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Hello everyone,

Today in the legislature, the Province introduced Bill 28 that includes legislation with a direct impact on public libraries. Below you'll find a statement that has been issued by the CAP Libraries Steering Committee.

CAP Libraries will not be speaking with media beyond issuing this statement at this time. This is critical as we need time to review this legislation in detail. We will be providing further information on our response in the coming days.

Thank you for your support as we work to respond to this act of censorship.

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## **ALBERTA PUBLIC LIBRARIES CONDEMN ACT OF CENSORSHIP**

*Statement in response to Bill 28, the Municipal Affairs and Housing Statutes Amendment Act*

Earlier today, Minister of Municipal Affairs Dan Williams announced changes to the Libraries Act that will restrict access to resources in public libraries in Alberta. These changes impact 324 public library service points across Alberta, which serve 99 per cent of Albertans.

All public libraries across Alberta are united and represented by The Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries). CAP Libraries has been engaged in conversations regarding intellectual freedom with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and provincial representatives since Fall 2025 but were not consulted on the changes announced today. CAP Libraries is reviewing these recent changes and will be providing further statement in the coming days.

In January 2026, CAP Libraries commissioned research by Alberta pollster Janet Brown to better understand public views on library decision-making and the principle of intellectual freedom. It confirms that public libraries are among Alberta's most trusted and widely used public institutions. Key findings include:

- 82 per cent of Albertans trust their local public library to make appropriate decisions about what materials are available
- 70 per cent of Albertans use public libraries at least a few times per year, with 47 per cent reporting use weekly or monthly
- 69 per cent of Albertans believe decisions about library materials should be made locally by trained library staff, guided by policies set by local library boards, rather than through province-wide rules

A full report on this polling is available at [CAPLibraries.ca](https://www.caplibraries.ca).

### **About CAP Libraries**

The Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries (CAP Libraries) represents 324 public library service points across Alberta, serving 99 per cent of Albertans. Its membership includes libraries of all sizes and from every region of the province, including Alberta's seven regional systems. With a mission to work together to promote core library principles, demonstrate value, and share the stories of how libraries enrich the lives of Albertans, CAP Libraries has a powerful and shared voice to advocate for the needs of the communities it serves. For more information on the Coalition of Alberta Public Libraries, visit [CAPLibraries.ca](https://www.caplibraries.ca) or contact [media@caplibraries.ca](mailto:media@caplibraries.ca).

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Link to statement: <https://www.caplibraries.ca/newsroom/alberta-public-libraries-condemn-act-of-censorship>

## Media Release

April 2, 2026

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