

June 2023

Joint Statement from the Public Libraries of Caledon, Grand Valley, and Orangeville

We the undersigned, proudly express our support for the inclusion of drag storytimes as a valuable program in our libraries. We believe in fostering diversity, inclusivity, and a safe space for all members of our community, including children.

Drag storytime provides an engaging inclusive environment where children can explore the wonders of literature while embracing diversity and celebrating individuality. These events offer an opportunity to promote acceptance, respect and understanding of different identities, backgrounds, and expressions, which are essential values in building a harmonious and inclusive society. By making drag storytime available, we are creating an environment that values and embraces the rich tapestry of identities and experiences that make up our communities.

It is our duty as library leaders to remain true to the principles of intellectual freedom, equity and diversity and to provide a community space for voices that are often marginalized or underrepresented. Drag storytime exemplifies our commitment to these principles by providing an avenue for members of the 2SLGBTQ1+ community to contribute to the enrichment of library programs and services.

We would like to express our gratitude to the dedicated and passionate Drag performers who enthusiastically share their time and talent to engage children in the joys of reading. Their commitment to promoting literacy and fostering inclusivity is commendable. We share and honour this commitment and are grateful for their contributions to our libraries. We welcome opportunities to support them in this work.

In conclusion, we, the CEOs, and Boards of Caledon, Grand Valley and Orangeville support drag storytime as a vital and cherished program within our libraries. We stand united in our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and the principles of intellectual freedom. Together, we can create an environment where all community members, regardless, of gender identity or expression, feel welcomed, respected, and celebrated.



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