

Challenged Books and Magazines List

Updated February 2012

This selective list provides information on numerous books and some magazines and newspapers that have been challenged in the past decades. Each challenge sought to limit public access to these publications in schools, libraries and elsewhere. Some challenges were upheld; others were rejected. We have tried to update our research on unresolved challenges.

Because some challenges are dismissed, the publications remain on library shelves or curriculum lists. We think it is worthwhile to include such instances because the effect of a controversy over publications can spread even though the would-be banners lose. A book or magazine with a controversial reputation can be quietly dropped from reading lists and curricula. This interference can be most insidious—quiet acquiescence to the scare tactics that would-be censors know how to employ.

Because organizations and community groups that ask for book and magazine bans usually want to avoid public controversies, it is often difficult to discover why challenges are launched or what becomes of them. If you know of book or magazine or newspaper challenges or, better still, satisfactory resolutions anywhere in Canada, please use the accompanying case study form to give us details.

2011

Brunetti, Ivan, Lilli Carré, et al. *Black Eye 1: Graphic Transmissions to Cause Ocular Hypertension*.

2011—Officials of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) seized five copies of this comic book anthology in Buffalo, New York, while artist Tom Neely and a colleague were travelling to the Toronto Comic Arts Festival.

Objection—The customs officers found images of sex and violence in the book. They sent *Black Eye 1* to Ottawa to determine whether the publication was legally obscene and prohibited.

Update—Later, after reviewing the book, the CBSA concluded it was not legally obscene.

Findley, Timothy. *The Wars*.

2011—The parent of an Ontario high school student complained to the Bluewater District School Board about the use of this novel in Grade 12 English literature classes. The novel, which tells the story of a Canadian soldier in Europe during World War I, won the Governor General's Literary Award for fiction in 1977.

Objection—Speaking on behalf of a small delegation of parents, the parent objected to depictions of sex and violence in the novel. She especially objected to a character's visit to a whorehouse and depictions of a homosexual gang rape. She said the novel was "inappropriate to be presented to a class of young people," worried about the book's effect on the minds of students and asked the board to review the novel. The parent denied that she was asking for censorship.

Update—Students and other people in the community defended the novel's literary value and argued for the book's continued use in English classes. The school board referred the

issue to a textbook review committee which consisted of secondary school teachers, student senators and other staff. Later in the year, the committee recommended that *The Wars* be kept in the secondary school curriculum.

Instigator magazine.

2011—Officials of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) seized and detained copies of this U.S. gay mens' leather fetish magazine.

Objection—Officials suspected the magazine was legally obscene.

Update—The importer—a magazine subscriber who lives in a town north of Vancouver—informed *Xtra* about the incident. *Xtra* publishes news for and about Canadian gays and lesbians. *Xtra* exposed the story on November 3. The CBSA, after holding the magazines for several weeks, released them to the importer.

Kasokeo, Deanne. *Antigone*.

2011—In Saskatchewan, the chief and members of the band council of the Poundmaker Cree Nation tried to ban a live performance of an adaptation of *Antigone* on their reserve.

Objection—*Antigone*—which was originally written by Sophocles in Greece in the 5th century B.C.—tells the story of a woman who gives her brother a proper burial in defiance of a tyrant's edict. Deanne Kasokeo's adaptation of *Antigone* is set on a Canadian aboriginal reserve and features a character who is a corrupt band chief. The band's council members provided no public explanation for banning the play.

Update—The actors defied the ban and performed *Antigone* in a school on the reserve. Approximately 60 people saw the performance. In press reports, Kasokeo said that the corrupt chief in the play was not a depiction of the Poundmaker Cree Nation chief.

Larmee, Blaise. *Young Lions*.

2011—Officials of the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) seized this graphic novella in Buffalo, New York, while artist Tom Neely and a colleague were travelling to the Toronto Comic Arts Festival.

Objection—The customs officers found pencil sketches of fictional young people having sexual contact in the book.

Update—After reviewing the book, the CBSA concluded that *Young Lions* is legally obscene and banned its importation into Canada.

2010

For the year 2010, the Canadian Library Association learned of 92 challenges to books, magazines, other resources such as DVDs and even library policies in Canadian libraries. However, we have not yet acquired the locations of the challenges, the reasons for each challenge or the result of each challenge. We can only present, therefore, a list of challenged titles for this year.

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

Athkins, D.E. *Swans in the Mist*.

Bateman, Colin. *Murphy's Law*.

Beck, Carolyn, and Andrea Beck. *The Waiting Dog*.

Benton, Jim. *Dear Dumb Diary: Never Underestimate Your Dumbness*.

Brannen, Sarah S. *Uncle Bobby's Wedding*.

Burns, Charles. *Black Hole*. (12 issues in comic book series).

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *My Mom's Having a Baby! A Kid's Month by Month Guide to Pregnancy*.

Cairo. *The Man Handler*.

Canfield, Jack, et al. *Chicken Soup for the Unsinkable Soul: 101 Stories*.

Carter, Anne Laurel. *The Shepherd's Granddaughter*.

2010—In Ontario, B'nai Brith Canada—a Jewish advocacy group—called for the removal of this young-adult novel about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from a recommended reading program for students in Grades 7 and 8 in public schools. A parent with a child in a Toronto public school also complained about the novel in a letter to Ontario's minister of education.

Objection—The complainants described the novel as anti-Israeli propaganda.

Update—The complaints provoked a public controversy. Sheila Ward, a trustee on the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), said that she would “move heaven and earth to have *The Shepherd's Granddaughter* taken off the school library shelves.” Carter and the novel's publisher—Patsy Aldana of Groundwood Books—denied the charge of anti-Israeli bias. Erna Paris, chair of the Writers' Union of Canada, and Aldana urged the TDSB to defend students' freedom to read. Others defended the novel's educational and literary value. In June 2010, a review committee of the TDSB said that teachers should use the novel to encourage students to read and think critically. In August 2010, Chris Spence, the TDSB's director of education, decided to keep the novel in the schools' recommended reading program.

Cash, William. *The Third Woman: The Secret Passion That Inspired Graham Greene's The End of the Affair*.

Cohen, Sacha Baron. *Bruno*.

Cooper, Roy. *Calf Roping: The World Champion's Guide for Winning Runs*.

DeFelice, Cynthia. *Cold Feet*.

Denim, Sue, and Dav Pilkey. *The Dumb Bunnies Go to the Zoo*.

Ennis, Garth. *War Stories*, Volume 1.

Ennis, Garth, John McCrea and Darick Robertson. *The Boys Volume 5: Herogasm*.

Gaiman, Neil. *American Gods* and *M is for Magic*.

Grey, Mini. *Egg Drop*.

Guru Granth Sahib [Sikh sacred scripture].

Heide, Florence Parry. *The Bigness Contest*.

Hergé. *Tintin in the Congo*.

Horwitz, Tony. *A Voyage Long and Strange: Rediscovering the New World*.

Howard, Korbin. *CFA: 100 Success Secrets; 100 Most Asked Questions*.

Jones, Rob Lloyd. *See Inside Pirate Ships*.

Joosse, Barbara. *Hot City*.

Logan, Jake. *Slocum and the Lucky Lady*.

Lucas, George, Hisao Tamaki and David Land. *Star Wars: A New Hope*.

Manning, Mick, and Brita Granstrom. *Dino-Dinners*.

Mapplethorpe, Robert. *Certain People: A Book of Portraits*.

McNally, Brian. "Good Evening, Vietnam!" in *Vanity Fair*, April 2008.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Alice on Her Way* and *Alice the Brave*.

Nissan, Colin, and Sean Farrell. *Don't Be That Guy: A Collection of 60 Annoying Guys We All Know and Wish We Didn't*.

Olsen, Gregg. *Victim Six*.

Ouellette, Sylvie. *Maria Monk*.

Perrault, Charles. *The Complete Fairy Tales of Charles Perrault*.

Pfeifer, Will. *Catwoman: Crime Pays*.

Reilly, John. *Bad Medicine: A Judge's Struggle for Justice in a First Nations Community*.
2010—In Alberta, the Stoney Nakoda First Nation asked the Judicial Council of Alberta

to ban *Bad Medicine*. A chief of the Stoney Nakodas also filed a libel suit against the book's author, a semi-retired judge who had served in Alberta's courts for more than 30 years.

Objection—Stoney Nakoda leaders objected to the negative portrayal of their government of the reserve.

Update—In 2011, the Judicial Council of Alberta found merit in the Stoney Nakodas' complaint and said that Reilly should resign from the bench if he wanted to make political statements. No book ban occurred.

Rice, Anne. *Beauty's Punishment*.

Rolling Stone. (September 2010 cover image)

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter. (7 books in series)

Sendak, Maurice. *Outside Over There*.

Sorokin, Vladimir. *Pir*.

Spiegelman, Art. *Breakdowns: Portrait of the Artist as a Young %@&*!*.

Stack, Frank. *The New Adventures of Jesus: The Second Coming*.

Star Wars, Volume 3, Dark Horse Comics. (a series of 14 manga)

Tremblay, Michel. *Contes pour buveurs attardés*.

2010—In Laval, Quebec, the religious mother of a student at the École d'éducation internationale tried to persuade the school to ban this collection of short stories. *Contes pour buveurs attardés* has been a staple of Grade 10 reading lists throughout Quebec for years.

Objection—In the book's preface, the author says that his stories tackle homosexuality, incest and encounters with the devil (although these references are so allusive that they are almost undetectable). The complainant declared that she did not want her son exposed to "such promotion of Satanism and pedophilia."

Update—The school board turned down the woman's demand and teachers kept the book on school reading lists.

Twain, Mark. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Willis, Jeanne, and Tony Ross. *Big Bad Bun*.

