

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**First Nation Communities READ 2019-2020
Announces the Children and Young Adult/Adult
Selected Titles for the PMC Indigenous Literature Award**

Toronto September 18, 2019 – First Nation Communities READ 2019-2020 announces the selected titles in the Children’s and YA/Adult Categories. Chosen by a jury of Indigenous librarians from across Ontario, these titles represent the best of Indigenous literature. The selected titles will be honoured at Word on the Street in Toronto on Sunday September 22, 2019. The selected authors will be presented with the Periodical Marketers of Canada Indigenous Literature Award at a ceremony in November.

The PMC Indigenous Literature Award comes with a prize of \$3000 for each author.

Children’s Category Selected Title***Spirit Bear: Fishing for Knowledge, Catching Dreams by Cindy Blackstock
Published by First Nations Child & Family Caring Society***

Spirit Bear is off on another adventure! Join him as he travels to meet with his Uncle Huckleberry and learn about traditional knowledge and Residential Schools. Then go with him to visit Algonquin territory where children teach him about Shannen’s Dream. Spirit Bear and his new friends won’t stop until Shannen’s Dream of ‘safe and comfy schools’ comes true for every First Nations student.

Dr. Cindy Blackstock is a member of the Gitksan First Nation. Cindy is honoured to serve as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and a professor at McGill University’s School of Social Work. Cindy is frequently sighted in the company of the Caring Society’s reconciliation Am-bear-rister, *Spirit Bear*, engaging children in meaningful actions to implement the TRC Calls to Action.

Young Adult/Adult Selected Title***Tilly and the Crazy Eights by Monique Gray Smith
Published by Second Story Press***

An unexpected journey can be powerful medicine. When Tilly receives an invitation to help drive eight elders on their ultimate bucket list road trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, she impulsively says yes. Before she knows it, Tilly has said goodbye to her family and is behind the wheel – ready to embark on an adventure that will transform her in ways she could not predict, just as it will for each and every one of the seniors on the trip, who soon dub themselves ‘the Crazy Eights.’

Monique Gray Smith is Cree, Lakota, and Scottish, and a proud mom of teenage twins. She is an accomplished international speaker and the owner of an Indigenous consulting firm, Little Drum Consulting. Her life’s work is to raise awareness of the resilience of Indigenous peoples.

Periodical Marketers of Canada Indigenous Literature Award

The Periodical Marketers of Canada’s Indigenous Literature Award is inspired by the goals of the First Nation Communities READ program. It will provide each of the authors of the First Nation Communities

READ 2019-2020 title selections with a \$3,000 prize. This is the sixth year the Periodical Marketers of Canada has presented **The PMC Indigenous Literature Award**.

First Nation Communities READ is the Ontario First Nation Public Library Community's contribution to the popular reading movement. Launched in 2003 with support from Southern Ontario Library Service, it promotes a community-based approach to reading, FNCR:

- encourages family literacy, intergenerational storytelling, and intergenerational information sharing;
- increases awareness of the relevance and importance of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit writing, illustration, and publishing;
- promotes the publication, sharing, and understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit voices and experiences.

Southern Ontario Library Service (SOLS) is mandated to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport by:

- increasing cooperation and coordination among public library boards and other information providers to promote the provision of library service to the public;
- assisting public library boards by providing them with services and programs that reflect their needs, including consultation, training and development.

For more information about First Nation Communities READ and Southern Ontario Library Service, contact:

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Periodical Marketers of Canada is the national association of magazine and book wholesalers serving thousands of retail newsstands across Canada. Periodical Marketers of Canada was established under federal charter in 1942 for the purpose of furthering the wholesale periodical distribution industry and contributing to the encouragement of reading in Canada. Current members of the association are: Monahan Agency, Vernon, BC; Metro360, Toronto, ON; TNG, Burlington, ON.

PMC's ongoing activities include funding of a nonprofit charitable foundation, the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters, which makes contributions to individuals and agencies engaged in the encouragement of literacy and reading in Canada.

For more information about Periodical Marketers of Canada, contact:

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