



Peaceful Assembly/Public Demonstration Policy

Policy Number: 23-01

Policy Approval Date: July 11, 2023

Policy Review Date: 2027

Definitions

HPL or Library: means the Huntsville Public Library or, if the context so requires, any premises used by the Huntsville Public Library for Library purposes.

Group leaders: means any individual(s) that appear to engage or speak on behalf of the assembly.

Peaceful Assembly: is the individual right or ability of people to come together and collectively express, promote, pursue, and defend their collective or shared ideas.

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: sets out those rights and freedoms that Canadians believe are necessary in a free and democratic society.

Violent: is defined as, by the World Health Organization, the intentional use of physical force, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

Purpose

To ensure the public's right to enjoy the use of the library in a quiet and safe manner, as a public facility, is maintained as well as the safety of the staff, and volunteers working in the library.

Policy

The Huntsville Public Library Board recognizes peaceful assembly protected under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom's. The library grounds are considered public property and peaceful assembly is permitted outside the library provided participants do not interfere with patrons safely entering the library. Inside the library building peaceful assembly is not permitted as it would interfere with the patron's use and enjoyment of the library.

Library administration will make every effort to communicate with leaders of the assembly and maintain an open line of communication with them. The group leader(s) will be asked to establish a tone of respect and civil discourse during the protest.

Huntsville Public Library Staff will notify local law enforcement if it becomes violent; if there is a chance that it will become violent; if participants interfere with patrons entering the library safely (including harassment); or if there is information attained in advance that it may not be peaceful or threats are issued compromising the safety of staff,

volunteers, patrons and property (by phone, social media, or other forms of communication).

Related Documents

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Code of Conduct

Safety, Security, and Emergency Policy

Town of Huntsville Violence and Harassment Control Program

Town of Huntsville Harassment Policy

History

Approved by the Huntsville Public Library Board July 11th 2023