



Write to Read BC

September 2021 Update

Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

September 30, 2021 marks the first **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**.

The day honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

The Write to Read Team members will be marking this day in different ways. But most of all we are both saddened and also determined to do everything we can to contribute to and support Indigenous communities in their healing journeys.

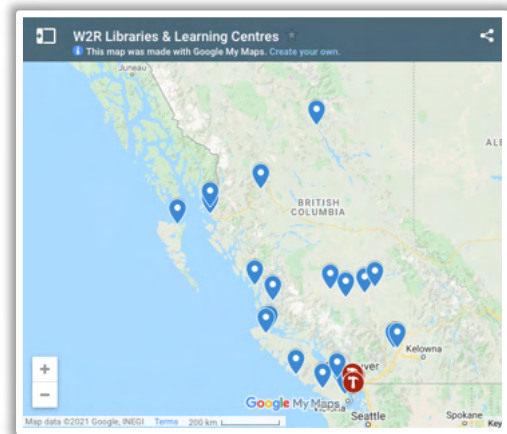
Three new centres coming soon

W2R's ongoing collaboration with the Nanaimo Correctional Centre is very important. Confined residents there have made furniture, shelving and other components of and for W2R centres. For the next three, all the furniture is now ready.

Our Co-Lead, Bob Blacker, has signalled that we can start the process of installing the learning centre at the Aboriginal Mother Centre in Vancouver, the library at Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw (Littlest Peoples School) in Capilano and books and mini-mobiles at the new space in the Tsawwassen Youth Centre. Bob is planning a trip to Nanaimo to pick up the furniture. We have a goal to have all three libraries completed by the end of October.



Image credit: <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>



Our interactive map of centres is at <https://www.writetoreadbc.com/map-bc-write-read/>

Library Response Team

Submitted by Margaret Fletcher, LRT Leader.

During the past few months, the Library Response Team members have been working hard, culling, sorting, labelling books and boxes and reorganizing two of the four lockers at the Surrey U-LOCK centre.

During the Summer we had three temporary volunteers, Rie T. and her two daughters. They delivered boxes of children's books, then stayed to help, they returned every Monday after. Now it is back to home schooling. We enjoyed their company and their help. It was very much appreciated, they do plan on coming back when possible.

We have been accepting boxes of children's books from various donators: private collections; home school parents; an author who writes children books (she would be happy to contact other writers to donate their books); book sale proceeds from Bowen Island; etc.

Centres on hold (*but coming soon - see page 1*) - Xwemélch'stn Etsimxwawtxw (Capilano Littlest Ones School), Aboriginal Mother Centre and Tsawwassen Youth Centre Library. At Tsawwassen Bob Blacker and Margaret Fletcher had their second meeting on September 1st. They were shown around the new facility where the library will be located. Some of the LRT members have been processing their Youth Centre books and others have been doing the same for Adult books for their Senior Centre. The remaining LRT's will continue to cull the remaining books.

Our four lockers are still full and we are currently only accepting children's books: board books, picture books, easy reading, juvenile, and others for youth.



Margaret Fletcher



Barb Aven



Carol Felius



Elizabeth Wilson



Cheryl Lightowers

SILT Foundation Support

Supporting Indigenous Libraries Today (SILT) is a foundation set up by Goominds.com and is supporting W2R centres with generous funding. The Bella Bella Library completed an order of books worth \$10,000 this Summer. At our April meeting meeting we identified 10 libraries including Bella Bella for similar funding. If you're one of those, please contact one of the W2R Team members for more information on how to access and use those funds. Sincere, deep and heartfelt gratitude to Achilles Gentle, the owner of Goodminds and to Jeff Burnham the former owner and rep on the W2R Team for the huge show of support.



Image credit: Goodminds.com

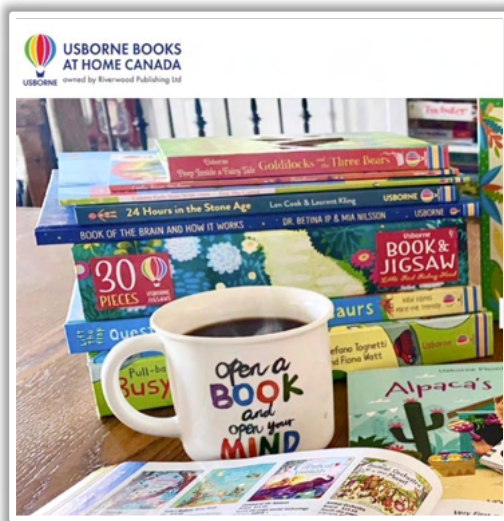


Image credit: Usborne Books Canada

Upcoming Presentations

We've been selected for a panel discussion at the conference for Libraries, Archives and Museums Nova Scotia (LAMNS). It will be on Friday, October 22nd and we've opted to pre-record our session. Our panelists will be Bob Blacker, Shirley-Pat Chamberlain, Louise Ormerod, Sarah Dupont and Gordon Yusko.

Margaret Fletcher has been invited to be a guest speaker at a meeting of the BC Library Association's Community Led Libraries Interest Group. It meets quarterly, with the next meeting tentatively scheduled in December.

Usborne Books

The folks at Usborne Books Canada and its local rep, Louise Toews, approached us over the Summer. We reached an agreement for W2R to fund \$1,000. each for the three pilot centres of Gitsegukla, Tsideldel and Bella Bella. With the Summer also came delays, but Wendy Brundige visited Gitsegukla in early September and will be following up with the Elementary School's Principal, another Louise, Louise Ormerod. With each \$1,000 purchase, Usborne will provide free shipping and also gives a 25% credit for additional purchases. We sincerely thank and deeply appreciate Usborne Books for its generosity.



Image credits: Libraries, Archives and Museums Nova Scotia; BC Library Association

Special Thanks

These organizations have our gratitude for their special contributions:

The Jack Chin Family Foundation has provided generous financial support for the Aboriginal Mother Centre.

VanDusen Botanical Garden Library - donated a large Desk and library supplies that have been placed in the Aboriginal Mother Centre in Vancouver.

The Manitoba and Saskatchewan Library Associations granted us exclusive, live access to their June conference's keynote speaker, the Hon. Murray Sinclair.

Next W2R Team Meeting

Planning and coordinating meeting of 35 people can be a challenge. Gordon Yusko will be sending out a document soon for Team members to identify their preferences. Ideally we will convene again by Zoom in October or November.

Finding or Contacting us:

Website: <https://www.writetoreadbc.com/>



Image credit: VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Vancouver en Plein Air Group

Connections over the Summer

We had a number of discussions over the Summer and here is a partial list:

- Ocean Falls community residents
- G&F Financial Group (Richmond)
- Family Services of Greater Vancouver

Gitsegukla visit report coming soon

Wendy Brundige visited the Gitsegukla community in early September, met the Elementary School Principal, Louise Ormerod and had a great tour of the village. She took photos and is working on a report that will be circulated when it's done.

Gordon Yusko, Advisor: [gyusko\[at\]telus.net](mailto:gyusko[at]telus.net)

Co-Leads

Bob Blacker: [bobblacker\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:bobblacker[at]gmail.com)

Shirley-Pat Chamberlain: [spcham13\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:spcham13[at]gmail.com)