



The Canadian Children's Book Centre

Canadian Children's Book Week Kicks Off May 2

[*en français*](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto (April 30th, 2021) – The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) is excited to announce the 2021 Canadian Children's Book Week tour: Readers Take Flight/Tournée Lire à tout vent. From May 2 to May 8, Canadian children's authors, illustrators and storytellers will embark on our first-ever virtual tour, reaching over 17,200 kids and teens across the country. Hosted on digital platforms, our goal is the same as it has always been: to share stories and captivate the imaginations of children and teens. Throughout the week, 45 authors, illustrators and storytellers will visit hundreds of schools, public libraries, bookstores and community centres across Canada to read from their books and share with children the magic of reading, writing, illustrating and storytelling. Touring participants will be visiting students all across Canada, including remote communities like BC's Salt Spring Island, Fort Simpson in the Northwest Territories, and Lennox Island First Nation, PEI.

"We are grateful to our sponsors, funders and partners for making this year's tour so wide reaching," says Rose Vespa, Executive Director. "Although COVID-19 has meant that creators cannot physically tour across Canada, for the 2021 tour we are able to reach more communities than ever through the digital platforms. Thanks to our Adopt-a-School program, 30 schools that would be unable to pay the reading fee will have a creator virtually inside their classroom, leaving a lasting impact for students even without ever physically being there." This year, the Adopt-a-School program is possible thanks to generous personal donations through our 2019 #GivingTuesday campaign, the Government of Manitoba, the Government of the Northwest Territories, First Book Canada, Storytellers of Canada, Marquis and the YVR Dungeon Masters. The tour is also made possible because of the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Through our partnership with the Storytellers of Canada, Book Week includes two storytellers, Dr. Rita Cox and Selina Eisenberg. This year's bilingual tour is possible through a partnership with Communication-Jeunesse, our sister organization in Quebec. For the first time ever, we are working together to bring this national tour to Anglophone and Francophone students. "We are delighted with this brand new collaboration with our English-speaking counterpart for the organization of this tour which is close to our hearts," says Pénélope Jolicoeur, Executive Director of Communication-Jeunesse. In total, there will be 348 presentations in English and French during Book Week.

Aside from being our first-ever virtual tour, this year's Canadian Children's Book Week is unique in another respect. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of First Book Canada, for 10 author visits, every child participating will receive their own copy of that author's book. "For many of the schools and daycares in our network, the opportunity to have an author come right into a

classroom and talk directly with students and educators about their work is very rare,” says Tom Best, Executive Director of First Book Canada. “That’s why it is such a privilege and honour to work with the CCBC, their partners and so many remarkable Canadian authors and illustrators on this Book Week virtual tour. For most of these students this will be the first time they have met an author whose book they now own.” Featured authors are Aidan Cassie, Paul Covello, Debbie Ridpath Ohi, Katherine Battersby, Clayton Hanmer, J. Torres, Carolyn Fisher, Robin Stevenson, Saumiya Balasubramaniam, and Charlene and Wilson Bearhead. While 10 creator visits are funded by First Book Canada, for the additional 20 Adopt-a-School visits, each class will receive two copies of the author's books. The CCBC will also be subsidising 162 additional readings.

This year’s theme, *Readers Take Flight/Tournée lire à tout vent*, celebrates the way stories can make the impossible possible. The poster art was created by Philippe Béha, illustrator of more than 180 books. [The poster is available to download for free online.](#)

For more information about the program, to see the full tour schedule, or to find out how to host readings in your community next year, please visit bookweek.ca. To spread the word about Book Week, use the hashtags **#CCBCBookWeek2021** and **#lireatoutvent** and tag **@KidsBookCentre** on social media.

For schools, libraries and households not participating in the tour, head to [Bibliovideo](#), the CCBC’s YouTube channel, for exclusive videos to celebrate Book Week.

