



Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Libraries gear up to greet 2014 Writers in Residence Local author Jason Lee Norman to call EPL home

EDMONTON, AB, Nov. 29, 2013 – While the rest of us get ready for Christmas and plan New Years' resolutions, two local authors are planning to embark on a year-long adventure with legions of readers and writers.

Jason Lee Norman and Margaret Macpherson have been named the 2014 Metro Federation Writers in Residence.

The Metro Federation is a consortium of four libraries: Edmonton Public Library, St. Albert Public Library, Strathcona County Library and Fort Saskatchewan Public Library. Each is a partner in this venture and will play host to a Writer in Residence over the coming year.

The Metro Federation Writer in Residence program is just wrapping up its first year. Omar Mouallem and Natasha Deen, the 2013 authors, will be passing the torch to their successors at a celebration event on Tuesday, December 10 at the Stanley A. Milner Library.

Jason Lee Norman will be stationed at the Edmonton Public Library for the full year. He has an MA in English and Creative Writing from the University of Manchester, and is the driving force, as editor and publisher, behind *40 Below*, an anthology of 70 pieces by 50 Edmonton and area writers, just released by Wufniks Press.

"I couldn't be more excited to be joining the Edmonton Public Library as Writer in Residence for 2014," said Norman. "All of my endeavours as a writer in this city have been to celebrate great writing and foster a stronger sense of community in our arts scene. I aim to continue that focus in 2014 and help people become the very best writers they can be."

As the regional Writer in Residence, Margaret Macpherson will split her time between Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert, with multiple-month stints in each community. Macpherson has an MFA from the University of British Columbia, and extensive experience as a lecturer and community facilitator. She also has a passion for libraries and is a strong advocate for lifelong learning and the arts.

“I love the idea of connecting people in the literary world with each other,” said Macpherson. “Creating writing prompts, putting people in touch with the right press, the best publisher, the most supportive group for their particular genre is all about creating community among and between fellow writers. It’s thrilling to have that opportunity.”

While in residence, each writer will devote roughly half their time to mentoring other writers and the other half to working on personal writing projects. Local writers can take advantage of numerous programs and workshops, but also the unique opportunity to work one-on-one with the writers. Over his term, Norman plans to work on a novel featuring the bridges of Edmonton, while Macpherson wants to pursue a work of creative non-fiction titled *Not the Caribou Queen*, based on her childhood experiences growing up in Canada’s North.

“We’re so pleased to be continuing this program with the other area libraries, working together to enhance programs and events,” said Linda Cook, EPL Chief Executive Officer. “Both authors selected are excellent choices. We have been fortunate to have many great writers take up residence at EPL, and Jason Lee Norman will certainly add to that list.”

For more information, visit www.metrowir.com. For more on the December 10 event, [click here](#).

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About the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries

The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries consists of: Edmonton Public Library, St. Albert Public Library, Fort Saskatchewan Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Libraries in the federation collaborate on programs, projects and events, share methods to help customers learn to use eReaders and download eBooks, and support the Edmonton International Literacy Festival (LitFest) by contributing ideas and hosting events at their venues.

About Edmonton Public Library

In 2013 the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) celebrates 100 years of service to our great city. We’ve come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we’re just getting started! Today 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. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. www.epl.ca/donate.

About Fort Saskatchewan Public Library: Fort Saskatchewan Public Library serves the rapidly growing community of Fort Saskatchewan (pop. 21,795) through print and electronic collections and a wide range of programming. We welcome visitors to experience our recent transformation into a modern 17,000 square foot library with larger collections, more public access computers, larger study areas, and more comfortable

reading and social areas for library users of all ages. Come for the modern “riverbank” theme, and stay for the free coffee and conversation. www.fspl.ca

About St. Albert Public Library: St. Albert Public Library is a vital part of the community, consistently rated as one of the key strengths of the city. It is a place where people learn, meet and share ideas, and enjoy leisure time. Community is at the core of St. Albert Public Library, working to improve citizens’ lives through core services focused on learning, leisure and community life — the Library cultivates community, as important for what it *does*, as for what it *has*. About 330,000 people visit in-person each year and even more visit our website. It is one of the busiest mid-sized libraries in Canada, and the most visited place in downtown St. Albert. Patrons borrow over 946,000 items annually and attend over 1,000 programs. www.sapl.ca

About Strathcona County Library: Strathcona County Library is located in the heart of Sherwood Park but serves the entire Strathcona County, an area of 1,265 square kilometres, through the services of a Bookmobile and a partnership with Fort Saskatchewan Public Library. In November 2010, we opened the doors to our newest home in the Strathcona County Community Centre. Spread out over 64,000 square feet on two floors, our main branch houses a 200,000+ collection that includes books, eBooks, audiobooks, DVDs, CDs, newspapers, magazines and databases. We also host several hundred programs each year, ranging from early literacy development with infants to travel insurance for seniors. Strathcona County Library – your place for literacy, learning and leisure. www.sclibrary.ab.ca

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