Wiseman, Jay. *Jay Wiseman's Erotic Bondage Handbook*.

Xtra! West.

2009

For the year 2009, the Canadian Library Association learned of 139 challenges to books, magazines, other resources such as DVDs and even library policies in Canadian libraries. However, we have not yet acquired the locations of the challenges, the reasons for each challenge or the result of each challenge. We can only present, therefore, the following list of challenged titles for this year.

To read the CLA's summary of the survey conducted for the year 2009, please visit http://www.cla.ca/Content/NavigationMenu/CLAAatWork/Committees/Challenges_to_Canadi.htm.

Adbusters: A Journal of the Mental Environment.

Akamatsu, Ken. Negima! (29 books in series).

Baskin, Julia, Lindsey Newman, Sophie Pollitt-Cohen and Courtney Toombs. *The Notebook Girls*.

Blechman, R.O. *Franklin the Fly*.

Brunetti, Ivan, ed. *An Anthology of Graphic Fiction, Cartoons and True Stories*.

Brown, Andi. *The Whole Pet Diet: Eight Weeks to Great Health for Dogs and Cats*.

Cole, Babette. *Mummy Laid an Egg!*

Cole, Babette. *Mummy Never Told Me*.

De Haan, Linda. *King and King*.

Delafontaine, Marc, and Maryse Dubuc. *Les nombrils*.

2009—In Laval, Quebec, the Mosaïque school for troubled teens pulled copies of this internationally successful comic book series off its library shelves.

Objection—School authorities feared that the young, thin female characters in *Les nombrils* might encourage anorexia among the school's female students.

Update—School authorities rescinded their decision after the graduation of the girls whom they saw as vulnerable to anorexia.

Dubberley, Emily, and Al Needham. *The Going Down Guide: Tongue Tips and Oral Sex Techniques for Men and Women*.

Harris, Charlaire. The Southern Vampire Mysteries. (10 books in series).

Hoffman, Abbie. *Steal This Book*.

Jacobson, Eleanor M. *Bended Elbow*.

Lemieux, Diane. *Culture Smart! Canada: A Quick Guide to Customs and Etiquette*.

Maltin, Leonard. *Leonard Maltin's 2010 Movie Guide*.

Michaels, Fern. *Vendetta*.

Now Magazine.

Paris Match. (August 12, 2009, issue).

Perkins, Al. *Hand, Hand, Fingers, Thumb*.

Pimsleur, Paul. *Speak Spanish with Dora and Diego*.

Richardson, Justin, and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*.

Roche, Charlotte. *Wetlands*.

Smith, Lori. *A Walk with Jane Austen: A Journey into Adventure, Love and Faith*.

Sports Illustrated. (swimsuit edition).

Taormino, Tristan. *The Anal Sex Position Guide*.

Tequila, Tila. *Hooking Up with Tila Tequila: A Guide to Love, Fame, Happiness, Success, and Being the Life of the Party*.

Tsuchiya, Yukio. *Faithful Elephants: A True Story of Animals, People, and War*.

Von Ziegesar, Cecily. *Gossip Girl* (15 books in series).

Zopol, Felicia, and Paul Kepple. *Sex Instruction Manual*.

2000–08

Allen, Kate. *Takes One to Know One: An Alison Kaine Mystery*.

2000—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about this murder mystery with a lesbian theme.

Objection—“Filthy language,” “casual use of the ‘f’ word” and a graphic depiction of sex.

Update—One copy remains in the library’s collection.

Alma, Ann. *Something to Tell*.

2000—At the beginning of a Children’s Book Week tour of schools and libraries in Prince Edward Island, the author was told that she should not read from this book, one of her three titles for young readers.

Objection—The tour coordinator said P.E.I. students were not mature enough for the book, which tells the story of a girl who has been subjected to sexual touching by the headmistress of her school.

Update—It turned out that a child had made an accusation of sexual touching in one of the schools Alma was to visit. After agreeing to the ban for the first day of her week-long tour, Alma decided to ignore the prohibition, and teachers in schools she visited subsequently thanked her for including the book in her presentations.

Asch, Frank. *Ziggy Piggy and the Three Little Pigs*.

2006—In the Edmonton Public Library, a parent complained about this children’s book about four little pigs.

Objection—The parent objected to an episode at the end of the book in which the Wolf huffs and puffs and blows the four pigs on raft far out to sea and the pigs then go for a swim. The parent wrote: “I don’t know what the author was hoping children would learn from the actions of the pig [i.e., Ziggy]. Yes, he was creative and perhaps a free spirit; however, he may have delivered his friends into greater danger. What is the lesson learned?” The parent considered the book inappropriate for young children and recommended that mature students or children critique the book to discover whether it was suitable for publishing or whether it was suitable for younger children.

Update—The library sent a letter to the complainant. The letter outlined the process and timelines for the library’s response. In the end, the library retained the book in its picture book collection.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

2008—In Toronto, a parent formally complained about the use of this dystopian novel in a Grade 12 English class at Lawrence Park Collegiate.

Objection—The parent said that the novel’s “profane language,” anti-Christian overtones, “violence” and “sexual degradation” probably violated the district school policies that require students to show respect and tolerance to one another.

Update—In 2009, a review panel of the Toronto District School Board recommended that schools keep the novel in the curriculum in Grades 11 and 12.

Ball, John. *In the Heat of the Night*.
See Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Beck, Carolyn, and Andrea Beck. *The Waiting Dog*.

2006—In Ontario, a parent complained to the Burlington Public Library about this children's picture book.

Objection—The parent described the book as “revolting” and “vile.” The parent objected to depictions of violence and said that the work was age inappropriate.

Update—The library responded with a letter that explained that the “offbeat humour” in the book might not be to everyone's taste. The letter added that the book met the selection standards of the library and that not every book will be appropriate for every child or family. The library's picture book collection contained titles for a wide variety of ages and tastes. The library relied on parents, the letter said, to screen library materials for their children. The library also retained *The Waiting Dog* in its collection with no change to its classification or department.

Beisner, Monika. *Catch That Cat: A Picture Book of Rhymes and Puzzles*.

2006—In British Columbia, a parent complained about this children's book at the Prince George Public Library.

Objection—The parent described the book as occult and scary.

Update—The library retained the book in its collection and informed the parent in writing of the decision.

Birren, Faber. *Color Psychology and Color Therapy: A Factual Study of the Influence of Color on Human Life*.

2000—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about this work of adult non-fiction.

Objection—The complainant said the book was “racist” and promoted “ethnic discrimination and bias.”

Update—One copy remains in the library's collection.

Bou, Louis. *Street Art: The Spray Files*.

2006—A patron of the Surrey Public Library in British Columbia e-mailed a challenge about this picture book to a city councillor. The complaint was then forwarded to the chief librarian.

Objection—The patron was concerned that the book could inspire a reader to commit vandalism.

Update—The library's collection development manager read the book and advised the chief librarian about its content. The chief librarian then spoke to the city councillor who spoke to the complainant. Because the complaint was specific to one neighbourhood, the library branch transferred the book to another branch.

Catholic Insight.

2007—A gay activist in Edmonton filed a human rights complaint against this socially conservative Roman Catholic journal.

Objection—The activist alleged that *Catholic Insight* promoted hatred against gays and lesbians by opposing—on theological grounds—homosexuality and same-sex marriage.

Update—In 2008, Canadian Human Rights Commission ruled that “the material is not likely to expose a person or persons to hatred or contempt based on sexual orientation.” The activist appealed this ruling to the Federal Court of Canada.

Chan, Gillian. *Glory Days and Other Stories*.

2000—During the sexual assault trial of a former teacher in Langley (BC), court heard evidence that the teacher had assigned a story, “Invisible Girl,” from this critically acclaimed collection to a Grade 4 and 5 class. The story deals with date rape. The school principal suggested to the board superintendent that the book be withdrawn from Langley schools.

Objection—The story was deemed inappropriate for the grade level.

Update—Almost two years passed before a school board official assured the preparers of the Freedom to Read kit that the book had been withdrawn from the elementary panel but not from all schools in Langley. The book’s publisher, Kids Can Press, also attempted to find out whether the book had been taken out of all schools in the district. The book is still available in secondary school libraries.

Coloroso, Barbara. *Extraordinary Evil: A Brief History of Genocide*.

2007—The Council of Turkish Canadians objected to the inclusion of this book on a recommended reading list for a proposed Grade 11 history course on genocide in Toronto public schools.

Objection—The book describes the deaths of more than a million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire early in the twentieth century as genocide.

Update—In April 2008, a committee of the Toronto District School Board decided to remove the book from the reading list because “a concern was raised regarding [its] appropriateness. . . . The Committee determined this was a far from a scrupulous text and should not be on a History course although it might be included in a course on the social psychology of genocide because of her [Coloroso’s] posited thesis that genocide is merely the extreme extension of bullying.” The decision to remove *Extraordinary Evil*, however, prompted new protests from the book’s defenders, including Canadian publishers, the Writers’ Union of Canada, the Book and Periodical Council and Holocaust scholar Gerald Caplan. In June, the school board reversed its decision, putting the book back onto the recommended reading list. But this decision prompted the Turkish Embassy in Canada to protest to Premier Dalton McGuinty and Ontario’s Ministry of Education.

DeMille, Nelson. *Wild Fire*.

2007—A patron of the Edmonton Public Library complained about this thriller. In the novel, which is set in 2002, a group of powerful Americans secretly plot to provoke a nuclear attack on the Middle East in retaliation for the terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, D.C., in 2001.

Objection—The complainant said *Wild Fire* was “just another hate-promoting novel.”

Update—The library retained the book in its collection.