For more information, please contact:

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Official Tour Roster (English)

Alberta

[Aidan Cassie](#), *author/illustrator*

[Paul Covello](#), *author/illustrator*

[Jean E. Pendziwol](#), *author*

[Robin Stevenson](#), *author*

[Katherine Battersby](#), *author/illustrator*

[Saumiya Balasubramaniam](#),
author

[Michelle Barker](#), *author*

British Columbia

[Debbie Ridpath Ohi](#), *author/illustrator* [Kenneth Oppel](#), *author*
[Hatem Aly](#), *illustrator* [Kevin Sylvester](#), *author*
[Jean E. Pendziwol](#), *author* [Mireille Messier](#), *author*

British Columbia (Kootenay Region)

[Charlene & Wilson Bearhead](#),
authors [Lori Doody](#), *author/illustrator*
[J. Torres](#), *author/comic book writer* [Monique Polak](#), *author*

Manitoba

[Debbie Ridpath Ohi](#), *author/illustrator* [Mireille Messier](#), *author*
[Katherine Battersby](#), *author/illustrator* [Rita Cox](#), *storyteller*
[Kenneth Oppel](#), *author* [Shane Peacock](#), *author*

New Brunswick

[Carolyn Fisher](#), *author/illustrator* [Lori Doody](#), *author/illustrator*
[Cecil Castellucci](#), *author/graphic novelist* [Michelle Barker](#), *author*
[Clayton Hanmer](#), *illustrator* [Monique Polak](#), *author*

Newfoundland & Labrador

[Carolyn Fisher](#), *author/illustrator*

[Monique Polak](#), *author*

[Katherine Battersby](#), *author/illustrator*

[Paul Covello](#), *author/illustrator*

[J. Torres](#), *author/comic book writer*

Northwest Territories

[Aidan Cassie](#), *author/illustrator*

[Paul Covello](#), *author/illustrator*

[Clayton Hanmer](#), *illustrator*

[Rita Cox](#), *storyteller*

Nova Scotia

[Hatem Aly](#), *illustrator*

[Mireille Messier](#), *author*

[J. Torres](#), *author/comic book writer*

[Natasha Deen](#), *author*

[Kenneth Opper](#), *author*

[Rita Cox](#), *storyteller*

Nunavut

[Charlene & Wilson Bearhead](#), *authors*

[Natasha Deen](#), *author*

[Debbie Ridpath Ohi](#), *author/illustrator*

[Nicola Winstanley](#), *author*

Ontario

[Aidan Cassie](#), *author/illustrator*

[Hatem Aly](#), *illustrator*

[Carolyn Fisher](#), *author/illustrator*

[Michelle Barker](#), *author*

[Cecil Castellucci](#), *author/graphic novelist*

[Selina Eisenberg](#),
storyteller

[Charlene & Wilson Bearhead](#), *authors*

Prince Edward Island

[Debbie Ridpath Ohi](#), *author/illustrator* [Nicola Winstanley](#), *author*

[Kevin Sylvester](#), *author* [Robin Stevenson](#), *author*

Quebec

[Charlene & Wilson Bearhead](#),
authors [Robin Stevenson](#), *author*

[Clayton Hanmer](#), *illustrator* [Saumiya Balasubramaniam](#),
author

[Jean E. Pendziwol](#), *author* [Shane Peacock](#), *author*

[Nicola Winstanley](#), *author*

Saskatchewan

[Cecil Castellucci](#), *author/graphic novelist* [Monique Polak](#), *author*

[Charlene & Wilson Bearhead](#), *authors* [Natasha Deen](#), *author*

[J. Torres](#), *author/comic book writer* [Saumiya Balasubramaniam](#),
author

Yukon

[Kevin Sylvester](#), *author* [Selina Eisenberg](#),
storyteller

[Lori Doody](#), *author/illustrator* [Shane Peacock](#), *author*

The French-language touring creators for 2021 are:

