FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

First Nation Communities Read Announces 2014-2015 Shortlist of Books for Children – and Everyone

Toronto, April 29, 2014 – Five children’s books are in contention to become the First Nation Communities Read community reading selection for 2014-2015. Six jury members from First Nation public libraries in Ontario made the shortlist selections. The title selection announcement for 2014-2015 will take place the week of May 19 as a lead in to National Aboriginal History Month and National Aboriginal Day celebrations in June. The selected title’s creators will be the inaugural recipients of the $5,000 Periodical Marketers of Canada Aboriginal Literature Award.

Shortlist Titles

- **Little Chief and the Gifts of Morning Star** written by Victor Lethbridge and illustrated by Ben Crane. Tatanka Productions.
- **Moccasin Creek** written and illustrated by Rene Andre Meshake. Self published.

First Nation Communities Read initially considered more than 40 submissions before settling on a long list of 31 titles from 17 publishers.

Periodical Marketers of Canada Aboriginal Literature Award

The Periodical Marketers of Canada’s Aboriginal Literature Award is a new award inspired by the goals of the First Nation Communities Read program. It will provide the creators of the First Nation Communities Read 2014-2015 title selection with a $5,000 prize. This is the first time the Periodical Marketers of Canada will present the Aboriginal Literature Award.

First Nation Communities Read is the Ontario First Nation public library community’s contribution to the popular reading movement. Launched in 2003 by the First Nations public library community in Ontario
with support from Southern Ontario Library Service, it promotes a community-based approach to reading, FNCR:
- encourages family literacy, intergenerational storytelling, and intergenerational information sharing;
- increases awareness of the relevance and importance of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit writing, illustration, and publishing;
- promotes the publication, sharing, and understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit voices and experiences;
- increases awareness and sales of the titles it honours.

The focus of the First Nation Communities Read program alternates annually between books for children and books for adults and young adults. The 2014-2015 First Nation Communities Read submissions call was for books for children. The 2013-2014 selection was *Indian Horse* written by Richard Wagamese and published by Douglas & McIntyre (Vancouver).

**Southern Ontario Library Service** (SOLS) is mandated to deliver programs and services on behalf of the Ontario Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport by:
- increasing cooperation and coordination among public library boards and other information providers in order to promote the provision of library service to the public;
- assisting public library boards by providing them with services and programs that reflect their needs, including consultation, training and development.

For more information about First Nation Communities Read and Southern Ontario Library Service, contact:

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**Periodical Marketers of Canada** is the national association of magazine and book wholesalers serving 35,000 retail newsstands. Periodical Marketers of Canada was established under federal charter in 1942 for the purpose of furthering the wholesale periodical distribution industry and contributing to the encouragement of reading in Canada. Current members of the association are: Monahan Agency, Vernon, BC; Metro News, Toronto, ON; TNG, Burlington, ON.

PMC’s ongoing activities include funding of a nonprofit charitable foundation, the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters, which makes contributions to individuals and agencies engaged in the encouragement of literacy and reading in Canada.

For more information about Periodical Marketers of Canada, contact:

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