

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATE I LOVE TO READ MONTH WITH THE MANITOBA ADVOCATE OFFICE

TREATY 1 TERRITORY, HOME OF THE RED RIVER MÉTIS, Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 6, 2023 — The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth office is pleased to offer free reading sessions to classrooms in Manitoba throughout the month of February for I Love to Read Month.

I Love to Read Month is a month-long celebration that encourages reading, writing and storytelling across the nation. An effective bridge between art and storytelling, I Love to Read Month provides an opportunity to engage learners and to highlight the importance of literacy.

“I Love to Read Month promotes learning, connection and engagement with stories,” said Manitoba Advocate Sherry Gott. “Our office is excited to teach children and youth across the province about their rights through the power of storytelling.”

We have curated a thoughtful selection of books on human rights in English and French and can offer presentations by our staff in either language. Reading sessions can be offered virtually or in-person. The books in this collection highlight social justice and encourage conversation with peers.

You can find the books from our collection below:

- *I Have the Right to be a Child* by Alain Serres
- *This Child, Every Child: A Book about the World’s Children* by David J. Smith
- *Our Rights: How Kids Are Changing the World* by Janet Wilson
- *Our Heroes: How Kids Are Making a Difference* by Janet Wilson
- *When We Were Alone/Quand on était seul* by David Robertson
- *On the Trampoline/Ligne de trappe* by David Robertson
- *Phyllis’ Orange Shirt/L’histoire du Chandail Orange* by Phyllis Webstad
- *We Are Water Protectors/Nous sommes les protecteurs de l’eau* by Carole Lindstrom
- *I Sang You Down from the Stars* by Tasha Spillett-Sumner

Schools who are interested in a reading session can email public education manager, Allen Mankewich at amankewich@manitobaadvocate.ca.

“Education on children’s rights is a fundamental part of what we do,” said Gott. “For the past few years we have participated in this fun annual activity. We can’t wait to engage learners and inspire readers with their human rights.”

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About Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth:

The Manitoba Advocate for Children and Youth (MACY) is an independent, non-partisan office of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. It represents the rights, interests, and viewpoints of children, youth, and young adults throughout Manitoba who are receiving or entitled to public services, including child and

family, adoption, disability, mental health, addictions, education, victim supports, or youth justice. The office does this by advocating directly with children and youth, or on their behalf with caregivers and other stakeholders. Advocacy also involves reviewing public services after the death of any young person when that young person or their family was involved with a reviewable service as defined in *The Advocate for Children and Youth Act* (the ACYA). Additionally, the Manitoba Advocate is empowered under provincial law to make recommendations to government and other public bodies, conduct child-centred research, disseminate findings, and educate the public on children's rights and any other matter under the ACYA.

Media contact:

Allen Mankewich

Manager of Public Education, MACY

(204) 451-6111

amankewich@manitobaadvocate.ca