

Censorship is typically considered to be the removal or blocking of information, speech, or expression. It also includes “self-censorship,” where individuals or organizations limit what they say for fear of repercussions.

**SHOULD CANADIANS WORRY ABOUT**


# CENSORSHIP?

The right to **SPEAK, WRITE, CREATE, EXPRESS** ourselves is enshrined in the





### CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Everyone has the following fundamental freedoms:

- Freedom of conscience and religion
- Freedom of peaceful assembly
- Freedom of association
- Freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication






**CENSORSHIP AND EXPRESSIVE CHILL HAPPEN IN EVERY SPHERE:**

- **Political**  
All levels of government
- **Educational**  
Public schools, universities, private institutions
- **Judicial**  
Courts
- **Local**  
Workplaces, schools, places of worship

Expressive chill occurs when individuals or organizations do not exercise these rights and freedoms for fear of punishment.

### CENSORSHIP AND EXPRESSIVE CHILL BY THE NUMBERS

- 100** Books and written works that have made the Challenged Works list<sup>1</sup>  

- 44** Federal departmental libraries closed since 2012<sup>3</sup>  

- 51%** Increase in complaints about missing records submitted to the Information Commissioner of Canada<sup>2</sup>  


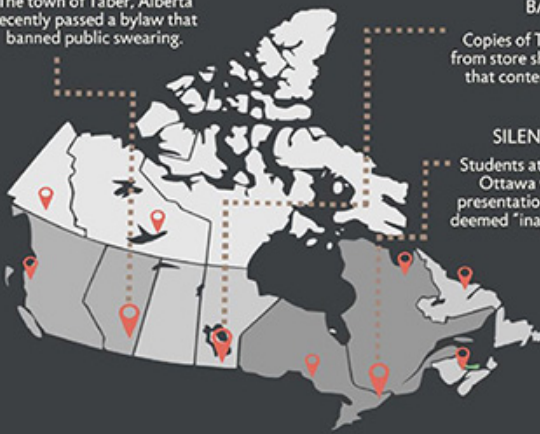
Internationally, media sources are often shut down or silenced by repressive governments, legislation prevents journalists from freely reporting the truth, and those who do speak out are imprisoned or killed. In Canada, censorship is more often subtle than blatant. It can take the form of muzzling federal scientists, refusing activists entry into Canada, book seizures at the border, and libel chill. The common denominator is that voices are silenced.

**INCIDENTS OF CENSORSHIP ARE HAPPENING ACROSS CANADA.**

**LAWS RESTRICTING SPEECH**  
The town of Taber, Alberta recently passed a bylaw that banned public swearing.

**BANNED BOOKS**  
Copies of Tintin in America were pulled from store shelves after a citizen complaint that content in the book was offensive.

**SILENCING OF STUDENTS**  
Students at St George Catholic School in Ottawa were banned from giving a presentation on gay rights because it was deemed "inappropriate" by administrators.



**CENSORSHIP OCCURS EVERYWHERE.  
WHAT CAN CANADIANS DO TO FIGHT IT?**

The first step is to understand where it is happening and increase public awareness.

**CENSORSHIP TRACKER**

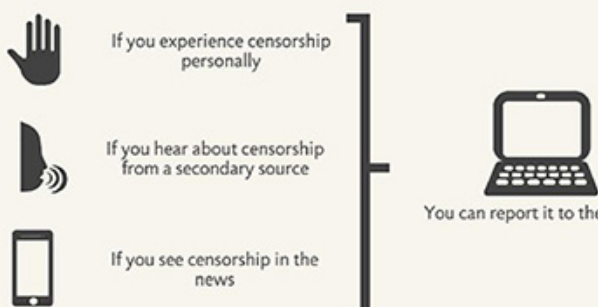
CENSORSHIP TRACKER RECORDS INCIDENTS OF ANY AND ALL TYPES OF CENSORSHIP, FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO THE POLITICAL ARENA.

If you experience censorship personally

If you hear about censorship from a secondary source

If you see censorship in the news

You can report it to the Tracker.



- 1 Freedom to Read. (2013). Challenged Works List. Retrieved from <http://www.freedomtoread.ca/censorship-in-canada/challenged-works-list/#.VS7xBJTF9Hg>
- 2 Canadian Journalists for Free Expression. (2014). Fifth Annual Review Of Free Expression In Canada. Retrieved from <https://cjfe.org/2014review>
- 3 Canada's Past Matters. (2012). Protect Canada's Public Libraries. Retrieved from <http://www.canadaspastmatters.ca/public-libraries/federal-library-cuts-and-closures.aspx>