



Human Library Day shatters stereotypes and breaks barriers

Edmonton Public Library partners with CBC to host Human Library Day

EDMONTON, AB, January 3, 2013 – When’s the last time you interacted with someone from a completely different walk of life? Or had a frank conversation with someone whose life experience is far from your own? On **January 26**, Edmontonians are invited to engage with human “books” from various backgrounds and occupations on **National Human Library Day**, in partnership with CBC.

“This is a unique opportunity for the public to get to know people they might not normally meet,” says Judy Piercey, Managing Director, CBC Edmonton. “CBC Edmonton is proud to be able to facilitate such dialogue and encourage understanding of the diverse individuals who make up our communities.”

“We’ve received tremendously positive feedback about Human Libraries we’ve offered at EPL,” says Pilar Martinez, Deputy CEO, Edmonton Public Library. “Our customers tell us they feel inspired by what they learn from those who share their stories, and that it’s a unique way to break down barriers and erase prejudices that divide people.”

National Human Library Day will take place at the Stanley A. Milner Library in downtown Edmonton.

Over 20 people from Edmonton have volunteered to be “books” and share their stories with the public. Visitors to the Edmonton Human Library will be able to speak informally with a variety of individuals, including:

- Omar Mouallem, an award-winning writer who is the 2013 [EPL Metro Edmonton Writer in Residence](#) and a rapper (aka stage name A.O.K. - Assault of Knowledge) featured on cbc.ca/humanlibrary
- Mona Gill, an immigrant from India who escaped an abusive marriage and now works as a police officer
- Anna Marie Sewell, Edmonton’s Poet Laureate
- Mark Connolly, Host, CBC News Edmonton 5, 5:30 & 6
- Rick Harp, Host, Edmonton AM

National Human Library Day is a one-day event (with Winnipeg hosting a three-day event) hosted by local libraries and media and cultural centres across the country, in an effort to help dispel myths and stereotypes by creating an opportunity for one-on-one conversations between people who may never have met otherwise. People from various walks of life, including CBC personalities, will volunteer their time as “books.” Members of the public will have a chance to “check out” a “book” and ask questions to learn about the person and their extraordinary life.

Complementing the events online, cbc.ca/humanlibrary launches on **January 4** and will feature registration information, allow Canadians to check out the **Human Library's** interactive map, and sample feature "books" from across the country. A live digital event on National Human Library Day will extend the conversation. Canadians are also encouraged to engage in conversations on Twitter by using the hashtag **#CBCHumanLibrary**.

[The Human Library](#) was created by a group of young people in Copenhagen to fight prejudice. They organized the first Human Library at a festival in 2000. Since then, there have been Human Libraries in 27 countries. CBC is the first broadcaster to be involved as a national media partner.

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About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. The second most visited place in Edmonton, every year we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 17 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere - in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value - that is today's EPL. Spread the words. www.epl.ca

About CBC/Radio-Canada

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. The Corporation is a leader in reaching Canadians on new platforms and delivers a comprehensive range of radio, television, Internet, and satellite-based services. Deeply rooted in the regions, CBC/Radio-Canada is the only domestic broadcaster to offer diverse regional and cultural perspectives in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages, plus five languages for international audiences. In 2011, CBC/Radio-Canada celebrated 75 years of serving Canadians and being at the centre of the democratic, social and cultural life of Canada.

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