



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO PUBLISHERS
November 11, 2008 – Toronto, ON

Titles Sought for “First Nation Communities Read 2009” Program

Organizers for Ontario’s First Nation Communities Read 2009 program are asking publishers to submit titles for jury consideration.

The deadline for submissions is November 21. To be eligible, titles need to be written and/or illustrated by, or otherwise involve the participation of, a native creator, or contain native-related content produced with the support of a native adviser/consultant or native endorsement. Patty Lawlor, First Nations consultant for Southern Ontario Library Service, is asking publishers to supply seven copies of each title they believe have the potential to be the 2009 First Nation Communities Read selection.

Lawlor reports that Heritage Canada, through the Book Publishing Industry Development Program (BPIDP), has confirmed funding to support the 2009 program. BPIDP funding will provide for the purchase of a minimum of 250 copies of the selected title, design and production of a promotional poster, and support for both a reading and book signing at the 2009 Ontario Library Association Conference (January 2009) and a tour to several First Nation communities during Ontario’s First Nations Public Library Week (February 2009). When submitting titles, publishers are asked to consider the availability of book stock and their books’ creators to read, speak, and travel in early 2009.

The First Nation Communities Read program, celebrating its sixth year in 2009, encourage native and non-native communities in Ontario and across Canada to celebrate native literature that promotes enjoyment, learning, reflection, and discussion. Past selections are *Dragonfly Kites* (HarperCollins Canada), *Solomon’s Tree* (Orca Book Publishers), *Sky Sisters* (Kids Can Press), *As Long as the River Flows* (Groundwood Books), and *Ancient Thunder* (Groundwood Books). Lawlor notes that, although the selections to date have been picture books, all titles publishers have not yet submitted and feel meet the First Nation Communities Read program spirit and criteria are welcome.

Submissions may be sent to Lawlor’s attention at the Southern Ontario Library Service office in Toronto at 111 Peter Street, Suite 902, M5V 2H1. Additional information about the First Nation Communities Read program is available online at:

<http://www.sols.org/ministryprojects/firstnations/communitiesread/index.htm>

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For more information about the First Nation Communities Read program, contact:

Patty Lawlor, First Nations Consultant
Southern Ontario Library Service
Website: www.sols.org

Phone: 416-961-1669, ext. 5108
E-mail: plawlor@sols.org

Southern Ontario Library Service, operating under the authority of a board, is mandated by the Ontario Ministry of Culture to increase co-operation and co-ordination among public library boards and other information providers in order to promote the provision of library service to the public, and to assist public library boards by providing them with services and programs that reflect their needs, including consultation, training and development.