

Programs Policy

<i>Topic</i>	Library Services
<i>Authority</i>	Board
<i>Related Documents</i>	WBRL Intellectual Freedom Policy

The Wood Buffalo Regional Library (WBRL) defines programs as any group activity offered to the public that employees coordinate, plan, and/or present. Programming:

- Supports the WBRL’s vision, mission, and Plan of Service goals and objectives.
- Promotes the WBRL’s services and resources.
- Expands the WBRL’s visibility in the community and offers staff opportunities to engage community members.

WBRL’s program goals include:

- Supporting lifelong learning including literacy, numeracy, and problem solving in a technology rich environment (digital literacy).
- Providing information, education, and recreation opportunities to patrons.
- Nurturing community cohesion and reducing social isolation by bringing members of the community together.
- Celebrating our history and heritage, and promoting cultural awareness.
- Supporting Truth and Reconciliation, in collaboration with local Indigenous communities.
- Strengthening partnerships with a wide variety of organizations.
- Attracting new and unique audiences to the Library.
- Developing equitable opportunities for rural and urban residents.

WBRL supports and encourages public library programming that welcomes all individuals, regardless of heritage, education, beliefs, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental capabilities, or income. WBRL offers programs for a wide variety of ages.

WBRL

- Makes available a wide spectrum of opinions and viewpoints.
- Selects programs based on the interest and need of the community.
- Uses programs to promote interest in, and the joy of, reading.
- Limits program attendance based on safe use of space, or when success of a program requires it.
- Hosts programs both on-library premises and in outreach locations.
- Makes programs open to all, based on a first come, first served basis, either with advanced registration or at the door.
- Does not offer programming for purely commercial purposes.
- Regularly evaluates the planning and delivery of library programs.
- Makes available a process for user feedback and expressions of opinions/concerns about a program.

WBRL reserves the right to cancel programs as necessary and makes every effort to notify the public of cancellations in advance.

Collaboration

WBRL may:

- Participate in cooperative programs with other agencies, organizations, institutions or individuals.
- Sponsor programs in the library facility or outside of the library.

WBRL commits to collaborations using program criteria outlined in this policy and our Plan of Service.

WBRL reserves the right to decline collaboration opportunities.

Intellectual Freedom

WBRL may present programs that some individuals find controversial. Hosting a program does not indicate an endorsement of its contents by WBRL, but rather is an affirmation of the principle of intellectual freedom as embodied in the Canadian Federation of Library Associations' Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries.

Priority to Offer Free Programs

The majority of programs offered by WBRL are free to attend. Charging for programs creates a participation barrier that excludes some community members.

In some cases, WBRL charges participants to attend a program. Charging for a program must receive approval from the Community Engagement Manager or Director.

To offset obstacles created by charging, where appropriate, free tickets will be made available or a similar type of program may be offered free of charge.

Library programs are not a vehicle for commercial ventures.

Suggestions for Programs

WBRL encourages patrons to suggest topics for future programs and gives suggestions due consideration, taking the Plan of Service and library resources into account.

The receipt of a program suggestion does not guarantee the addition of a library program.

The program suggestion form is available on WBRL's website.

Performer Agreement for Events and Programs

WBRL enlists outside performers for events and programs. All performers (including authors, singers, storytellers, musicians, etc.) hired by WBRL must read and sign the Library Performer Agreement in advance.

History

Created: December, 1993.

Revised: June, 1994. October, 1997. December, 1999. March 21, 2018. November 20, 2019. September 21, 2022.

