



## RESOLUTION 2023-1001

MILLBURN FREE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Resolution Against Censorship and Book Bans

**WHEREAS**, reading is a foundational skill, essential for critical thinking, future learning, and exercising democratic freedom; and

**WHEREAS**, books and other materials are tools for understanding complex issues; and

**WHEREAS**, libraries provide access to books and other materials that offer lessons to readers of all ages and expand our understanding of people with different backgrounds, ideas, and beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, limiting young people's access to books and other materials does not protect them from life's complex and challenging issues; and

**WHEREAS**, all people, including young people, deserve to see themselves reflected in a library's collection; and

**WHEREAS**, librarians are professionals trained to not impose their own thoughts and opinions on which ideas are right, but to make knowledge and ideas available so that people have the freedom to choose what to read; and

**WHEREAS**, removing and banning books and other materials from public libraries represent a loss of liberty, a step toward government censorship, and the erosion of our state's and our nation's commitment to freedom of expression; and

**WHEREAS**, book bans, by virtue of their exclusionary nature, limit choices and thereby harm communities; then

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Trustees of the Millburn Free Public Library endorse the following statement:

*Individuals should be trusted to make their own decisions about what they read and believe.  
Further, people should not be making decisions for other people about what they read.*

*We are united against book bans.*

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we as Millburn Library Trustees will act to protect the rights of everyone to access a variety of books and other materials, in libraries, in bookstores, online, and in other venues; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Millburn Free Public Library hereby designates the Millburn Free Public Library as a book sanctuary.