"

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Sun 2019-10-06 2:24 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <lavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Cindy Kilmartin <cindyok22@gmail.com>
Sent: October 4, 2019 11:31 PM
To: admin@orl.bc.ca; Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: "Drag Queen Story Time"

It is my hope that the Okanagan Regional Library will decide against the program "Drag Queen Story Time" in our libraries. I do not believe this would teach our young children acceptance and tolerance but would enforce a mind set that anything goes, there is no right and wrong.

Would we bring the drug addict, the murderer, the thief in to flaunt their lives before our children.

We are to love the individual but we do not need to accept life styles or agree with life decisions others have made that goes against morals or the laws of the land. Are we to tolerate corruption?

Do we give our children access to programs of sexual content, acts of violence at such an early age?

Please do not implement this program.

Sincerely

Cindy Kilmartin
[Redacted Signature]

FW: Kids storytime

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Sun 2019-10-06 2:25 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

From: Joyce Brinkerhoff <jbrinker@shaw.ca>
Sent: October 6, 2019 8:31 AM
To: admin@orl.bc.ca; Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: Kids storytime

Warm Greetings,

For the past 30 years of living in the Okanagan, the ORL is my most favourite place to enjoy! Myself, my kids and now my grandkids spend many delightful hours there. Thank you so much for the great service you offer to residents - both young and old! Recently, though I have become concerned that instead of introducing children to the delight of reading, the magic of innocent childhood and the skill of adults leading them on that journey – you are pushing a political agenda through your Drag Queen story-time. This is very concerning to me and I will not be participating nor encouraging others to participate. I am very much for diversity and champion publically that we respect other individual's choice of lifestyle or belief, and I can say that the ORL has been excellent at teaching that welcoming attitude. However the DragQueen readings are not that – rather, they 'force' exposure to concepts that can be confusing to children. I respectfully ask that you discontinue.

Joyce Brinkerhoff

Fwd: Drag Queen Story Hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Tue 2019-10-08 8:19 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <lavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Neil Haskins <n.haskins@gmail.com>
Date: Oct 8, 2019 8:18 PM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour
To: admin@orl.bc.ca; Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Cc:

To whom it may concern:

I have heard that there is currently an attempt to bring a "Drag Queen Story Hour" to the Kelowna library. I believe you have already received several letters on this subject, so I'll just address some specific points of concern.

I believe at times there may be a conflation between drag queens and trans-women. A drag queen is not just someone trying to go about their own life. Rather they are a performer, typically in a burlesque, mildly sexualized performance. Just as I believe a Burlesque Story Hour would be inappropriate for children, I believe a Drag Queen Story Hour is also inappropriate.

Further, I have heard that in many places where "DQSH" has been implemented, it has been used as an opportunity for sex education. I do believe the library could be an appropriate venue for sex education, so long as it was handled appropriately. I don't believe performers, of a sexualized nature, in costume, are the people to do this. Perhaps if you were to have a healthcare professional, and call it by name as sex education, instead of "story hour", it could be a valuable service.

Anyhow, I do hope you'll make the right decision on this issue.

Thank You

Neil Haskins

Fwd: Drag Queen story hour

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sun 2019-10-06 2:07 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

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From: Josh Smith [mailto:josh@faithsdoor.ca]
Sent: Sunday, October 6, 2019 5:00 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Drag Queen story hour

Mr. Nettleton,

I am writing to express my disappointment in the ORL in holding this event. It saddens me as a parent that my children could have been subjected to such an event. I know that this was a schedule event but if we would have walked into the library without any knowledge of the schedule event, it would have been VERY confusing for my children. As regular library users it is very disappointing and distasteful that this would be happening. As a parent I am not happy about this event and ask that you cancel ALL future drag queen story hours.

As a Pastor and member of the community I find it odd that this event is allowed to take place, yet I doubt I would be able to hold a public event like this sanctioned by the library to promote my belief in God, heterosexual marriage, or in the scientific facts that there are only two genders. How is it we can have such a slanted platform that those with such obscure and perverse agendas could be given this opportunity yet someone like myself who believes and teaches something that has been well accepted by society for years would not be given the same opportunity?

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Josh Smith

Fwd: Story Time at the Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>
Wed 2019-10-09 8:58 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy; Tim Lavery (SA) <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Diana Tripke <dianatripke@shaw.ca>
Date: Oct 9, 2019 7:55 AM
Subject: Story Time at the Library
To: a [redacted]@orl.bc.ca
Cc: Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been made aware of story time at the library which concerns reading about drag queens. I am concerned about the decision of putting role models on a pedestal that are not suitable for our young children to follow.