Deneault, Alain, with Delphine Abadie and William Sacher. *Noir Canada: Pillage, corruption et criminalité en Afrique*.

2008—Two mining companies—Barrick Gold Corporation and Banro Corporation—sued the authors and the publisher—Les Éditions Écosociété—of this book for defamation. Barrick filed its lawsuit in a Quebec court, and Banro filed its lawsuit in an Ontario court.

Objection—The mining companies said that the book misrepresents their business practices in Africa. The publisher and authors stood by their allegations of illegal conduct.

Update—Both mining companies sought millions of dollars in damages. In June 2008, the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (Union of Quebec Writers) launched a fundraising campaign to help the publisher pay for its legal bills. In September 2011, Barrick and the publisher settled their dispute out of court. To avoid a costly trial, Écosociété pulled *Noir Canada* off the shelves, and Écosociété's insurance company disbursed an undisclosed sum of money to the mining company.

Dolls and Bears to Make and Dress.

2007—A patron of the Edmonton Public Library objected to this paperback. Part of the *Australian Women's Weekly* Craft Library series, this book describes how to make toys and dolls for children.

Objection—The complainant said that two of the doll patterns—Golly Gosh and That Old Black Magic—are “racist.”

Update—The library retained the book in its collection.

Ellenzweig, Allen. *The Homoerotic Photograph: Male Images from Durieu/Delacroix to Mapplethorpe*.

2002—A patron of the Toronto Public Library challenged this scholarly book by an art and photography critic at New York University. The book, which features 127 duotone photographs, was published by Columbia University Press.

Objection—The complainant said the book verges on child pornography.

Update—One copy remains in the library's collection.

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*.

2006—In Ontario, the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) urged public school boards to deny access to this children's non-fiction book about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to students in the elementary grades.

Objection—The CJC said that Ellis had provided a flawed historical introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The CJC also said that some children in the book portrayed Israeli soldiers as brutal, expressed ethnic hatred and glorified suicide bombing. The effect on young student readers, the CJC said, was “toxic.”

Update—Although the Ontario Library Association (OLA) had recommended *Three Wishes* to schools as part of its acclaimed Silver Birch reading program, and although schoolchildren were not required to read the book, at least five school boards in Ontario set restrictions on the text:

- a) The District School Board of Niagara encouraged librarians to steer students in Grades 4–6 away from *Three Wishes* and to tell parents that their children had asked for the book.
- b) The Greater Essex County District School Board restricted access to the book to students in Grade 7 or higher.
- c) The Toronto District School Board restricted access to the book to students in Grade 7 or higher and withdrew the book from school library shelves.
- d) The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board refused to stock the book and refused to provide copies to students who asked for it.
- e) In 2005, before the CJC made its views about *Three Wishes* public, the York Regional District School Board also withdrew the book from the Silver Birch program.

Protests by the OLA, The Writers' Union of Canada, PEN Canada and the Association of Canadian Publishers failed to persuade the school boards to repeal their restrictions.

French, Fiona. *Snow White in New York*.

2006—A parent complained about this retelling of the famous fairy tale (which is set in New York City in the 1920s) at the Prince George Public Library.

Objection—The parent objected on religious grounds to the depiction of violence and said the book was inappropriate for children.

Update—The library retained the book in its collection and notified the parent of its decision in writing.

Foreman, Michael. *Cat on the Hill*.

2006—In Alberta, a parent challenged this children's paperback in the Leduc Public Library.

Objection—The parent disliked the language in the text and described the book as age inappropriate.

Update—The head librarian and the library board met to review the request for reconsideration. In the end, no change occurred to the book's status.

Gay Calgary and Edmonton.

2007—A patron of the Edmonton Public Library complained about this local news and entertainment magazine.

Objection—The complainant said the magazine carries pictures of the naked backsides of men and men in sexual postures.

Update—Current copies are available for free at the library. The library keeps no copies in its collection.

Gourdeau, Gabrielle. *Clins d'œil à Romain Gary*

2002—A professor at Laval University, who thought he was being maligned in the short story "Gros-Câlisse" (which depicts the misbehaviour of a fictional department head in an unnamed university), sued Gourdeau for libel, damages, and psychological aggravation. The professor also obtained a court order that prevents the news media from identifying him. The suit was dropped in mid-trial. The professor died and Gourdeau declared bankruptcy in July 2003.

Update—The CBC and the newspaper *Le Soleil* appealed the court order that protects the professor's anonymity.

Grobler, Piet. *Little Bird's ABC*.

2006—A parent objected to this children's book at the Prince George Public Library.

Objection—The parent said the book was age inappropriate.

Update—The library decided to keep the book in the library and notified the parent of its decision in writing.

Guterson, David. *Snow Falling on Cedars*.

2006—After receiving an anonymous letter of complaint, the Dufferin-Peel (ON) Catholic District School Board removed this novel about a murder trial from its high-school library shelves and the syllabus of a Grade 11 English course. In 1995, this best-selling book won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction.

Objection—Sexual content.

Update—In 2007, the school board created a committee to review the book. The committee consisted of school trustees, parents, teachers representing elementary and secondary library associations, a religious education consultant, a supervisor of library services and the superintendent of the program. The committee decided to return the novel to school libraries and keep the novel in the Grade 11 English course. The committee also decided to send letters that explain the novel's value and note the novel's "sensitive content" to parents of students enrolled in the course. In addition, the committee recommended a comprehensive review of the process for selecting novels for use in schools.

Humphry, Derek. *Final Exit: The Practicalities of Self-Deliverance and Assisted Suicide for the Dying*.

2005—During Freedom to Read Week, the Lethbridge Public Library displayed books that had been challenged in North America. The inclusion of *Final Exit* in the display prompted one library patron to formally request the removal of the book from the library.

Objection—The complainant said that the book promoted suicide.

Update—The library's board considered the request but retained the book in the collection.

Irving, David. *Hitler's War*.

2004—In Ontario, the Kitchener Public Library received a complaint about this history of World War II by a British writer.

Objection—The complainant said that Irving was a Holocaust denier and that the library should not carry his book.

Update—After conducting a review, librarians retained the book in the collection. In their review, librarians noted that three local universities stock *Hitler's War* in their collections. The Kitchener Public Library also carries more than 200 books on the Holocaust, including memoirs, to ensure a variety of viewpoints.

Kerr, Judith. *Mog and the Granny*.

2008—A patron challenged this children's illustrated story book about a cat in the

Greater Victoria Public Library in B.C. The book is part of a popular series of books published in Britain.

Objection—The patron said the text is racist because it refers to “Red Indians.”

Update—The library’s collection development committee reviewed the book. The committee decided that “the narrative and illustrations are indeed dated and, if not deliberately racist, certainly demeaning according to current standards.” Although 450 people had borrowed the library’s five copies of the book between 1996 and 2008, the library put *Mog and the Granny* into the recycling bin.

Kristof, Agota. *Le grand cahier*.

2003—This award-winning novel, which is based on the author’s experiences in World War II, tells of the effects of a fictional war on two boys in an unnamed country. A parent of a 16-year-old girl in St-Jérôme (QC) complained about the book and took his case to the media when the school would not provide an alternative novel.

Objection—The parent complained that the book is “very violent and grossly pornographic, as it features scenes of bestiality and pedophilia.”

Update—School administrators announced that the book would be dropped in September 2003, but they also said their decision had nothing to do with the controversy. They noted that today’s teens are subjected to much harsher realities without adult supervision. The novel is used in high schools throughout Quebec.

Laird, Elizabeth. *A Little Piece of Ground*.

2003—A Canadian bookseller wrote to the British publisher of this novel about a 12-year-old Palestinian boy living in an Israeli-occupied area and asked that the firm consider not releasing the book.

Objection—The bookseller said the novel, intended for teenage readers, was “a racist, inflammatory, and a totally one-sided piece of propaganda.”

Update—The book was released by the Canadian distributor. Publicity about the Canadian objection and others in the United Kingdom pushed the novel to a sales ranking of 161 on www.amazon.co.uk.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

2002—Black parents and teachers in Yarmouth, Digby, and Shelburne (NS) objected to this novel, Barbara Smucker’s *Underground to Canada*, and John Ball’s *In the Heat of the Night*. The director of education of the Tri-County school board ordered the withdrawal of the three books pending a ruling by the board, but his order was rescinded at a board meeting and the books were restored. In 1993, a school principal in Hamilton (ON) removed the novel from the core reading list for Grade 10 after a complaint from a parent. In 1991, a black community group called PRUDE (Pride of Race, Unity and Dignity through Education) asked Saint John (NB) School District 20 to withdraw this book and *Huckleberry Finn* from reading lists.

Objection—The novel, which contains the word “nigger,” might cause black students to be mocked because of racial stereotyping.

Maclean’s.

2007—The Canadian Islamic Congress (CIC) filed complaints against *Maclean’s*

magazine with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

Objection—On October 23, 2006, *Maclean's* had published an extended excerpt from Mark Steyn's best-selling book, *America Alone: The End of the World as We Know It*. The excerpt examines the possibility of an Islamicized Europe. The CIC said the excerpt is "flagrantly Islamophobic" and "subjects Canadian Muslims to hatred and contempt."

Update—In April 2008, the Ontario Human Rights Commission dismissed the CIC's complaint because the commission lacked the legal authority to rule on publications. Two months later, in June, the Canadian Human Rights Commission dismissed the complaint. In June, the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal held a well-publicized hearing for one week in Vancouver. In October, the tribunal cleared *Maclean's* of any wrongdoing.

Maxim for Men.

2003—The Toronto Public Library received complaints about the October 2002 and the November 2002 issues of this monthly magazine for men.

Objection—The magazines were described as "pornographic."

