



University of Regina Press

## NEW LIBRARY INITIATIVE TO BRING COMMON GROUND TO READERS ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** The Saskatchewan Library Association (SLA), in partnership with the University of Regina Press, is excited to announce a project which will be launched throughout the province in early 2017: **One Book, One Province Saskatchewan.**

Inspired by similar programs held throughout North America, One Book, One Province will provide Saskatchewan residents with opportunities to connect with their communities by reading the same "shared story" and by participating in related activities. One Book, One Province will boost literacy and promote the essential role of libraries and literacy organizations in forming a culture of reading, while providing opportunities for organizations to collaborate in planning, promotion, and programs.

For the 2017 One Book, One Province event, the Saskatchewan Library Association has chosen *[The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir](#)*. This title was selected for its potential to promote tolerance and understanding, while appealing to a diverse and contemporary audience.

Written by 87-year-old Prince Albert resident Joseph Auguste ("Augie") Merasty, edited by the award-winning Saskatchewan author David Carpenter, and published by the University of Regina Press, *The Education of Augie Merasty* tells the story of a boyhood lost at St. Therese Residential School in Sturgeon Landing, SK, where Merasty was sent when he was just five years old. Readers will be moved by Merasty's courage and tenacity, by Carpenter's compassion and generosity, and by the power of storytelling to heal.

Named number four on the *National Post's* "99 Best Books of the Year" list for 2015, *The Education of Augie Merasty* launched on the front page of *The Globe and Mail* to become a national bestseller. *Publishers Weekly* called the book "historically significant," and *The Toronto Star* recommended it as a must read for "any Canadian interested in truth and reconciliation."

As University of Regina Press Publisher Bruce Walsh says, *The Education of Augie Merasty* "is now being taught in high schools across the country, giving young people the chance to walk in Augie's shoes. It builds empathy among non-Indigenous students for the First Nations experience, and it further establishes the Press as a contributor to Truth and Reconciliation. It has also led to healing within Augie's own family, making this small book an even bigger deal for all of us who helped publish his story."

As the SLA prepares to celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it welcomes One Book, One Province among the events it has planned for 2017, and aims to make the project an annual event for years to come.

Activities and events for the inaugural One Book, One Province Saskatchewan will begin in March of 2017. The SLA also welcomes suggestions on programming ideas from artists, cultural organizations, educators, and other members of Saskatchewan communities.

Watch for ongoing information on how you can participate, and start reading today!



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