



## Media Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### VIRL kicks off Read for Reconciliation and Canada 150

*Friday, June 2, 2017, Vancouver Island, BC* – Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is announcing new initiatives this summer, in recognition of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and in celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

VIRL's [Read for Reconciliation](#) offers a curated list of titles by indigenous authors that stimulate awareness, foster discussion, and facilitate a culture of learning.

June is National Aboriginal month and VIRL branches are hosting a range of programs and events in recognition and celebration of the vital role of indigenous communities. VIRL is also running a social media campaign, with the hashtag #Read4Reconciliation, as part of the campaign.

"As community hubs, libraries have an important role to play in both celebrating all that makes our country great, and in the healing and reconciliation that must occur so that we can all move forward under a common umbrella of understanding and unity," said VIRL Executive Director, Rosemary Bonanno. "VIRL is committed to embracing and learning from our indigenous communities. We are also very excited to be part of the celebrations that are sweeping the country on Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary."

For Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, VIRL is launching a [booklist of 150 titles](#) from across the country and a mobile library that is travelling to events across Vancouver Island to promote library services. The mobile library will allow people to sign up for a library card, check out library materials (from the Read for Reconciliation and Canada 150 lists, and materials related to each event), purchase library swag, and test out VIRL's new Virtual Reality.

At the mobile library, everyone will have an opportunity to be part of an exciting oral history project that aims to tap into and curate the rich tapestry that is our Island, and celebrate the stories and histories that unite us all. We will be recording 150-second stories at the community events and at all 39 branches.

The VIRL mobile library will be at the following events:

- **Courtenay – Mile of Flowers**  
Tuesday, May 30, 5 – 7:30pm
- **Port Alberni – Farmer's Market**  
Saturday, June 17, 9am – 1pm
- **Nanaimo – Multiculturalism Day (One Community: Our City. Our Stories)**  
Tuesday, June 27, 7pm – 9pm



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- **Downtown Duncan Day**  
Saturday, July 15, 10am – 6pm
- **Vancouver Island Exhibition**  
August 18, 19, 20

The complete Read for Reconciliation Booklist is available at [virl.bc.ca/rfr](http://virl.bc.ca/rfr) and the Canada 150 materials are available at [virl.bc.ca/150](http://virl.bc.ca/150).

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