Meyer, Richard. *Outlaw Representation: Censorship and Homosexuality in Twentieth-Century American Art.*

2002—The author was due to appear at Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto when he discovered that his publisher, Oxford University Press, had decided not to sell the U.S. edition in Canada.

Objection—The book includes a photograph of a nude boy by Robert Mapplethorpe, and the publisher feared the photograph might trigger criminal charges under Canada's child pornography law. "The picture at issue, a portrait entitled 'Jesse McBride,' is not pornographic in any way," said Meyer, "and part of what I discuss in the book is how the patently false charge of child pornography has been used by conservative politicians and the Christian Right as a justification to suppress Mapplethorpe's work. Using these same arguments, Oxford has, in effect, censored a scholarly book on censorship."

Morgan, Allen. *Matthew and the Midnight Flood.*

2006—A parent challenged this illustrated children's fantasy book in the Edmonton Public Library. In the tale, a boy and a "midnight plumber" try to save the city from a flood.

Objection—In the tale, the complainant said, a stranger visits the little boy's bedroom window in the middle of the night and asks the boy to accompany him. The boy agrees to go because the invitation sounds like fun.

Update—The library retained the book in its picturebook collection. No change to the book's status occurred.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Outrageously Alice.*

2000—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about this novel for young readers about a 13-year-old girl growing up and learning about sex.

Objection—Saying it was inappropriate for children, the library patron said that the book should be shelved in a "mature section" or children should be denied access to the book.

Update—The library retained the book in the children's collection.

Oliver, Marilyn Tower. *The Importance of Muhammad*.

2006—A patron of the Mississauga Public Library in Ontario challenged this biography for young adults of the Muslim religious leader.

Objection—On religious grounds, the patron considered depictions of Muhammad offensive.

Update—The library provided a written response to the complainant and retained the book in its collection.

Oliveros, Chris (ed.). *The Best of Drawn and Quarterly*.

2004—A patron of the Toronto Public Library challenged this anthology of adult humour and graphic art.

Objection—The book depicted sex and violence.

Update—The library retained copies in its collection.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*.

2006—A parent challenged this children's book used by the Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB). The book is a winner of the American Library Association's Newbery Medal which is awarded annually to a distinguished children's book.

Objection—The parent objected to certain words in the text: "pervert," "lordy" and "see-through blouse."

Update—The principal of the school reported the challenge to the OCSB's Derry Byrne Teacher Resource Centre (DBTRC). The librarians at the DBTRC did not proceed with the complaint; instead, they suggested that the teacher give the student another book to read.

Richardson, Justin, and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*.

2006—A parent complained about this picture book for small children in the Calgary Catholic School District. The book tells the story of two male penguins raising a baby penguin in a zoo.

Objection—On religious grounds, the parent objected to the theme of homosexual parenting.

Update—The library asked the central office of the Religious Education Department to review the book. Later, the library removed the book from its collection.

Patterson, Richard North. *Silent Witness*.

2003—A patron of the Toronto Public Library challenged this adult crime novel.

Objection—The patron disliked the descriptions of rape and murder.

Update—The library retained copies in its collection.

Pearson, Mike. *Waging War from Canada*.

2001—This non-fiction book argues that Canada is an ideal launching pad for international terrorism against the United States. Canada Customs intercepted several boxes of the book that were sent from the U.S. publisher to the author in Ottawa. The author is a Canadian writing under a pseudonym.

Objection—Customs officials said there is no record of the books' seizure. An over-

zealous official might have turned the books back because they were shipped just two days after the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001. The author later received two copies of the book by overnight courier.

Pritchard, Jimmy. *The New York City Bartender's Joke Book*.

2004—A library patron complained to the Saskatoon Public Library about this book-length collection of jokes that the author had heard while working in bars.

Objection—The complainant said that the jokes were in poor taste and promoted negative attitudes toward women and ethnic minorities.

Update—The library's Challenged Materials Committee later agreed that the book was "racist, sexist, and demeaning to women and citizens of many countries." The book also failed to meet the library's collection development standards. The committee withdrew the book from circulation.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass, The Subtle Knife, The Amber Spyglass*

2007—After receiving a single complaint, the Halton (ON) Catholic District School Board ordered the withdrawal of these fantasy novels for young readers from the open shelves of libraries in elementary schools. The books were collected at library circulation desks, and students who wished to read the novels had to ask librarians for copies. The board also formed a committee to review the books. Within days, the Roman Catholic school board in Peterborough (ON) received two complaints about the novels and withdrew copies from school libraries. In Peterborough, school employees denied students access to the novels while the board set up a committee to review the novels. The Durham (ON) Catholic District School Board followed suit. The Calgary (AB) Catholic School District told employees to pull the novels from library shelves, not use the novels in classrooms and exclude the books from Scholastic book fairs. In Calgary, the school board also established a committee to review the novels.

Objection—The stories, which are set in an alternative universe populated with talking animals, undermine belief in God and organized religion and promote atheism.

Update—In 2007, the Halton (ON) Catholic District School Board ignored the recommendation of its review committee and voted to ban the novels from schools. The board's order proclaimed, "Philip Pullman's trilogy of atheist ideology, carefully couched within the realm of fantasy for young readers, is in direct opposition to the mission statement and governing values of our board." But a few weeks later, in 2008, the board of the Calgary (AB) Catholic School District decided to use *The Golden Compass* in schools. "There is no doubt that the text is harsh in terms of its language about organized religion and that it presents a consistently negative view of church, clergy and faith-based institutions; however, there are glimpses of light with opportunities for positive reflection," the review document said. The board urged teachers, when using *The Golden Compass*, to use instruction guides to ensure "a carefully planned approach" and a Catholic focus.

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*.

2000—The Durham (ON) Board of Education received numerous complaints about the immensely popular Harry Potter books being read in classrooms throughout the board's schools. A school board official said that the complaints came from fundamentalist

Christian parents.

Objection—As is the case in at least 19 states of the U.S. and other parts of Canada, parents were concerned that Harry Potter is engaged in wizardry, witchcraft, and magic-making, and that these activities are inappropriate for young readers.

Update—After listening to the complaints, the administration decided to withdraw the books from classroom use but left them in school libraries where they would be available for book reports. One board member said she had wanted the books to be withdrawn completely from the schools; another member said the board had never been asked to decide the issue, so the books' withdrawal amounted to censorship. Several months later, after a raucous public meeting, the board rescinded its decision to remove the books. However, in other jurisdictions teachers have been asked not to use the books in the classroom. This is said to have occurred in a school in Corner Brook (NF) and in Rockwood Public School in Pembroke (ON). In 2002, the Niagara (ON) District School Board turned down a parent's request for the removal of the books from area schools. The parent said the books contained violence and promoted a religion (Wicca) which is against the law in Ontario schools. She said that she had not read the books.

St. Stephen's Community House. *The Little Black Book for Girlz: A Book on Healthy Sexuality*.

2006—The Institute for Canadian Values (ICV), a Christian organization, campaigned against this frank sex-education manual for teenage girls. The ICV urged people to write and phone to complain to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the minister of industry and local MPs to drop public funding for *The Little Black Book for Girlz* and similar books. The ICV also urged people to "monitor their local schools, libraries and other resource centres to ensure that the book is not introduced elsewhere."

Objection—The book, which is written by teenage girls for teenage girls, encourages lesbianism, describes lesbian sex, contains "obscene" language and provides "misleading information" about safe sex.

Sanders, Lawrence. *The Seduction of Peter S.*

2002—A patron of the Toronto Public Library challenged this adult thriller about an out-of-work actor who becomes a male prostitute.

Objection—The patron said that the novel was a manual on how to become a male prostitute and that young readers could be affected.

Update—The library retained copies in its collection.

Sherman, Josepha, and T.K.F. Weisskopf. *Greasy, Grimy, Gopher Guts: The Subversive Folklore of Children*.

2000—A teacher from a private school in Kingston (ON) complained about the single copy of this book held by the Kingston Frontenac Public Library in its children's collection. She said that the book was better suited to the library's adult collection. The 248-page collection of street rhymes and folk tales was drawn from the authors' research with children in the U.S. and Canada.

Objection—The teacher said the book was inappropriate for children because it contains rhymes on "how to get girls pregnant, put-downs of homosexuals, racism and profanity."

Update—An editorial in *The Kingston Whig-Standard* said that the book belonged in the adult section of the library, but the library board unanimously supported its staff and

decided to leave the book in the children's section.

Steinbeck, John. *Of Mice and Men*.

2000—Terry Lewis, a member of the Reform party's national executive council, complained about the use of this novel by Winnipeg's River East School Division and called for the book's removal from school reading lists. The novel has been targeted in other school jurisdictions across Canada as well.

Objection—Lewis, who distributed 10,000 copies of a pamphlet arguing against the book, said that Steinbeck's frequent use of "God," "God-damned," and "Jesus" in profane and blasphemous ways offended Christians and couldn't possibly have any educational benefit.

Update—The River East School Division took no action. This objection and its disposition echoed an incident in Alberta in 1994, when a member of the legislature demanded that the novel be withdrawn from all high school reading lists in the province.

Tate, Nikki. *Trouble on Tarragon Island*.

2007—A librarian at the Elizabeth School in Kindersley (SK) withdrew this children's novel from the library's shelves. The novel depicts a dispute over clear-cut logging in B.C.

Objection—In the novel, a girl's grandmother joins an anti-logging group and poses semi-nude for a calendar. In the first chapter, several boys taunt the girl about her grandmother's breasts, calling them "bazoongas." The librarian objected to the bullying scene—the Elizabeth School has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying—and to the word "bazoongas."

