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November 13, 2009

For immediate release

Children's Book Week

Communities, Cultural Affairs and Labour

The Hon. Carolyn Bertram, Minister of Communities Cultural Affairs and Labour, is inviting Islanders to visit a provincial library and take part in the many activities planned as part of TD Canadian Children's Book Week, November 14-21. This year's theme is Gold Medal Reading! Des lectures en or!

TD Canadian Children's Book Week is the largest national celebration of Canadian children's books. Since 1977 this touring program sends authors, illustrators and storytellers to communities throughout Canada to share with their audiences the delights of Canadian children's books. The program is organized by the Canadian Children's Book Centre, a national not-for-profit organization that promotes the reading, writing and illustrating of Canadian children's books for young readers.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to encourage young Islanders to be active readers. I commend the staff in our provincial libraries who work throughout the year to deliver programs and services in Island communities," said Minister Bertram. "I encourage Islanders to visit a provincial library this week and participate in TD Canadian Children's Book Week activities."

Visiting author Kari-Lynn Winters from Vancouver, BC, will be hand at the Confederation Centre Public Library on Monday, November 16 from 3:15 to 4:15 to officially launch TD Canadian Children's Book Week. Throughout the week Ms. Winter will be visiting four public libraries - The Confederation Centre Public Library, Summerside Rotary Library, Alberton Public Library and Montague Public Library - and 12 elementary schools to meet and share stories with students. All library events are free of charge and open to the public.

The Canadian Children's Book Centre is again giving a free Canadian children's book to every Grade 1 child in the country. This is made possible through sponsorship of the TD Bank Financial Group. This year's book is *Let's Go! The Story of Getting From There to Here* by Lizann Flatt, illustrated by Scot Richie and published by Maple Tree Press. Students in Grade 1 French and Grade 1 French Immersion receive the French translation, *On y va! A pied, a cheval et en voiture...*

The Fall Programming Guide of the Provincial Library Service is available at your local public library or online at www.gov.pe.ca/go/library.

BACKGROUNDER

Kari-Lynn Winters is an award-winning picture book author, playwright, and performer who enjoys being in the classroom in any of these capacities. She recently accepted a position at

Brock University as a professor of drama-in-education and literacy. Her graduate work, which was completed at the University of British Columbia, focused on combining the arts with reading and writing.

When Kari-Lynn began to write children's picture book manuscripts and submit them to publishers about eight years ago, people often shook their heads, advising her to write novels instead.

"It is so difficult to get picture books published in these times," they said.

But Kari-Lynn persisted, continuing to collect, read, research, and write picture books. Her persistence paid off. Today, nine picture books that Kari-Lynn wrote—including Jeffrey and Sloth, aRHYTHMetic: a book and a half of poetry about math, Runaway Alphabet, On My Walk, When Chickens Fly, PunctuACTION, Mathical Creatures, Stinky Skunk Mel, and Just Be-a—have been accepted for publication by Orca Book Publishers, Simply Read Books, Tradewind Books, and Gumboot Books. In addition, she has had poetry and non-fiction pieces accepted for publication in KNOW Magazine for Curious Kids, Fandangle, and ChickaDEE and academic chapters and articles about student literacy published by Heinemann and in The Reading Teacher.

Kari-Lynn says the best thing about writing for children is that she can share silly ideas in funny and interactive ways and that she can talk to children about their own experiences as young authors. She currently lives in Vancouver with her husband, two kids, and two cats. To learn more about Kari-Lynn please see her website, www.kariwinters.com.

-30-

Media Contact: Autumn Tremere



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