I am not a disrespectful person, and I do not consider myself a bigot for voicing my opinion. But the people involved promote hyper sexuality in both personal and professional lives – I do not believe this is something I want my young children to be exposed to.

I trust that the Kelowna Regional library will make a good, sound decision in regards to the reading they bring to our young people and promote people who are good role models.

Sincerely,
Diana Tripke

Chief Executive Officer
Okanagan Regional Library
1430 K.L.O. Rd
Kelowna, B.C.
V1W 3P6

1225 Steele Rd.
Kelowna B.C.
V1W 5K4
Oct. 1st '19

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

I am happy to see that the Library Board is taking a serious look at the continuation of the Drag Queen Story time for preschoolers. Promoting gender selection and sexual orientation for an audience of innocent three to five year olds is not age or developmentally appropriate. Children have a right to their innocence and it is the responsibility of adults to guard this innocence. To promote gender confusion in preschoolers is simply not fair.

I ask that you please cancel the Drag Queen Story hour. I do not want my taxpayer dollars spent on this divisive program.

Yours Sincerely,

Mairiad Sikkes

Date: Oct 9, 2019 9:04 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story time

Good Day:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Thanks for taking the time to consider this matter.

A concerned citizen,

Will Sohnchen

Opposed FW: Okanagon Regional Library Board

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Wed 2019-10-09 9:13 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

~Leah

-----Original Message-----

From: Caroline Ritchie <carlritch@gmail.com>

Sent: October 8, 2019 9:38 PM

To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>

Subject: Okanagon Regional Library Board

I say "NO" to "drag queen story time",
Sent from my iPad

Opposed

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Wed 2019-10-09 9:13 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: Barry Garding <bwg1d53@gmail.com>
Sent: October 8, 2019 7:27 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject:

Dear Sirs, Madams, and Others:

It has come to our attention that Kelowna Library is considering having child storytime with drag queens. When we heard about this practice in another city, we were so glad to live here, where we don't copy every crazy fad that arises.

Why are we talking about doing this? You're putting the politically inspired pressure to conform above the best interests of impressionable children.

Have you explored the unbiased studies of the increasing number of gender confused kids? Do you realize that they're much more likely to attempt suicide than those who are secure in their identities? Medical diagnosis of gender identity dysphoria is considered a mental illness.

As those who have the ability to influence children for success and happiness, please do not let yourselves be coerced into making a move to approve and normalize abnormal behavior. If parents want to teach their children about this, let them do it in their own homes to their own children.

Sincerely, Valerie Garding BSCN and Barry Garding CP

phone 2507663309

Date: Oct 8, 2019 2:16 PM
Subject: Drag queen story time

To whom it may concern:

It has come to my attention that an event called drag queen story time is happening and that children could be confused with there sexuality. I do not have children yet but when I do I would not like them to be exposed to this sort of thing.

I believe that each child is born as either male or female and nobody should be able to encourage them to change that. I would very much appreciate it if the board does not go through with this.

Thank you
-Shiloh Taetz

Date: Oct 8, 2019 1:03 PM
Subject: Drag Queen story time

Good afternoon,

My name is Lynn Gervais, and I am writing to voice my concerns regarding the Drag Queen Story time that is being considered for the Okanagan Regional Library.

I feel this type of Story time would cause confusion and discomfort. I feel Libraries need to remain a sturdy & wholesome environment to learn in.

My self as an aunty of several young minds, and in relationship with many youth, would not recommend participation in this type of Story Time.

Thank-you for your time, and consideration of my thoughts and opinions on this matter.

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Sincerely,

Lynn Gervais

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019 10:28 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Drag queen story time

Mr. Nettleton

I just became aware of the "Drag Queen Story Time" being hosted at ORL. I also read the concerns with programming such as that being scheduled.

I would like to commend you for voicing your concerns and the concerns of the board in that report. I agree wholeheartedly that Children's storytime should not be ground zero for controversy such as this. There is so much hypersexualization of children currently. I don't care whether the push is from heterosexual groups or the LGBTQ+ community, my 3-6 year old does not need to be made a pawn in the tug-of-war for sexuality either way. They are becoming the casualties of feuding organizations at younger and younger ages. I support the stance that Children's story time should be safe and free from those who want to push their agenda in either direction, and I would be much less likely to be involved in library events with my children if these kind of events compose a portion of the programming.