Update—In July 2007, the outgoing principal defended the librarian's decision. In the autumn of 2007, a new principal reversed the decision to withdraw the book.

Ungerer, Tomi. *The Beast of Monsieur Racine*.

2006—A patron of the Kitchener Public Library complained about this children's picture book.

Objection—The complainant—a parent—said the book depicted violence, showed a bloody foot in one picture and was age inappropriate.

Update—After listening to the parent's concerns, the librarian suggested that the parent fill out a "Materials Reconsideration" form. In the end, the library kept the book in its collection.

Vue Weekly.

2007—A patron of the Edmonton Public Library complained about this local news and entertainment magazine.

Objection—*Vue Weekly* is "a very negative, even dark publication" and includes ads for sex workers.

Update—Current copies are available for free at the library. The library retains copies in its collection.

Vigna, Judith. *Black Like Kyra, White Like Me*.

2000—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about this children's picture

book about a black family moving into an all-white neighbourhood and encountering racial prejudice.

Objection—The complainant said the story “reinforces negative stereotypes about blacks and positive types about whites.”

Update—The book was retained in the library’s collection.

Vinci, Simona. *What We Don’t Know About Children*.

2001—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about this work of adult fiction from Italy about five youngsters—teenagers and preteens—experimenting with sex and violence.

Objection—The complainant said the novel was sordid and disturbing.

Update—The library retained copies in its collection.

Wallpaper.

2001—A patron of the Toronto Public Library complained about the June 2001 issue of this glossy magazine about style and design. This issue features two topless men and one topless woman on the cover.

Objection—The complainant said that the female model was being used as a sex object to sell the magazine.

Waugh, Colin M. *Paul Kagame and Rwanda: Power, Genocide and the Rwandan Patriotic Front*.

2005—In Toronto, the Frost Library at York University’s Glendon campus received a request from a Rwandan student to remove this scholarly book from the library. The book was part of a display about the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Objection—The student’s family had been killed in the Rwandan massacre of 1994.

Update—A librarian removed the book from the display but kept the book in the library’s collection.

Western Standard.

2006—In Calgary, Syed Soharwardy, the leader of the Supreme Islamic Council of Canada, filed a complaint against Ezra Levant, the publisher of the *Western Standard* magazine, with the Alberta Human Rights and Citizenship Commission (AHRCC).

Objection—The February 14, 2006, issue of the magazine features eight Danish cartoons of the Muslim prophet Mohammed. They illustrate a news story about worldwide Muslim riots and protests over the same cartoons. Soharwardy said the cartoons promoted hatred against Canadian Muslims.

Update—The dispute went before a panel of the AHRCC. After receiving a lot of criticism from Canadian and U.S. journalists, Soharwardy changed his mind and broke off his attempt to punish Levant through the AHRCC. But the Edmonton Council of Muslim Communities took up the complaint. In August 2008, however, the AHRCC decided that the *Western Standard* did not expose Muslims to hatred or contempt. Levant estimated that the cost of defending himself was \$100,000.

Willhoite, Michael. *Daddy’s Roommate*.

2005—During Freedom to Read Week, the Lethbridge Public Library displayed books

that had been challenged in North America. The inclusion of *Daddy's Roommate* in the display prompted one library patron to request the removal of the book from the library.

Objection—The complainant said that this fictional children's book, which has a homosexual theme, was “not a proper role model for children.”

Update—The complainant did not pursue the challenge, so the book stayed in the library.

1990–99

Babbitt, Natalie. *Ouch*, illustrated by Fred Marcelino.

1999—This title was withdrawn from an Edmonton school when the library technician warned the principal that the book was unsuitable. A teacher had chosen the book from the Edmonton Public School Board's Best of the Best list.

Objection—The book deals with hell.

Update—When the teacher appealed the decision, the principal told her that the decision stood and that children could borrow the book from the public library.

Banks, Lynne Reid. *The Indian in the Cupboard*.

1992—Kamloops (BC) School Board removed this title temporarily from its libraries.

Objection—Potentially offensive treatment of native peoples.

Update—The books were replaced, but the title is included on a roster of challenged materials for teacher information.

Barker, Malcolm J., and T.C. Sobey. *Courting Disaster*.

1990—This book about goings-on in Buckingham Palace was banned worldwide by a British court. T.C. Sobey is a Canadian.

Update—It became a best-seller in the United States and Canada.

The Bible.

1997—Three men complained to the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission after they saw an anti-gay advertisement published in Saskatoon's *StarPhoenix*. The ads, paid for by Hugh Owens, cited four Biblical verses that condemn homosexual conduct and displayed a drawing of two stick-men holding hands surrounded by a circle with a diagonal slash through it. A similar ad ran in Regina's *LeaderPost*.

Objection—The Biblical citations, combined with the drawing, tended to expose homosexuals to hatred and ridicule.

Update—In 2001, a one-woman board of inquiry of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission ruled that *The StarPhoenix's* ad tended to expose homosexuals to hatred and ridicule. The newspaper and Owens were each ordered to pay \$4,500 to the three complainants; Owens was forbidden from publishing similar messages in the future. In 2006, however, Saskatchewan's Court of Appeal overturned the ruling. Justice Bob Richards declared that Owens's ad, although "bluntly presented and doubtlessly upsetting to many," did not violate the province's human rights code.

Block, Francesco Lia. *Baby Be-Bop*.

1998—One of two titles removed from a high school library in Calgary by the director of education who was pressured by a parent group intent on weeding out books with gay or lesbian content. The board appointed a review committee to assess the book's appropriateness.

Objection—The book includes homosexual characters and situations.

Update—The board's review committee recommended that this title be retained in the board's database.

Booth, Jack, and David Booth (eds.). *Impressions*.

A language arts series for Grades 1 to 6 published from 1984 on by Holt, Rinehart and Winston Canada and a continuing target of fundamentalist religious organizations.

Objection—Promotion of the occult and Satanism.

Update—The books have been challenged in communities across Alberta, Manitoba, and southern Ontario. In 1995, some trustees of the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board asked to have this series removed from their schools. Because more than three quarters of the board's schools used the series, the board's decision would have cost the system \$1 million for replacement texts. The board ultimately decided to keep the series.

Buffie, Margaret. *Who Is Frances Rain?*

1990—Winner of the 1988 Young Adult Fiction Award from the Canadian Library Association and an American Library Association Notable Book. The author's visit to a public school in Orleans (ON) was cancelled during Canadian Children's Book Week.

Objection—The words "hell" and "bastard" made the book unsuitable for 10-to-13-year-olds.

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*.

1990—One of several books challenged by a parent group in Essex County (ON).

Update—None of the books were withdrawn from the high school reading list as a result of the protest.

Califa, Pat, and Janine Fuller (eds.). *Forbidden Passages*.

1995—This collection of excerpts from books that Canada Customs had barred from Canada was published in the United States by Cleis Press, a small gay and lesbian publishing house. The book was turned down by several printers and distributors in Canada before finding a printer and a Canadian distributor, Marginal Distribution of Peterborough (ON).

Objection—Canadian distributors were concerned about reprisals from Canada Customs.

Cantin, Reynald. *J'ai besoin de personne; Le choix d'Ève; Le secret d'Ève*.

1991—Because they deal with teenage sex and abortion, these books were banned in the high school of Loretteville (QC), even though the author had taught there for 15 years.

Cormier, Robert. *We All Fall Down*.

1998—A parent in Simcoe County (ON) complained to the school board about the presence of this title and Lois Lowry's novel *The Giver* in two elementary school libraries. The Cormier novel begins with the description of the vandalizing of a family home and the brutal attack on a 14-year-old girl who lives in the house.

Objection—The violence portrayed in the novel makes it unfit for public schools, the parent said.

Update—When the board decided to move the book into the secondary schools, the parent remained unsatisfied and wrote a letter to the Ontario minister of education, who said (in the fall of 1999) that the school board should handle the problem. A school board spokesperson said, in turn, that the school's principal was accountable for any decision.

Coville, Bruce. *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher*.

1993—A parent group in Leeds-Grenville County (ON) wanted this fantasy novel about dragons and magic removed from the Linklater-Macdonald Public School Library.

Objection—One complainant said the book hints at occultism and “New Age religion.”

Update—A review committee set up by the board recommended that the book remain in the library.

DeClements, Barthe. *No Place for Me*.

1995—A parent of children in Surrey (BC) Traditional School fought to have this book removed.

Objection—The book was said to promote the Wicca religion.

Update—The Surrey School Board voted to keep the book in its libraries.

Deschamps, Yvon. *Tout Deschamps*.

1998—After Deschamps, Quebec’s top francophone storyteller, and black comic Normand Brathwaite read excerpts from this book onto a cassette, a unilingual anglophone complained about a 29-year-old piece entitled “Nigger Black.” The complainant didn’t understand that the piece was anti-racist. Nonetheless, the complaint was published in Montreal’s *Gazette*, which ran a front-page attack on the alleged slur by Deschamps.

Update—To offset further controversy, stores across Quebec stopped selling the cassette two days later.

Dickey, James. *Deliverance*.

1990—This title was one of several books challenged by a parent group in Essex County (ON).

Update—The books were not withdrawn.

Duncan, “Sandy” Frances. *Listen to Me, Grace Kelly*.

1990—During her tour of Newfoundland and Labrador during Children’s Book Week, the author was told by a language arts consultant that she was not to read from or even talk about her latest novel.

Objection—Author was never told.

Update—The author claims a whispering campaign prevented wide distribution of her book in schools.

Duras, Marguerite. *Man Sitting in a Corridor*.

1993—A Canada Customs agent prohibited entry after leafing through the novel. The shipment was destined for use in a graduate course at Trent University.

Objection—The book was ruled obscene because of its portrayal of “sex with violence.”