Annie Bacon, *author*

Diana Bélice, *author*

Alain M. Bergeron, *author*

Steve Beshwaty, *illustrator*

Stéphan Bilodeau, *author*

Jocelyn Boisvert, author

Lora Boisvert, author

Carolyn Chouinard, author

Lucile de Pesloüan, author

Alex S. Girard, author/illustrator

Andrew Katz, author

Magali Laurent, author

Emmanuel Lauzon, author

Juliana Léveillé-Trudel, author

Diya Lim, author

Anne Renaud, author

Élise Rivard, author

Pierre Rodrigue, author/illustrator

Lina Rousseau, author

Julie Royer, author

Mireille Villeneuve, author

Thank You to our Sponsors, Funders and Partners



About the Canadian Children's Book Centre

The Canadian Children's Book Centre is a national, not-for-profit organization founded in 1976. We are dedicated to encouraging, promoting and supporting the reading, writing and illustrating of Canadian books for young readers. Our programs, publications and resources help teachers, librarians, booksellers and parents select the very best for young readers. For more information, please visit bookcentre.ca.

About Communication-Jeunesse

Communication-Jeunesse is a national non-profit cultural organization that was founded in 1971 to promote and appreciate Quebec and Franco-Canadian literature aimed at young people ages

0 to 17. The vitality of the organization is largely based on the quality of its associative life and the commitment of its members has been at the heart of its operations since its creation. The members of Communication-Jeunesse enrich its actions and promote its development with as much rigor as energy. For more information, please visit communication-jeunesse.qc.ca.

About First Book Canada

First Book Canada's mission is to transform the lives of children in need by improving access to educational opportunities. Through a market-driven model, First Book Canada is creating equal access to quality education—making everything from brand new, high-quality books and educational resources, to winter coats, backpacks, and more affordable to its member network of more than 10,000 educators who exclusively serve kids in need. First Book Canada members work in classrooms, after school and summer or early childhood programs, shelters and health clinics, libraries, community programs, and other settings serving a majority of children in need. Since 2009, First Book Canada has distributed more than 7 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families in Canada. First Book Canada currently reaches hundreds of thousands of children every year. For more information, please visit firstbookcanada.org.

About Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada

Storytellers of Canada/Conteurs du Canada (SC-CC) is devoted to connecting people, reflecting culture, and inspiring discovery through the art of Storytelling. SC-CC was founded in 1993 as a result of a national meeting in Montreal instigated by Rosalyn Cohen. Since then, SC-CC has held a national conference in a different location each year. In 2000, SC-CC was incorporated as a Non-Profit Organization and received its National Arts Service Organization designation. SC-CC functions as the national representative for those involved in maintaining and practising oral traditions in Canada and encourages the participation of all peoples, by recognizing storytelling as a common root of all cultures and by making strong, positive efforts towards regional and cultural inclusion. For more information, please visit storytellers-conteurs.ca.



Canada Council **Conseil des arts**
for the Arts **du Canada**

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts.

About Canada Council for the Arts

The Canada Council for the Arts is Canada's public arts funder, with a mandate to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts. The Council champions and invests in artistic excellence through a broad range of grants, services, prizes and payments to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations. Its work ensures that excellent, vibrant and diverse art and literature engages Canadians, enriches their communities and reaches markets around the world. The Council also raises public awareness and appreciation of the arts through its communications, research and arts promotion activities. It is

responsible for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which promotes the values and programs of UNESCO in Canada to contribute to a more peaceful, equitable and sustainable future. The Canada Council Art Bank operates art rental programs and helps further public engagement with contemporary arts.

About the Ontario Arts Council

Established in 1963 to foster the creation and production of art for the benefit of all Ontarians, the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) is an agency that operates at arm's length from the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries. The OAC's grants and services to professional, Ontario-based artists and arts organizations support arts education, Indigenous arts, community arts, crafts, dance, Francophone arts, literature, media arts, multidisciplinary arts, music, theatre, touring, and visual arts. In 2019-20, the OAC invested \$51.9 million in 197 communities across Ontario through 1,965 grants to individual artists and 1,152 grants to organizations. For more information, please visit arts.on.ca.