

Title: “Drag Queen Story Time Nelson BC”

Source: *MomsAgainstTheNorm*

Date: March 2, 2023

Video Description: Nelson BC's Public Library is advertising a Drag Queen Story Time for children on March 11, 2023 at 10:30AM. There are a considerable amount of people in Nelson and surrounding communities who have some pretty valid concerns regarding this event. Besides the very real fact that it goes against Nelson Public Library's own policy as well as our Criminal Code, it sparks the question of what morals and values are really being taught to children through such an event!

Drag Queen Story Time in public libraries is becoming the new norm. Well, Moms Against The Norm just aren't having it. We know there are professionals within the LGBTQ community who work in professions that don't cause such controversy who would be more than happy to sit down and read to children. This event is damaging to religious groups and families, the LGBTQ community, and families who have chosen not to fall in line with the SOGI ideology being pushed on our communities through events like this in our public spaces. This event encourages the division we are seeing in all our communities Nation wide.

The Nelson Public Library will be considered as taking sides on a social protest based on an ideology if it goes forward with this event. This will in turn absolutely break public trust as well as endanger public comfort.

We ask that the Nelson Public Library do the right thing and remain neutral when it comes to social protests in our communities.

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Tags: SOGI; Drag Queen; Drag Story Time; Nelson; BC; Moms Against The Norm; Reason

Transcript

Hello again, the internet. It's March 2, 2023, and I'm Emily Duggan. Today I'm here to talk about drag queen story time. We've been seeing it across the province, across the country. It's happening in our schools, in our public libraries, and now it's come to my community.

The Nelson Public Library in Nelson, British Columbia, has proposed Drag Queen Storytime for March 11, 2023. This event goes against Nelson Public Library's own policy. It also goes against the Criminal Code. Aside from any personal opinions that myself or other community members may hold, that is the focus of this video today. Drag Queen storytime does indeed go against Nelson Public Library's own policy, as well as the Criminal Code.

When I found this out, I contacted the chief librarian at the Nelson Public Library, Tracy Theron. On February 16, 2023 I emailed this email to the Nelson Public Library and on February 17 I received a generic reply.

Letter to NLP (from screenshot shared in video)

I am writing in regards to the proposed Drag Queen Story Time at The Nelson Public Library for March 11, 2023. This proposal was made public via the social media platform Facebook by NPL employee Sharma Pickard on January 25, 2023.

I am a parent and member of the community who accesses the Nelson Public Library and feel I must share my concerns on this topic. I believe this proposal to have adult entertainer's perform for minors could be considered an act of indoctrination as well as the Nelson Public Library acting in support of the social protest we are currently seeing across our country in regards to Drag Queen Story Time.

Not only are Drag Queens adult entertainment but their performances can be considered sexually explicit in nature and wildly inappropriate to have in a public venue accessible to minors. Drag Queens also represent women in an extremely exaggerated fashion leaving behind unrealistic views on what it means to be a woman.

I would like to take this opportunity to request, if your mission is to instill the values of inclusion and understanding in our community, that you then choose a less controversial way to do so. I am sure there are members of our community who do not work in adult entertainment that would be happy to read to children.

I would like to include policy from The Nielsen Public Library Policy Manual. It would be worth considering your own policy before having an employee go public with any future proposals.

As stated in the [Nelson Public Library Policy Manual](#):

5 Human Resources

5.4. Code of Conduct:

- **5.4.1** The Board recognizes that it is through the commitment and effort of each employee that the high quality of Library services is achieved and public trust is maintained. Trustees and employees have a shared responsibility to exercise the basic principles of respect and dignity in all working relationships.
- **5.4.3** All employees and volunteers acting on behalf of the Library share certain ethical and legal responsibilities and will:
 - C) Act with reasonable care, integrity and diligence in the performance of their duties and responsibilities to provide courteous, competent and responsive services
- **5.8.4** Personal, discriminatory or sexual harassment of any nature will not be tolerated.

9 Other Services:

- **9.2.5** Programs are not used for commercial, religious or partisan purposes or for the solicitation of business.

To allow Drag Queen Story Time at the Nelson Public Library would go directly against the Nelson Public Library's own Policy. Not only that, it goes against the Criminal Code under:

Sexual Offences, Public Morals and Disorderly Conduct.

Causing disturbance, indecent exhibition, loitering, etc.

- **175(1)** Everyone who
 - (b) openly exposes or exhibits an indecent exhibition in a public place is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Nuisances

Common nuisance

- **180(1)** Every person is gully of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction who commits a common nuisance and by doing so
(2)(a) endangers the lives, safety or hearth, property or comfort of the public,

I expect the Nelson Public Library Board of Trustees to immediately suspend the proposed Drag Queen Story Time for March 11, 2023 so that they may properly review their own policy as well as the Criminal Code. I hope in the future the NPL is more responsible with their proposals to be able to maintain public trust and stay within the legal constructs we have in place to protect the public.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,
Emily Grace

Letter from NLP (from screenshot shared in video)

Nelson Public Library is committed to supporting and representing all members of our communities. We believe that access to information, knowledge, and resources is a fundamental right, and we strive to make our library spaces and services inclusive and welcoming for everyone. We are dedicated to providing a diverse collection of materials, programs and services that reflect our communities' cultural and linguistic diversity and promote promote understanding, tolerance and equity for all. We encourage everyone to visit the library and take advantage of the many resources and opportunities available.

