



:. ontario library association

### **The OLA Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award**

The Ontario Library Association Board of Directors established the Award for Intellectual Freedom in 1997 to recognize the courage shown by individuals and organizations in defending the rights of library patrons to full access to information. In 2000, the Award was renamed the Les Fowlie Intellectual Freedom Award in memory of the former Chief Librarian of Toronto Public Library whose efforts on behalf of intellectual freedom in Canada are legendary.

#### **Past Recipients**

- 2025 Annie McClelland, Book and Periodical Council
- 2019 James Turk, Centre for Free Expression, Ryerson University
- 2018 Vickery Bowles, Toronto Public Library
- 2017 Graduate Resource Centre, Faculty of Information and Media Studies,  
Western University
- 2016 Dorothy Mcnaughton
- 2015 Kathy Scardellato, Ontario Council of University Libraries
- 2014 Progressive Librarians Guild - Greater Toronto Area
- 2013 No recipient
- 2012 Margaret Ann Wilkinson, University of Western Ontario
- 2011 Patricia Aldana, Groundwood Books
- 2010 The Book & Periodical Council, Freedom to Read Expression  
Committee
- 2009 Dr. Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair of Internet and E-commerce  
Law, University of Ottawa.
- 2008 Bernard Katz, now retired, former senior director at the University of  
Guelph McLaughlin Library and a deep contributor to the OLA's work on

intellectual freedom and copyright, both areas in which he has deep and abiding wisdom.

2000 Toronto Public Library for publication and distribution of "Young Voices from the Street"

1998 The Halton Board of Education

1997 Burlington Public Library Staff and Board