Again, thank you for trying to protect our young children from becoming ground zero in the battle for adult sexuality.

-Rob World

Date: Oct 8, 2019 10:40 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In light of the current political and cultural changes a few concerns have been raised, especially events regarding the children's story time at the Okanagan Regional Library, Kelowna Branch. As a member of the city of Kelowna, I am quite uneasy about children learning about sexual diversity, sexual orientation and subjects of that nature outside of their homes and safe spaces.

As a millennial, I am opened minded and believe that everyone is entitled to their beliefs and lifestyle choices. However, children should not be introduced to certain things outside of their homes and or safe space and especially not in an environment that is supposed to be neutral. Seeing that children can be easily swayed and influenced at such a tender age, due care should be taken to ensure that these children aren't introduced to certain lifestyle choices outside of their parents control.

Children story time should not be a time to spread one's agenda, therefore, I hope the Okanagan Regional Library addresses this situation and let the library remain a neutral environment. Thank you.

Best regards,
Shauna.

Date: Oct 8, 2019 7:09 AM
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

To whom it may concern,

In light of the upcoming national election in Canada, I would like to highlight a few things that have been brought to my attention, and are happening in our beautiful city. As a father of four children, my wife and I believe it is the responsibility of the parents to teach our children on subjects like sexual orientation, in a safe and wholesome environment.

We respect the beliefs of everyone. But in regards to Drag Queen story time, we believe that these types of events in the community, only produce confusion in the minds of our children. We hope that the the Okanagan Regional Library Board will make a good decision, and continue to be a good role model, for all of our children, and not become a platform for a political agenda.

Thank you

Everton Weekes

Opposed FW: Drag Queen Story Time at Kelowna Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Wed 2019-10-09 11:16 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

From: front reception <reception@evangelokelowna.com>
Sent: October 9, 2019 11:14 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time at Kelowna Library

To Whom It May Concern;

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries. I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an idealogical game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Regards,

S. Downer
[Redacted Signature]

OPPOSED FW: This is a response sent by Carol Goss using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson

Thu 2019-10-10 10:23 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

-Leah

From: No Reply

Sent: October 10, 2019 12:15 AM

To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>

Subject: This is a response sent by Carol Goss using the Contact Us feedback form on the Okanagan Regional Library website

| | |
|---------------|--|
| First Name*: | Carol |
| Last Name*: | Goss |
| Phone Number: | 2507184960 |
| Library Card: | |
| Email*: | [REDACTED] |
| Branch: | Kelowna |
| Subject*: | Complaints |
| Message*: | I wanted to voice my concern about the Drag story time poster I saw. I am all for accepting that people are different and unique and I love all people no matter what. If someone wants to dress in drag each to their own. But for the library to "encourage" preschoolers to "dress to impress in costume"??? This seems extremely inappropriate. Since when are we encouraging preschoolers to dress in drag?!! |

From: Maureen Kennedy
Sent: October 10, 2019 10:27 AM
Subject: Concern for Young Children

Good Morning:

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Sincerely,

Maureen Kennedy

Fwd: drag queen story times

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Don Nettleton
Sun 2019-10-13 1:46 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

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From: Melanie Sobool <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 13, 2019 11:53 AM
To: Leah Samson, kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca, Don Nettleton
Subject: re: drag queen story times

Okanagan Regional Library

1430 KLO Road

Kelowna, BC V1W 3P6

October 13, 2019

Dear ORL Board Members,

We were dismayed to learn that in September the Kelowna branch hosted a drag queen story time. Then, we were encouraged when we read in the Daily Courier that the ORL library leadership team prepared a report expressing concerns about inappropriate and divisive programs.

Thank you for having the foresight to draft and implement (we sincerely hope) a new policy in which "...programming choices are made on the basis of being suitable and safe for the ages of the children attending..."

Our family has used and supported public libraries wherever we have lived and we have always enjoyed the rich reward of reading.

As taxpayers and members of this community, we say no to politicizing our local public libraries with adult agendas. We say no to the sexualization of our youngest members of our community.

