

## CBC'S FIGHT AGAINST BOOK BANS: A TIMELINE FROM 2017 TO THE PRESENT

Winter/Spring 2024 Update

- From 2017 to 2019, the CBC co-hosted the AABFE Silent Auction for Free Speech with the ABA/ABC.
- In 2018, we began compiling lists of diverse books in dozens of categories—the books that are seeing the most bans—and gathered a directory of the resources being created by the ALA, ABA, WNDB, publishers, and other groups.
- Starting in 2019, we've been elevating books that seemed to be experiencing some pre-censorship in several of our award programs.
- In 2020, we began adding posters of leading local community figures and free speech advocates to the Get Caught Reading program.
- In 2021, we contacted the 2 teachers who started #Freedom and, with their approval, [produced 6 downloadable coloring pages](#) and sent those out to our over 20,000 opt-in librarian, teacher, and bookseller email list.
- In 2022, Kathy Ishizuka of SLJ commissioned artist Chan Chau to create a Pride, Love & Acceptance poster, and CBC paid for an honorarium and the printing and mailing of this beautiful poster to 1,100 schools, libraries, and bookstores.
- Also in 2022, CBC was one of the first to sign onto the ALA statement against book banning, and we created our own tagline for social media: Free Country. Free to Read Any Book.
- In July 2022, the CBC Graphic Novel Committee launched a Keep Bans Off Our Books panel at San Diego ComicCon. We will continue that panel as a regular feature at all Comic Cons.
- In 2023, we formed a standing CBC Fight Against Book Bans Committee to continue to ensure that the children's publishing community's voices are a part of the many essential campaigns in motion at key moments and year-round.
- Also in 2023, the CBC staff added CBC Stands United Against Book Bans with a link to ALA's site to our email signatures and added it prominently on our home page.
- In the summer of 2023, we mailed out 2,000 CBC Free Speech Kits to teachers, librarians, and booksellers, a record response for one of our programs.
- In fall 2023, the CBC hosted a webinar featuring several free speech advocates, and CBC's November Annual Meeting featuring the new executive director of NCAC, Lee Rowland.
- We are signees to the PEN, AAP, and other proclamations and work to let our full 125 publisher CBC membership aware of opportunities to be signees as well.

**The CBC stands with  
Unite Against Book Bans**



## RECENT NEWS

- We are now official dues-paying sponsors of Banned Books Week and the National Coalition against Censorship.
- The CBC is sponsoring Keep Bans Off Our Books panels at WonderCon, Emerald City, C2E2, and San Diego ComicCon throughout 2024.
- This summer, the CBC will send out a new Free Speech Kit.
- The CBC office will host a summer intern with a stipend paid for by Stanford University. She is two years into tracking the effect of book bans in Florida.

**KEEP BANS  
OFF OUR  
BOOKS** 

a campaign by The Children's Book Council

We want everyone, especially young people, to be able to read the books they want to read, to have free and easy access without restrictions or fear. It's the most basic of premises but one that's been hateful, full of lies, and threatening for some time now, with no signs that it's abating. We stand with all the organizations, book creators, teachers, librarians, booksellers, community leaders, and especially the young student activists, in this epic struggle central to our democracy, and just as important, to the health and well-being of young people.

Carl Lennertz, Executive Director (he/him)

[Children's Book Council](#) | [Every Child a Reader](#)

Celebrating 105 years of Children's Book Week in 2024

I live and work on the ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy in upstate NY

To learn more, go to [native-land.ca](https://native-land.ca)