



## **Statement of Authority, Powers and Duties**

The library board bears legal responsibility for the library by ensuring that it operates in accordance with the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P.44. The purpose of this bylaw is to define the legal authority of the board.

### **1 Statement of Authority**

In accordance with the Public Libraries Act, section 3 (1), the Council of the City of Guelph has established the Guelph (Free) Public Library by the adoption of municipal bylaw # 89.

The Guelph Free Public Library, the first public library in Ontario created under the Free Libraries Act (1882), was established in February 1883 by the Council of the City of Guelph (By-law #89). Further, under Council By-law #99, the collection of the Farmers' and Mechanics' Institute Library, originally established in 1850, was absorbed into the Guelph Public Library in March 1883.

In accordance with the Public Libraries Act, section 3 (3), the Guelph Public Library shall be under the management and control of the Guelph Public Library Board, which is a corporation with charitable status.

### **2 Powers and Duties**

The powers and duties of the library board are prescribed in the Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P44, to which this bylaw adheres.

- 2.1 The role of the library board is to govern the affairs of the library, and in accordance with the Public Libraries Act, section 20, the library board:
- a. shall seek to provide, in co-operation with other boards, a comprehensive and efficient public library service that reflects the community's unique needs
  - b. shall provide library services in the French language, where appropriate
  - c. shall operate one or more libraries and ensure that they are conducted in accordance with this Act and the regulations

- d. may operate special services in connection with a library as it considers necessary
  - e. shall fix the times and places for board meetings and the mode of calling and conducting them, and ensure that full and correct minutes are kept
  - f. shall make an annual report to the Minister and make any other reports required by this Act and the regulations or requested by the Minister from time to time
  - g. shall make provision for insuring the board's real and personal property
  - h. shall take proper security for the treasurer
  - i. may appoint such committees as it considers expedient
- 2.2 Under the ***Public Libraries Act***, (Section 15(2)), the library board must appoint a Library CEO, and it is that person to whom the library board may delegate authority for management of library operations.

**Related Documents:**

- **Public Libraries Act**, R.S.O. 1990, chapter P44, sections. 3(1) and 3(3)
- Council of the City of Guelph By-laws #89 and #99

**Notes:**

Statement of Authority includes history of the Guelph Public Library (GPL).

11/2020: Revised to reflect current practice. Removed mention of the corporate seal which is no longer used by the Library and enumeration of the address of the Board which is not necessary.

11/2020: Revised to amalgamate previous GPL Bylaws B-1 And B-4 to more closely align with the OLS Trillium Sample Policies.