Opposed FW: Drag story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Tue 2019-10-15 11:29 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

Leah

From: Tasha Arnall <tasha@arnall.ca>
Sent: October 15, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag story time

I just wanted to voice my opinion about the drag queen story time.
I think it's damaging to introduce gender confusion at such a young age.
I want to be clear, I am not against people who choose to identify with whatever they choose.
But there are studies that show that introducing this concept too young is damaging and actually not beneficial at all.
I would like to propose you re think this issue and consider taking it out of your library.

Tasha

FW: Drag Queen Story time

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Mark as unread

Tue 2019-10-15 11:33 AM

To: ORL Policy; [redacted]

From: Janelle Nunez <janelle@newlife.bc.ca>

Sent: October 15, 2019 11:31 AM

To: [redacted]; Karla Kozakevich <kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca>

Subject: Drag Queen Story time

Hi there, my name is Janelle,

Parent of two. Please reconsider hosting a drag queen storytime. While gathering children together to read books and have community time is so awesome, glorifying a very sexualized culture (which drag queen's culture definitely revolves around) is highly inappropriate for young children, actually any children. It saddened me deeply that the ORL would consider hosting this.

No hate to the LGBT community. This just simply isn't appropriate for kids.

Janelle Nunez

OPPOSED FW: Concern at public Library

X DELETE ← REPLY ⇐ REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



Leah Samson
Tue 2019-10-15 11:44 AM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

From: leonora paisley <leonora_paisley@yahoo.com>
Sent: October 10, 2019 8:34 PM
To: Leah Samson <lsamson@orl.bc.ca>; tkozakevich@rdos.bc; Michal Utko <mutko@orl.bc.ca>
Cc: Suzette Byfield <dalevsuzette09@hotmail.com>; Stephanie White <stepnicely247@yahoo.com>;
Leighton Orlando Byfield <leightonbyfield@hotmail.com>
Subject: Concern at public Library

Good day

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them. [ent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

OPPOSED FW: Regarding Drag Queen Story Time

X DELETE ← REPLY ← REPLY ALL → FORWARD ...



[REDACTED]
Thu 2019-10-17 12:51 PM

Mark as unread

To: ORL Policy;

[REDACTED]
From: Thomas Maier <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: October 17, 2019 12:50 PM
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@orlbc.ca>
Subject: Regarding Drag Queen Story Time

To those it concerns,

My name is Thomas, and I am writing because I recently read about the Drag Queen Story Time at the ORL Kelowna Branch, and am opposed to it as being suitable for children.

There are issues of sexuality and sexual expression in Canada today that have strong opinions weighing in on all sides, and I can appreciate the need for discussion and acceptance. However, even less controversial sexuality issues, such as sex education in public schools, are reserved for certain ages, and educators have sent information letters in advance, and sometimes even permission forms to be signed by parents. If less controversial topics are handled with considerate care in the public sphere, should not highly controversial topics be handled with the same, and even more so? Sexual expression has generally been reserved to "Adult Stores," strip clubs, bars, 18+ R-rated movies, etc.; should we now openly expose our youngest children to these sorts of things?

As a resident of Kelowna, a thankful user of the ORL Kelowna branch, a husband, and a father of a five-month-old baby, I hope that you will continue to uphold high standards for our children. I prefer to see a future for my children that includes frequenting the library as I did as a child. I agree with the drafted policy excerpt I read on The Daily Courier:

"Programming choices should be made on the basis of being suitable and safe for the ages of the children attending and include a wide range of topics that are of interest and appropriateness to the age of the audience while avoiding controversial and/or potentially divisive community issues as these may detract from our main focus and restrict our audience and community support."

Thank you for your consideration,

Thomas

RECEIVED

OCT 17 2019

Okanagan Regional Library
1430 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC V1W 3P6

October 14, 2019

Attention: CEO Don Nettleton

We were dismayed to learn that in September the Kelowna branch hosted a drag queen story time. Then we were encouraged to read in the Daily Courier that the ORL library leadership team prepared a report expressing concerns about inappropriate and divisive programs.

Thank you for the foresight to draft and implement (we hope) a new policy in which "...programming choices will be made on the basis of being suitable and safe for the ages of the children attending..."

Our family has used and supported public libraries wherever we have lived and we have always enjoyed the rich reward of reading.

As taxpayers and members of this community, we say no to politicizing our local public libraries with adult agendas. We say no to the sexualization of our youngest members of our community. We call upon all ORL board members to act in the best interest of our children and pull the plug on Drag Queen Story Time.

Thank you for putting kids first.

