



<i>Contact</i>	Stephanie Park	FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, February 10th
<i>Telephone</i>	519-271-0220 x123	
<i>Email</i>	spark@stratford.ca	
<i>Website</i>	www.splibrary.ca	

Stratford Public Library Celebrates Freedom to Read

Stratford, ON, February 10, 2019 – As part of national movement, libraries from coast to coast are uniting to celebrate intellectual freedom. The Stratford Public Library is honoured to be part of this campaign and invite Stratford residents to celebrate **Freedom to Read week from February 23 – 29.**

“The annual Freedom to Read Week is a terrific reminder of how fortunate we are, being able to access a wide range of ideas, opinions, and creative work easily,” states Deputy Director Wendy Hicks. “Public librarians don’t take this for granted, particularly not in this era of fake facts. Indeed, something to offend everyone at the library goes a long way to creating a tolerant, thoughtful, robust democracy.”

Although intellectual freedom is guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedom, Libraries regularly receive requests to remove books, magazines, and films from their shelves. This national celebration is an opportunity for all Canadians to reaffirm their commitment to protecting and raising awareness about intellectual freedom and censorship.

This year, the Stratford Public Library is launching a library-wide campaign that will highlight banned materials through online book talks, interactive book displays, online quizzes and more. Get up close and personal with banned books by checking out “risky” titles as part of the Blind Date with a Book program running from February 1 – 14. Advocate for intellectual freedom by creating buttons promoting intellectual freedom in the MakerSpace on Saturday, February 29th from 1-4pm.

Libraries are at the forefront of the Freedom to Read movement. Through reading, we are able to expand our minds and to explore places that we never thought possible. By defending the freedom to read, libraries are raising awareness about censorship each and every day.

Want to know more? Visit splibrary.ca/FTR

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For more information about Freedom to Read Week, contact Krista at krobinson@stratford.ca / x 112.

