

Policy Number	5.2
Title	Program Policy
Section	5: Services
Effective Date	March 23, 2000
Review Date	



A program is a planned, publicly advertised, library sponsored or co-sponsored event. Library programs should be in sensitive to programming of other agencies, and should be developed in accordance with Library goals and objectives. All programs must satisfy the Cobourg Public Library Board's Mission Statement, which states:

Cobourg Public Library Board Mission Statement

The Cobourg Public Library is committed to being an exceptional community resource for information, exploration, inspiration and enjoyment.

Enlarging on the mission statement is the vision that:

- the Library will reflect the range and needs of its community
- a service-oriented library will be characterized by innovation and flexibility, and
- the Library will reach out to extend opportunities to a diverse community

Programming is a natural extension of the three community roles chosen by the Cobourg Public Library Board:

- A provider of quality and popular materials
- A community learning center
- A children's door to a life of learning.

Programming is a direct contact point with the community providing the Library with the opportunity to:

- offer programs which complement and promote its resources
- recognize the expertise of individuals and groups/organizations within the community
- heighten the visibility and profile of the Library within the community.

In order to fulfill its obligation to the community, the Library must offer programs which present varied, and sometimes controversial points of view. Presentation of a program does not necessarily indicate an endorsement of its content by the Library, the Board, or the Town of Cobourg.

Children's Programming:

Children's programs are often a child's first introduction to books, library resources, reading skills and social interaction with peers. Such programs are instrumental in the development of a lifelong learner and library user, and are instrumental in promoting literacy.

The objectives of children's programming in the Cobourg Public Library are:

- to attract children, parents and caregivers to the library
- to demonstrate that reading is a pleasurable, worthwhile activity
- to establish the library as a friendly valuable place
- to enable children, parents and caregivers to assume the responsibility for their own lifelong learning by introducing them to enabling skills

The Cobourg Public Library therefore denotes “Core programs” for children which will be free of charge and which will be developed and presented as essential core library programs. These are:

- Preschooler programs, including Tales for Twos Threes and Fours
- Library school visits
- Summer reading programs
- Any other program specifically supporting literacy.

All other programs, including Saturday and seasonal programs, although important to the development of library services to the public and the awareness of the library in the community, will be considered as enriched service, and as such a fee may be charge for these programs.

Adult Programming:

Programs for adults are generally designed to meet the informational, educational, recreational and cultural needs of the community, and to reflect the unique interests of the community. Programs for adults *may* be conducted on a cost recovery basis or revenue-generating basis, but core programs shall be free of charge. Staff has the right to waive individual fees at their discretion.

Evaluation:

Long range planning for programs involves evaluating existing programs, maintaining those which are successful and setting priorities for new programs. Programming should be included in the periodic material collection review and survey.

Approved: March 23, 2000

CEO: _____