Sincerely,



Helen Sobool

Box 1171
Peachland, BC V0H 1X0

FW: Drag queen reading

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Don Nettleton
Mon 2019-09-23 10:06 AM

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To: ORL Policy;

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Don Nettleton CPA, CA

Chief Executive Officer

Okanagan Regional Library | Administrative Centre

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From: ♥ Natasha ♥ Rumohr ♥ [REDACTED]
Sent: September 23, 2019 9:54 AM
To: Don Nettleton [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag queen reading

Good day,

I am writing with concern of the current event scheduled for our local library which features a drag queen reading to our children. It is my belief that what they stand for is not appropriate even in a sexual context for this event to continue. I am asking that it be canceled out of understanding and love for all parties involved.

Kindly,

Natasha Rumohr

♥ Natasha Rumohr



From: "**Angela Strauch**"

Date: Sun, Sep 22, 2019 at 3:55 PM -0700

Subject: Drag Queen story Time

To: "Don Nettleton"

Mr Nettleton

I wanted you to know that I fully realize what you are up against!

A quick glance at social media and I'm 🙏🙏🙏💖💖 for all our sakes!

I have no idea if you are a "praying man" but I am praying for you to have the strength and courage you'll need for this war. (And you thought being CEO of a library would be a quiet job) 🙏🙏

Please see below screen shots from the drag queens who are being the most vocal and know that even if yours is the only vote against this it is imperative you stand up for the protection of our most innocents 🙏💖.
(apologies in advance for sending these, however I think it's important for the more naive people to understand what drag queen culture is, and again, I respect they are fully entitled to this adult lifestyle)

From: Michelle Gibbons
Sent: October 3, 2019 8:14 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Fwd: Drag Queen

Hello Mr. Nettleton,

I am writing this email to you with with very very concerned regards about the "Drag Queen" storytime. First of all, I have a handicapped child who has a very special way of thinking as do many children who are disabled , mentally challenged , or under the autism spectrum. If these children are in the library when this event is happening , how confused , worried, and impressionable do you think this would be for them? It is hard enough for these special children to relate to the world we are living in now without all that been shoved in their faces. Sure, If people REALLY want to open up that kind of thing to their young children ,why can't they rent a space OTHER than the PUBLIC Library to do so. If it is contraversial then WHY is it being held in a public library and shoved in all the faces of the public while there on those days? Another Huge reason is if you are going to host this , then you should be hosting Bible stories time for all the Christians where God made A MAN and a WOMAN in which reproduce . This other stuff is eventually going to bring an end to civilization because it will be man and man, woman and woman , man (drag queen) and man , etc etc! When I drive my son to school and pass by the school Yards, I have witnessed on more than one occasion two young girls (10-12) years old making out and kissing each other as their parents arrive to pick them up . (Which obviously the parents are promoting this sort of activity). If you host these drag queen events , you are in turn more or less enabling them for their future of this sort of thing. Also you should be then willing to host Christian, Muslim, and other religious sector events and then we will be asking for storytime telling on pro-life and then you would get the pro-choice and I won't even get into the Racial aspect. If this drag queen stuff continues I will contact other media's and have many many people and churches who feel the way I do , contact them as well. You really need to think about the children's mind and what they are thinking, NOT THE PARENTS of those children.
Michelle VanTol.

From: Walter Fehr
Sent: October 3, 2019 11:07 AM
Subject: Putting Children at risk

Attention:
Okanagan Library

I am deeply concerned about the proposed drag queen story time that is being considered for Okanagan libraries.

I celebrate the idea of bringing together young children in public libraries to listen to stories told by a gifted storytellers. Storytelling nurtures a child's sense of wonder and creativity, which is so important to their development. However, I believe storytelling, at the public library should not be about promoting adult agendas and ideologies, not matter how in vogue they may be.

Please hear me when I say that I am not looking for the rights of drag queens to be taken away, or the right for them to express themselves, or for them to be able to live the lifestyle they choose. However, as a civic facility, I believe you have the obligation to ensure the safety of citizens and the most vulnerable amongst us. These happen to be our children. Behind the laughter and smiles of the children at these events, are innocent, malleable minds who are being groomed in an ideological game. This is not ok.

Our children, through these events are being exposed to ideas, lifestyles, and sexualization, when they are not mature enough to process the ideas they are being exposed to, or sexually developed and coherent about sexuality. As opposed to creating diversity and acceptance, it actually confuses children and manipulates them. I would ask that you protect them.