Update—The ruling was appealed and the shipment was released.

Dworkin, Andrea. *Pornography: Men Possessing Women and Woman Hating*.

1993—A shipment of books that included this title was detained by Canada Customs.

Dworkin is a noted feminist writer opposed to pornography. The Supreme Court of Canada based its landmark Butler decision on obscenity, at least in part, on the works of this U.S. feminist. Ironically, Dworkin's books were among those detained by Canada Customs as a result of conflicting interpretations of the court's ruling.

Update—Both books were eventually released as a result of media coverage but without the filing of an appeal.

Elwin, Rosamund. *Asha's Mums*.

1997—This Canadian picture book, aimed at children in kindergarten and Grade 1, was banned from use in public schools in Surrey (BC) along with two other picture books, *Belinda's Bouquet* by Lesléa Newman and *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads* by Johnny Valentine. The books had been submitted to the school board for approval earlier in the school year by a primary-level teacher. Before banning these three books, the board also announced that it would not approve any materials drawn from resource lists submitted by the Gay and Lesbian Educators (GALE) of British Columbia. As a result, parents, teachers, and students launched a lawsuit against the school board, seeking to have the decisions reversed.

Objection—The books were said by the board to promote a homosexual lifestyle—though the words “gay,” “lesbian,” and “homosexual” are not used in the three books.

Update—In December 2002, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that the school board was wrong to ban books depicting homosexual parents in a positive light from elementary classrooms. The B.C. School Act, the court said, requires public schools to be secular, pluralistic and respectful of diversity.

Findley, Timothy. *The Wars*.

1991—In Lambton County (ON), a high school student asked that the novel be removed from the English curriculum.

Objection—A passage describes the rape of a Canadian soldier by his fellow officers during World War I. The book was said to pressure students to accept homosexuality.

Update—The school board upheld use of the book at the OAC (formerly Grade 13) level.

Friday, Nancy. *Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women's Sexual Fantasies*.

1997—Winnipeg police entered libraries in the city and threatened to lay charges if this book were not withdrawn immediately from library shelves. The police were acting on advice from the Crown attorney's office, which was responding to an anonymous call to a radio phone-in show. The police also said they would prosecute anyone caught distributing the book, including bookstores. At the same time, RCMP officers in B.C. raided three libraries looking for copies of the book but without success.

Objection—The book, which was based on interviews with women who described their sexual fantasies in detail, was said to be pornographic. Although the book had been published in 1991, no charges had ever been brought against it.

Update—Within a week, the Manitoba Crown attorney's office retreated from the controversy, saying that a successful prosecution would be unlikely. In B.C., civil rights

organizations and the B.C. Library Association objected to the RCMP's intimidation of librarians.

Gauthier, Bertrand. *Ani Croche* and *La course à l'amour*.

1995—Before the Commission des états généraux sur l'éducation (Estates General of Education Commission), the president of the Association des parents catholiques du Québec (Association of Catholic Parents of Quebec) denounced these two books for youngsters, written by a multiple prize-winner, as being "unacceptable" and "borderline pornographic." She asked the Ministry of Education to provide "better control over the selection of books found in libraries." The news media described the recommendation as a return to blacklisting and noted that the APCQ exerted a strong influence over the Commission des écoles catholiques de Montréal (Catholic School Board of Montreal). The president of the school board said that APCQ influence would not affect the schools since *Ani Croche* was no longer on the list recommended by its Bureau of Teaching Materials and that *La course à l'amour* had not been on that list since 1990.

Gill, John (ed.). *New American and Canadian Poetry*.

1994—The school board in Sechelt (BC), responding to a parental complaint, removed this book from student use in Chatelech Secondary School.

Objection—Anthology was said to present an anti-establishment view and to present sex and four-letter words in a positive light.

Update—The school board decided, following a review, that the book should remain in the library. The sole copy has since been stolen and not replaced.

Grime, Tony. *Not the Only One: Lesbian and Gay Fiction for Teens*.

1997—The director of Calgary's Board of Education removed this book and one other title from a high school library, and asked a review committee to decide whether Grime's book should remain in the system. At the time, the board was considering a policy aimed at creating more support for gay and lesbian youth in Calgary schools but was under considerable pressure from a parent group that did not want the policy to be adopted.

Objection—Although no one had objected to the book, the director felt that the book was inappropriate because of content and language.

Update—The book was deemed inappropriate by the review committee and withdrawn from use in the schools.

hooks, bell. *Black Looks: Race and Representation*.

1993—hooks is a professor at Oberlin College (OH). She is a noted feminist and an anti-racist activist. Her book was adopted for women's studies courses at the University of Alberta, Simon Fraser University, York University, St. Mary's University, and the University of Windsor. As a result, the first printing had sold out in Canada. A reprint of 1,500 copies from the United States was held up by Canada Customs.

Objection—Examined as possible hate literature.

Update—The books were released 24 hours later.

Hornung, Rick. *Under the Gun: Inside the Mohawk Civil War*.

1991—A Quebec court's injunction suspended for one week the sale and distribution of this account of the 1990 clash between Mohawks and soldiers at Oka.

Objection—Two native women complained that they had been misquoted and defamed by the writer.

Update—The ban was lifted by a Quebec Superior Court judge who said he could see no evidence of either charge.

Hoy, Claire, and Victor Ostrovsky. *By Way of Deception: A Devastating Insider's Portrait of the Mossad*.

1990—Release temporarily restricted in Canada.

Objection—Said to contain "lethal information about Israeli intelligence services."

Update—It became a best-seller in the United States after a ban was lifted there, but the Israeli government filed a lawsuit in 1990 against the Canadian publisher (Stoddart) and the authors. The lawsuit did not proceed, and in 1991 Stoddart released a paperback edition that included a chapter describing the legal problems the book had incurred.

Jackson, Shirley. "The Witch" from the anthology *Inside Stories I*, edited by two Edmonton teachers.

1994—Approved for curriculum use in high schools by the Alberta government, the anthology was removed from classrooms in Ponoka County because of the Jackson story.

Objection—A trustee with a son in a school in Rimbey said "The Witch" was "very, very disturbing" and inappropriate for children of any age. Students in the trustee's son's class surrendered the books, the teacher was threatened with dismissal if she did not comply with the books' withdrawal, and a substitute teacher who wrote to a local paper to support the text was fired. Later the books were returned to the students with "The Witch" and a story by Alice Munro cut out.

Update—When Ponoka County amalgamated with another in 1995, the stories were reinstated.

Jolin, Dominique. *Qu'est-ce que vous faites là?*

1995—Although young readers rated the book at the top of the *Livromagie* list, this illustrated book for children was kept under lock and key in a Vancouver library along with books on sex. The reason: in the final scene, two children wake up to discover that their parents, who seem to be undressed under their bedsheet, are pretending to have a pillow fight. An elementary school in Manitoba, which had ordered the book, returned it to the publisher "because it might lead some parents to protest."

King, Stephen. *Different Seasons*.

1995—The Lanark County (ON) School Board refused to include this collection of four novellas chosen by teachers for senior students at Carleton Place High School.

Objection—Board members, one of whom had not read the book, said it was unsuitable because of language and sexual content.

Update—A Lanark County bookseller co-operated with King's publisher to distribute 600 free copies of the book in three communities. The board decided that in future it would not make arbitrary decisions about book choices but would establish a consultative

process with teachers and members of the community.

Kinsella, W.P. *Dance Me Outside* and other titles.

1994—Books by the well-known Canadian author were removed from the library in Jean Vanier Roman Catholic school in Barrie (ON) after complaints from an Onkwehonwe anti-racism alliance.

Objection—“It was felt that there are some things that might be objectionable if taken out of context . . . A 14-year-old might not get the idea that Kinsella is using irony.”

Update—The public library and public schools in the district decided not to remove Kinsella’s books.

Kropp, Paul. *Moonkid and Liberty*.

1998—A parent in Winnipeg complained to her child’s school about this novel which was offered for study in Grade 8 language arts classes.

Objection—The book was said to include “negative and morally questionable situations” such as drug encounters, sexual comments, underage drinking, smoking in school washrooms, the selling of pornographic magazines, and offensive language.

Update—The principal persuaded the teacher to teach another novel.

Lally, Robert. *Heroes, Dreams and Incest*.

1992—This unpublished manuscript, which explored the mind of a pedophile and was written by a retired psychologist, was shredded by Canada Customs officers after they intercepted it on its way back from a U.S. literary agent. RCMP officers, acting on advice from Canada Customs, raided Lally’s home in Alberta to confiscate a second copy of the manuscript.

Update—The attorney general’s office later determined that the manuscript did not violate the Criminal Code.

LeBlanc, Pierre, and Robin Konstabaris. *Scrambled Brains*.

1998—A controversial cookbook with whimsical illustrations, the book was removed from gift shops in B.C. Ferries vessels after a chief steward raised concern. There were no public complaints, but a spokesman for B.C. Ferries said that a contract with a bookseller required that titles be “of a non-controversial nature.”

Objection—The book includes recipes such as “Exploding Jesus Cake,” a section called “Cooking with Weed,” and one illustration in which a semi-naked man displays an intimate interpretation of roulade, a rolled meat dish usually stuffed with a pickle.

Leger, Diane. *Maxine’s Tree*.

1992—An official of the International Woodworkers of America in Sechelt (BC) asked that the book be withdrawn from elementary school libraries in his community.

Objection—The young protagonist in this picture book is opposed to clear-cut logging in a first growth forest. The union leader charged that the book indoctrinated children into an anti-logging or extremist viewpoint.

Update—The school board rejected his request.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*.

1998—A parent in Simcoe County (ON) complained about the presence of this book and Robert Cormier's novel *We All Fall Down* in two elementary school libraries.