What is Drag Story Time?

Drag Story Time is an interactive event where drag performers use their creativity, humour,, and talent to bring children's stories to life.

Why does your library host Drag Story Time?

Our library hosts Drag Story Time to provide a fun and inclusive event that celebrates diversity and self-expression while promoting literacy and a love of reading.

Who can attend the program?

Families and adults accompanying children are welcome to attend Drag Story Time. Drag Story Time has been scheduled at a different time to make sure that patrons don't confuse it with any other story times being offered at the library.

Nelson Public Library

Now, this is the email that I sent, what you can see now, and in it I have stated Nelson Public policy. So here, under Human Resources, 5.4 Code of Conduct, 5.4.1, "The Board recognizes that it is through the commitment and effort of each employee that the high quality of Library services is achieved and public trust is maintained. Trustees and employees have a shared responsibility to exercise the basic principles of respect and dignity in all working relationships. All employees and volunteers acting on behalf of the Library share certain ethical and legal responsibilities and will act with reasonable care, integrity and diligence in the performance of their duties and responsibilities to provide courteous, competent and responsive services."

It goes on to say that, "programs are not used for commercial, religious or partisan purposes or for the solicitation of business."

Not only that, but it will break trust with the public when it comes to the Nelson Public Library. Also, I have stated the Criminal Code under Sexual Offences, Public Morals and Disorderly Conduct. It says that Nuances [sic], Common Nuance [sic] 180(1), everyone is Every person is gully of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than two years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction who commits a common nuisance and by doing so ... endangers the lives, safety or hearth, property or comfort of the public."

Now, this event directly endangers the comfort of the public. Maybe not all of the public, but I assure you, a large portion of the public. They will feel their comfort has been endangered.

This is the letter that I sent to the library through the Chief Librarian as well as the Nelson Board of Trustees. This is the response I received from the library. This response is unacceptable, Nelson Public Library. It doesn't touch on any of the concerns that I have listed in my email to you, as well as other community members. You state that you are hosting this event for inclusivity and understanding in our community. Is it—by that logic, I would like to ask you when you will be hosting exotic dancer story time, as well as ex-con story time.

Perhaps chip n' dales story time. Where are we going to draw the line? Drag queens are adult entertainment and happen in nightclubs where you need to show ID to enter.

Nelson Public Library [...] we have not received communication from you that is reasonable, logical, or compassionate. You have completely ignored our concerns. As a community members of the surrounding communities of Nelson, British Columbia, who accessed your library, I do not feel included, supported, or heard by you going forward with this event. It absolutely will break public trust. I am wondering, Nelson Public Library, if you are even aware of these policies that your library has. Because we have gotten unacceptable communication from the library, we have written to the mayor of Nelson. On February 26, we emailed the mayor of Nelson, Mayor Morrison, and asked for guidance, support and a conversation on this topic that is indeed happening in your city, Mayor Morrison. It's March 2, and we have not yet received a reply from you.

The Nelson Public Library going along with Drag Queen Story time will indeed be considered the Nelson Public Library taking a stance on a nationwide public protest. This does not maintain public trust when our public institutions choose sides on social protests.

I would like to make it very clear that none of this comes from the place of hate or intolerance. When one of our community members phoned the Nelson Public Library and asked if the drag queens performing for the children on March 11 would be vetted with criminal record checks, the employee on the other end of the phone responded with, "We won't be leaving them alone with the children." Well, Nelson Public Library, that is absolutely the wrong answer. And I'm not even ensure [sic] what it implies. As a parent of the school district that Nelson falls under I myself must have a criminal record check to volunteer at my child's school. And now I'm being told by a public venue that there is going to be performers geared toward children who are not going to be vetted, and the reasoning is that they're not going to leave them alone with the children. Nelson Public Library, this is unacceptable. This is what we call a double standard. And I would like to have a conversation on why you think that is appropriate.

Drag Queen Storytime is not an event that is even agreed on in the LGBTQ+ community. It is presented to the public as though it is. I am here to tell you it is not. I am sending a call out to the members of my community to contact the Nelson Public Library and express your concerns on the fact that they will be holding an event that directly breaks their own policy as well as the criminal code. This is unacceptable. And to be sent a generic reply that touches on none of our very valid concerns is also unacceptable. This is not how you treat members of the

community, Nelson Public Library, Chief Librarian, Teresa [sic] Theron. This is not ok. This is not acceptable. I as a community member do not feel heard, represented, respected, or welcomed when I am treated this way when I approach with logic, reason and compassion. I look forward to carrying this conversation on with respect, with understanding, and with reason. Adult entertainment has no place in a public venue for children. If there are people in our community who feel it necessary to expose their children to such entertainment it would be much more reasonable and appropriate to rent out a private venue and do so there.