Sincerely
Walterfehr

Sent: October 4, 2019 11:31 PM
Subject: "Drag Queen Story Time"

It is my hope that the Okanagan Regional Library will decide against the program "Drag Queen Story Time" in our libraries. I do not believe this would teach our young children acceptance and tolerance but would enforce a mind set that anything goes, there is no right and wrong.

Would we bring the drug addict, the murderer, the thief in to flaunt their lives before our children.

We are to love the individual but we do not need to accept life styles or agree with life decisions others have made that goes against morals or the laws of the land. Are we to tolerate corruption?

Do we give our children access to programs of sexual content, acts of violence at such an early age?

Please do not implement this program.

Sincerely

Cindy Kilmartin

From: Okanagan Man

Sent: October 19, 2019 12:28 PM

Subject: Okanagan Library - How do we provide input on controversial programming and policy

Hello,

I live in the Okanagan, am a home owner who pays Library tax every year, and am also an active Okanagan Regional Library cardholder/member. Further, I am also a member of the large faith community that exists in our area, as are a number of my friends and family.

We understand that the library board committed to have its committee provide an opportunity for us to provide our opposition to the controversial and divisive drag queen story time programming for which a policy is being created. After checking the Okanagan Regional Library website for weeks now and watching the local news I'm sorry to say we have yet to learn how this commitment will be honored. Can you please advise, by reply email, when the opportunities for us to provide our input will be?

Thank you very much.

From: Karla Kozakevich

Sent: October 19, 2019 1:53 PM

To: Okanagan Man

Subject: RE: Okanagan Library - How do we provide input on controversial programming and policy

Hello,

At this time, the policy committee is reviewing all of the letters and materials provided as well as Provincial and Federal library policy. They currently do not feel they need to hear from any groups, as in allowing some groups to present would without a doubt mean that some groups were overlooked or excluded. I recommend that anyone with feedback please place that in writing and the policy committee and ORL Board will all have an opportunity to review. Should the committee decide to hear from groups in person, that will be posted on the ORL web site.

Thank you,
Karla

Fwd: Article on drag queen story time

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Don Nettleton

Sat 2019-10-26 12:38 PM

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To: ORL Policy;

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From: Tom & Allison Millar [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 26, 2019 9:45 AM
To: Don Nettleton
Subject: Article on drag queen story time

Don,

Please take the time to read another example of drag queen story time harming children.

Thank you.

<https://activistmommy.com/drag-queen-flashes-his-crotch-to-children-during-library-storytime/>

~ Allison Millar
Sent from my iPhone

From: Jan Dirksen

Sent: September 23, 2019 11:30 PM

To: Don Nettleton

Subject: Volunteer Presenters/Performers & Drag Queen Story Time

Dear Mr. Nettleton,

Thank you, for your work on the behalf of Okanagan Regional Libraries. I am writing to you today to follow-up with concerns I addressed with Chris Stephenson in person and via email and Christine McPhee via email only. (See copies of previous email contacts below.)

When my friend and I went in to speak with Mr. Stephenson we found him to be very cordial and professional. He was respectful and polite. We did, however, find out after the fact that he was not as truthful/forthcoming as we might have hoped. Telling us a librarian would be choosing which books would be read to the children only to read in an article by the Daily Courier that,

"The library doesn't know exactly what stories Miss Freida Whales might tell or what songs she might sing. The library isn't into censorship, as long as the event sticks to the "for all ages" content it was promoted as."

Needless to say, this deception was disappointing.

Chris Stephenson followed up with a kindly email to which I responded reiterating our concerns, specifically with regards to the safety of the children. Christine McPhee responded to this contact. Her response did not address our concerns and was rather dismissive.

After this contact, I did write another response to Ms. McPhee which I did not end up sending to her but am including here because I feel it addresses our concerns.

Hi Christine,

By way of clarification, may I then assume that both you and Chris Stephenson as a representatives of the Okanagan Regional Library and the Okanagan Regional Library assume full responsibility for the physical, sexual and mental safety of children who come into contact with/meet, and therefore deem safe, a volunteer presenter or performer at a library-sponsored event whom they then encounter again in the community where no library staff is present?

In the end, I don't think it matters who the volunteer presenter/performer is the library needs to do due diligence in ensuring the safety of children both while on library property and off, at least with respect to what is in within their reasonable control.

Hello Brenda & Jan,

Many thanks for coming to chat with me at the downtown library about the upcoming Drag Queen Storytime.