Objection—The parent said that teaching this book would be more appropriate at the Grade 11 level. The book is aimed at children aged 10 to 13.

Update—The board considered the objection but decided to leave *The Giver* in school libraries for Grade 6, 7, and 8 students.

Madonna. *Sex*.

1991–92—In Thunder Bay (ON), Cambridge (ON), Halifax (NS), and many other Canadian communities, a chorus of objections greeted news that libraries had purchased copies for patrons. One library recorded more than 100 requests for the book.

Update—After a noisy public meeting of Thunder Bay's library board, officials decided to keep the book in the system for borrowers over the age of 18.

Marineau, Michèle. *L'été des baleines*.

1991—When the author was invited to a school in Princeville (QC) to speak on this sequel to the novel *Cassiopee ou l'été polonais*, for which she received the Governor General's Award, a group of parents objected to the visit because the book deals with, among other things, teenage sex. After a survey of the sexual habits of students revealed that the novel would not unleash a wave of traumas, the visit was allowed to take place.

Martel, Suzanne. *The King's Daughter*.

1993—The Regina (SK) Public School Division pulled the book off library shelves after school curriculum consultants decided that the book was inappropriate for students to read unsupervised.

Objection—Martel, a historical writer who won the Ruth Schwartz Award for this book as well as the Vicky Metcalf Award for lifetime achievement, describes natives from the perspective of a scared young immigrant who has yet to overcome her prejudice.

Update—When Greenwood reprinted the book, the publisher added a warning to explain this subjective approach, but the "offensive" passages were nevertheless deleted or modified without notifying the author.

Matas, Carol. *The Primrose Path*.

1995—The author had been invited to speak at the Shaarey Zedek synagogue in Winnipeg where she and her family had attended for three generations, but several weeks before the agreed-upon date, the invitation was withdrawn.

Objection—The synagogue had been advised that it could be sued for libel if the author spoke about her most recent novel for young people, which described the sexual abuse of a girl by a rabbi who is her teacher. The fictional story resembled a recent case in which a Winnipeg rabbi had been charged but found not guilty of a similar offence.

Moebius (Jean Giraud). *Metallic Memories*.

1992—This collection of illustrations by the famous science fiction artist—France issued a stamp in his honour—was refused entry by Canada Customs while en route to Styx

International in Winnipeg (MB).

Objection—The customs form mentioned a drawing of an animal devouring its victim and a child pierced with needles. Not only is it impossible to find such illustrations in the book, but according to the government agency's own criteria, none of these reasons is sufficient to warrant an import ban.

Montpetit, Charles (ed.). *La première fois* and *The First Time*. Two volumes each.

1992–2002—In Quebec, five secondary schools asked the anthologist to give a lecture as part of a Department of Education tour. Each school received a box full of free copies of these critically acclaimed collections, which contain true accounts of first-time sexual experiences by writers for adolescents. Even though sex education was mandatory in secondary schools, all five schools refused to pass the books to the students who would attend the lecture, and the anthologist was asked to talk about something else—in one case, less than 15 minutes before the lecture took place.

Mohr, Richard. *Gay Ideas*.

1992—This controversial American book contains photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe. Oxford University Press, the Canadian distributor, decided not to distribute or promote the book, even though the company carries the rest of the list of the American publisher, Beacon Press. One salesperson resigned in protest.

Newman, Lesléa. *Belinda's Bouquet*.

See Elwin, Rosamund. *Asha's Mums*.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Foxfire*.

1996—A parent demanded the removal of this novel from the optional reading list for senior English students at a Milton (ON) high school. His 16-page flyer, distributed throughout the community, included excerpts from the book and the text of an eight-page letter to the superintendent of educational services for the Halton Board of Education.

Objection—The book, which deals with the subject of teenaged gangs, was said to contain obscene and profane language as well as graphic scenes of sex and violence.

Update—In April 1997, the school board agreed that *Foxfire* should be retained as a curriculum option for Milton and other high schools but designated the book for small group instruction or independent study. Nothing further was heard from Parents Against Corrupt Teachers (PACT), the organization that sparked the controversy.

O'Brien, Dereck. *Suffer Little Children*.

1991—This autobiographical account of child abuse in the Mount Cashel orphanage and foster homes in the St. John's (NF) area was banned in the St. John's region.

Objection—The provincial government argued that the book should not be sold during the trials of the eight Christian Brothers charged with abusing boys at Mount Cashel.

Update—At first, the province extended the ban pending proceedings against a foster mother's court appearance in December 1992. The ban was extended even though the government had released the report of the commission that investigated the Mount Cashel affair. However, the book is now available in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Pierce, William. *The Turner Diaries*.

1996—This underground novel, said to have inspired the Oklahoma City bomber, describes how white supremacists launch an anti-government race war. Originally published in 1978, the book has recently been republished by Barricade Books in the United States. The Jewish publisher has said that he strongly opposes the content of the book, but he believes that it should be available to the public.

Update—Canada Customs has never allowed the book into Canada, having stopped it at the border half a dozen times. Since the new edition came out with a mainstream publisher, Canada Customs reviewed the book and classified it as hate literature. The import prohibition was issued in July 1996, by which time Barricade's Canadian distributor had received a shipment—which it promptly sent back. The bookstore that had ordered the book said it would not appeal the decision.

Pomerleau, Gervais. *L'affaire du cachalot noir*, *Tison-Ardent*, *La complainte des huarts*, and *Les colères de l'océan*.

1995—A student was invited to set up a display in the lobby of the Polyvalente des Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Magdalen Islands High School) on the theme of the damage caused by the sunken oil barge *Irving Whale*. But the principal asked him to remove *L'affaire du cachalot noir*, a young people's book that deals with this matter, or the display would be cancelled. The principal also prohibited the reading of other books by the author "because he doesn't know what he's talking about" and "because they are full of exaggerations and spelling mistakes." (The "spelling mistakes" occur when an uneducated character or a bird whose beak is glued together is talking.) The student withdrew the book but, despite his teacher's objections, did his end-of-term work in literature on *Les colères de l'océan*—and got one of the highest marks in his class.

Pron, Nick. *Lethal Marriage*.

1995—This account of the Bernardo-Homolka murders, written by a *Toronto Star* reporter, was removed from the St. Catharines (ON) Public Library by the library board.

Objection—The book was said to contain some inaccuracies, and the board received visits from the police morality squad and the mother of one of Bernardo's victims. It was said that retaining the book in the library would prove too traumatic for the community.

Update—In the fall of 1999, the book was still unavailable in the public libraries of St. Catharines.

Rahall, Monier M. *Banksters and Prairie Boys*.

1997—Shortly after the book was published, the author, publisher, printer, and three bookstores were threatened with legal action. The book alleged provincial government interference and improper business practices at the Alberta Treasury Branches.

Objection—One individual named in the book claimed to have been defamed. But the three bookstores continued to sell the book, and Steve Budnarchuk, proprietor of Audrey's Books in Edmonton, described *Banksters* as the fastest-selling local book he had ever carried.

Update—By the fall of 1999, the threatened lawsuit had not materialized, and Audrey's reported that the book was nearly out of print and that demand for it had disappeared.

Rancourt, Sylvie, and Jacques Boivin. *Melody*.

1990–91—Even though the author received a grant from the Quebec Ministry of Cultural Affairs, this illustrated autobiography of an exotic dancer was denounced by *Family Circle* magazine as “pornography” in cartoon guise. Later, after recognizing the cover of *Melody* on the wall of the Planet Earth comic store in Toronto, a mother complained to the police, who charged four employees with “possession and sale of obscene material.” The *Toronto Sun* indicated where the employees lived. Due to serious illness, the store owner could not appeal and the store closed shortly thereafter. The Toronto Morality Squad raided another comic store, Dragon Lady, and seized more than 400 magazines—one of which was *Melody*—kept in bags out of public view. The staff was charged with possession and sale of obscene materials, even though signs said that no “adult” title would be sold to minors. The store stopped selling these magazines. Shortly thereafter, the police raided the warehouse of the Andromeda distribution company and seized about 15 magazines. Upon a lawyer’s recommendation, Andromeda announced that it was relinquishing 66 comic-strip magazines—one of which was *Melody*—which might be considered obscene. Most stores no longer carry *Melody*.

Rule, Jane. *The Young in One Another’s Arms*.

1990—Although this Canadian novel had been published in 1977 and thousands of copies were available in Canada, a shipment addressed to Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto was detained by customs officers at the U.S. border.

Update—The shipment was released.

Sedgwick, Eve Kosofsky. *Tendencies; Fat Art, Thin Art*, and 14 other titles.

1995—These books by an American scholar, ordered by Glad Day Bookshop in Toronto and timed to arrive for an author reading, were detained by Canada Customs for a month.

Objection—No reason was given.

Update—The books arrived two weeks after the reading.

Smucker, Barbara. *Underground to Canada*.

1998—A mother in Transcona (MB) complained to the mayor of Winnipeg about this historical novel for Grades 5 to 8. The story describes the underground railway that brought slaves escaping from the American South to Canada during the 1850s and 1860s. The mayor turned the complaint over to Winnipeg’s race relations committee, which recommended that the book be withdrawn from provincial lists of materials approved for classroom use. The complaint was supported by the Black Educators Association in Manitoba.

Objection—The word “nigger” appears 20 times in the novel. The mother said her child was the only black student in her class and felt the novel was unsuitable in such circumstances.

Update—The school division’s review committee unanimously recommended that the book be retained for use in the schools. However, the parent continued to demand through the Human Rights Commission that the book be withdrawn from provincial reading lists. In 2002, the book was among three titles targeted by a black parents’ group in Nova Scotia’s Tri-County school district and was temporarily withdrawn from schools.

See Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Stacey, Cherylyn. *How Do You Spell Abducted?*

1996—An Alberta MLA, Julius Yankowski, called for the banning of the book after reading a negative review by Toronto journalist Michael Coren. Both men called for the withdrawal of provincial and federal government grants for the publisher, Red Deer Press.

Objection—Coren said the novel was no more than hate literature against men. The story, aimed at readers 10 to 12 years of age, is an account of the abduction of three children by their estranged father.

Update—By the fall of 1999, the novel had sold 12,000 copies, and no further attempt had been made to ban the book or cut government grants to Red Deer Press.

Stine, R.L. *Goosebumps* and *Fear Street* book series.

1995—A parent group in Halifax asked that both these series be withdrawn from schools in the Halifax School Board's jurisdiction.

Objection—The books were said to convey violence and a lack of respect for parental authority.

Update—The board agreed that parents could govern what their own children read in school but not what other children read. It was agreed that the books should be available at age-appropriate levels; thus the *Fear Street* series was placed in junior high school libraries but withdrawn from elementary schools. When the parent group subsequently asked that all horror books be withdrawn from schools, the board turned down the request.

Trotsky, Leon. *On Chapters from My Diary*.

1996—This title was selected for a reading given at the Harbourfront Reading Series (Toronto) to mark Freedom to Read Week, but the book could not be found in any Canadian public library. When former Conservative cabinet minister Ron Atkey could not find a copy in Canada, he arranged for a portion of the book to be faxed from the New York Public Library.

Objection—During the early years of the Cold War, the book appeared on Canada Customs' prohibited list of books, probably because the author was a renowned Russian communist.

Twain, Mark. *Huckleberry Finn*.

1991—With Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, this classic novel was targeted by a parent group for removal from recommended reading lists in the Saint John (NB) School District 20.

Objection—Racism in characterization and language.

Valentine, Johnny. *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dad, Blue Dads*.

See Elwin, Rosamund. *Asha's Mums*.

Weisbord, Merily, and Merilyn Simonds Mohr. *The Valour and the Horror*.

1992—The book, based on a three-part TV series, was targeted by Canadian veterans'

organizations and was discussed in the hearings of the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs. Veterans demanded that the TV production be withdrawn from distribution and that the book be pulled from libraries.

Objection—The TV series and the book raised questions about Canada's military participation in the Second World War.

Update—In 1993, a group of veterans known as the Bomber Harris Trust launched a \$500-million class action suit against those connected with the TV production and the two authors of the book. The action was thrown out of court.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. *On the Banks of Plum Creek*.

1997—Two parents in the Fort Garry School Division in Winnipeg complained about this book. The title is part of the renowned series that inspired the TV series *Little House on the Prairie*.

Objection—The classic children's book, based on tales of the settlers in the American West, was said to contain several references offensive to aboriginals. But school superintendent Henry Izatt said: "Stories like this are an important part of our history on this continent. Simply eradicating them from shelves does not seem to be the answer."

Update—A committee of teachers, parents, and other members of the community prepared to examine the complaint and report back to the administration, but in the meantime the complaint was withdrawn.

1980–89

Awashish, Basile, Lucien Awashish, Claude Lachapelle, and Christine Laniel. *Carcajou le glouton fripon*.

1982—Several schools turned down these educational strips on native lore (funded by the Canada Council, the Secretary of State, and Quebec’s Ministry of Cultural Affairs) because of nudity—even though it’s part and parcel of the legends.

Babel, Isaac. “The Sin of Jesus” from the anthology *The Story-Makers*, edited by Rudy Wiebe.

1984—This book was challenged at the Halton County (ON) Board of Education.

Objection—Blasphemy.

Update—The anthology has not been listed since 1984.

Butz, Arthur. *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*.

1984—This book was seized from the library of the University of Calgary by RCMP officers acting under the authority of the Customs Tariff Act.

Objection—Classified as “hate literature.”

Update—The book was put back on the university’s library shelves because of a technicality; customs officers’ prohibition of the book came after the book had entered the country.

1995—A copy of the book was seized by the RCMP from a public library in Didsbury (AB). Before the librarian could respond to the seizure, the book was shredded—because the RCMP said it was prohibited.

Doyle, Brian. *Hey, Dad!*

1984—Doyle’s publisher received a letter from the principal of a rural Ontario school stating that copies of the book were being returned because they promoted negative views and did not contain the values of “positive citizenship.”

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*.

1988—The Race Relations Committee of the Toronto Board of Education recommended that the book be withdrawn from curriculum use in all Toronto high schools.

Objection—The novel was seen to contain racial slurs.

Update—The board rejected the committee’s recommendation but circulated to all its schools the reasons for the parents’ objections that had led to the committee’s study of the book and asked its Committee on Bias in the Curriculum to suggest ways the book could be taught with sensitivity.

Major, Kevin. *Hold Fast*.

1988–89—One of three books challenged by one person in a high school library in Estevan (SK).

Update—The board followed regular procedures for dealing with challenged materials, and the book remains in the library.

Background—The book, credited with being the first young-adult novel to be written in Canada, has been at the heart of many controversies in schools and communities across Canada. A public reading of *Hold Fast* was held at the Canadian Children’s Book Centre

in Toronto to mark Freedom to Read Week 1995.

Munro, Alice. *Lives of Girls and Women*.

1982—Toronto parents petitioned, without success, to remove the book from the high school curriculum. This book has been the target of challenges in school districts across the country.

Objection—Parents objected to the “language and philosophy of the book.”

Newlove, John (ed.). *Canadian Poetry: The Modern Era*.

1987—This text—and *Dreamspeaker* by Cam Hubert, *The Diviners*, *A Jest of God*, and *The Stone Angel* by Margaret Laurence, and *Selected Poems* by Al Purdy—triggered objections by a parent group in Victoria County (ON).

Update—The board voted to retain *Canadian Poetry: The Modern Era* on its reading list. During the 1987–88 school year, the parent group objected to J.D. Salinger’s *Catcher in the Rye* and *Faces of Mythology*, edited by John Livesay. The school board rejected the challenges. The parent group ran candidates for the school board during the 1989 municipal elections; all were defeated.

Richler, Mordecai. *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*.

This book has been attacked in various jurisdictions. In 1982, the Etobicoke (ON) Board of Education was asked to ban it from the high school curriculum. The motion was defeated. In 1990, a complaint from a student and her father led the Essex County (ON) Board of Education to establish a written policy to deal with such objections. The book was not withdrawn.

Schulman, Michael, and Eva Mekler (eds.). *Contemporary Scenes for Student Actors*.

1989—Excerpts from this anthology for senior high school drama students were included in a flyer distributed to 20,000 homes in Victoria County (ON). Parents for a Quality Curriculum, which produced the flyer, sought to influence school board elections by citing the book as an example of texts that should be removed from schools.

Objection—Language in the book.

Update—When the elections were held, none of the candidates put forward by the parent group won seats, and the book remained on the curriculum.

Sernine, Daniel. *Les envoûtements*.

1989—In Quebec, the distribution of this novel for teenagers and at least one school reading were cancelled. The author has won numerous prizes.

Objection—Sernine is believed to promote the occult—even though the “bewitchments” mentioned in the title are fraudulent and exposed as such in the story.

Valgardson, W.D. *Gentle Sinners*.

1989—A parent group in Fort Garry (MB) distributed a flyer with excerpts from this novel by the much-admired Manitoba writer and asked for its withdrawal from school reading lists.

Objection—Explicit sexual references, violence, negative relationships, and attitude towards organized religion.

Update—An independent committee appointed by the school board upheld use of the book in schools. Parents for Quality Education renewed its attack in 1991, and the board agreed to re-examine the matter. The teacher who used the book decided not to use it again.

1970–79

Fowke, Edith (ed.). *Sally Go Round the Sun: 300 Songs, Rhymes and Games of Canadian Children*.

1972—In Hamilton (ON), a public school library withdrew this anthology of children's songs, rhymes and games. In 1970, the book won a bronze medal from the Association of Children's Librarians.

Objection—The library received a complaint about bad language.

Update—In 1985, Fowke received the Vicky Metcalf Award from the Canadian Authors Association for producing "a body of work inspirational to Canadian youth."

Keyes, Daniel. *Flowers for Algernon*.

1970—In Cranbrook (BC), the school board banned this science fiction novel from the Grade 9 curriculum and school libraries. The story is about a mentally retarded adult who becomes a genius after having a brain operation.

Objection—A parent complained that the book was "filthy and immoral."

Update—The president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation criticized the book's removal. The board reconsidered its decision and returned the novel to the school library; however, trustees did not lift the ban on the book in the curriculum.

Laurence, Margaret. *The Diviners*.

From 1976 to 1994, the book was challenged repeatedly and removed from senior high school reading lists across Canada. In at least two provinces it does not appear on the curriculum.

Objection—Language and sexual content.

Salinger, J.D. *Catcher in the Rye*.

This novel has been consistently challenged in Canadian schools for at least 15 years.

Objection—"Foul language."

1960–69

Anthony, Evelyn. *Anne Boleyn*.

1960—In Port Credit (ON), authorities banned this book from a high school library.

Objection—“Immorality.”

Harris, Joel Chandler. *Uncle Remus*.

1964—In Abbotsford (BC), the British Columbia Association for the Advancement of Coloured People petitioned for the removal of this book from school libraries. The book is a collection of folk tales told by an African-American in the Old South.

Objection—The BCAACP said the book was “offensive to Negroes.”

Update—The request was denied.

Disclaimer: The Book and Periodical Council neither endorses nor condemns the content of a publication merely because it has been the target of a challenge.