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POLICY Advocacy

Board motion number: 28-15 31 March 2015

Chair signature: _____

Definitions

Advocacy – Advocacy seeks to promote the profile of the library and an understanding of its importance to the community. It is a continuous activity of the board and may lay the groundwork for lobbying.

Lobbying – Lobbying attempts to influence the decision of a level of government in a manner favourable to the library.

Intent

The *Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990* provides that municipal council shall have the power to appoint members to the library board. The board, therefore, assumes the responsibility to promote the interests and aims of the Bonnechere Union Public Library. In pursuing its advocacy activities, the board shall:

Respect federal legislation governing advocacy and lobbying, the *Public Libraries Act* and any applicable municipal by-laws governing local boards;

Comply with the library's current mission and strategic directions;

Seek to ensure that:

- the community is aware of the importance of the library;
- the municipal council and administration fully understand the important role played by the library in the community; and that
- provincial and federal legislators respond to the needs of the public library community.

Policy

Community: The board shall endeavour to build and maintain good relationships with its clients and with community organizations that use library services to ensure their continued support.

Municipal council: The board shall endeavour to represent the community's needs for public library service to municipal council on a continuous and consistent basis.

Other levels of government: The board shall endeavour to identify and respond to issues, concerns, and government policies that may directly or indirectly affect the Bonnechere Union Public Library.