In this email I've cc'd our Director of Public Services, Christine McPhee, who can speak more to library policies across our system.

In the meantime, I'm here if you have any further questions about the details of this, or any other programs we're running at the library this year. We hope our Fall Program Guide will be out in the next couple weeks, and that's a great place to get acquainted with the wide spectrum of community events we're hosting and running.

You can also check out our webpage, and under the tab for "Adults" (just after the paragraph about parking) you should find an impressive roster of programs here: <http://www.orl.bc.ca/hours-locations/kelowna>

Something for everyone, including some exciting stuff in the new Makerspace! Next time you come in, don't hesitate to stop by my office on the 2nd floor and perhaps if our timing is right, I can give you a tour of this new room for making & doing for all ages.

Thank you,

Chris

Christopher Stephenson

Kelowna Branch Head Librarian

Okanagan Regional Library

1380 Ellis Street, Kelowna, B.C, V1Y 2A2

FW: Drag Queen Story Hour

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Don Nettleton
Wed 2019-09-25 4:21 PM

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To: ORL Policy;

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Don Nettleton CPA,CA

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1430 KLO Road Kelowna British Columbia V1W 3P6 Canada

[Redacted contact information]



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From: shari gibbons <[Redacted]@hotmail.com>
Sent: September 25, 2019 4:04 PM
To: Don Nettleton <[Redacted]@orl.bc.ca>
Subject: Drag Queen Story Hour

Mr. Nettleton, I am disappointed and disheartened about the Kelowna library hosting drag queen story hour. How confusing is it for an impressionable child to see a man in a dress and make-up read their story? We all use the library, yet this is offensive to a large portion of Kelowna's population. What many of us see as perverse and contrary to our religious beliefs, is being presented as inclusion and diversity. The library needs to rethink this liberal agenda

Library Board Meeting - November 20, 2019
Feedback on Children's Programming Policy Recommendation
(orange to open fully)

FW: Drag Queen Story Hour

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[Redacted Name]
Wed 2019-09-25 10:30 AM

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To: [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

From: Erin McGeachy <[Redacted]>
Sent: September 23, 2019 7:28 PM
To: [Redacted]
Cc: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca; Don Nettleton [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: Drag Queen Story Hour

To whom it may concern,
Please consider this a letter of disapproval and of request to cancel all further upcoming Drag Queen Story Hours.
Preceding the one last Saturday, I had a good conversation with Chris Stephenson and expressed my concern. Drag Queens in general, and certainly the ones reading to the children last weekend, have a sexual persona.
One look at either person's facebook or social media sites would have one conclude nothing about their 'act' is suitable for children. Experts have warned that it's a 'grooming tactic'. Frieda Whales has a video of his act, where he mouths the words 'I love sex'. Hmmm, not exactly

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Library Board Meeting - November 20, 2019
(added to open fully)
Feedback on Children's Programming Policy Recommendation

FW: September 9th Memo - Children's Programming Policy Discussion

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Don Nettleton
Thu 2019-10-03 2:37 PM

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From: Leanna Jantzi [REDACTED]

Sent: October 3, 2019 1:42 PM

To: kkozakevich@rdos.bc.ca

Library Board Meeting - November 20, 2019
Feedback on Children's Programming Policy Recommendation

(error unable to open fully) 270

From: Mac Corry-Simpson [REDACTED]
Sent: September 17, 2019 7:17 PM
To: Don Nettleton
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Drag Queen Story Time

I have attached my letter concerning the Drag Queen Story Time, in reference to the agenda item for September 18's Board meeting.

Thank you,

Mackenzie A. Corry-Simpson



DQST Letter of Support

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unable to open)

FW: Opposition to the memo

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Don Nettleton
Wed 2019-10-02 1:23 PM

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[Redacted contact information: 250) 860-4033 x2491, dnettleton@orl.bc.ca, www.orl.bc.ca]



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From: James Shaheen <[Redacted]>
Sent: October 2, 2019 1:14 PM
To: [Redacted]; Don Nettleton <dnettleton@orl.bc.ca>
Cc: [Redacted]
Subject: Opposition to the memo

Good afternoon,

I am writing today in response to the newly proposed memo, ITEM 5.3 of the regular bord meeting September 18, 2019, regarding appropriate programing for children and Youth. Speaking as a representative of the Canadian vouth population I have several things I would like to share.

(unable to open fully)