Saskatchewan joins Canada's Literary Trail with Bookmarks for Gregory Scofield's Poem "The Sewing Circle"

In connection with the 175th anniversary of the birth of Louis Riel, Project Bookmark Canada is installing plaques or Bookmarks at Batoche National Historic Site in Saskatchewan on November 16, Louis Riel Day, the day when Métis honour Riel and Métis veterans.

The Bookmarks (one in French and one in English) will be for Gregory Scofield's poem "The Sewing Circle" from his collection *Louis: the Heretic Poems.* The poem is narrated by an older woman to her fellow mothers and wives on May 12, 1885, the last day of the Resistance in Batoche. All of the women instrumental with the Resistance are named; all the families are from Batoche.

Scofield is himself a Red River Métis of Cree, Scottish and European descent whose ancestors can be traced to the fur trade and to the Métis community of Kinostota, Manitoba.

With the installation of these Bookmarks, Saskatchewan will become part of Canada's literary trail. Unique in the world, this trail is marked with plaques or Bookmarks with poems or excerpts from fiction in the exact physical locations where literary scenes are set.

Author Miranda Hill came up with this one-of-a-kind cultural innovation while walking in the places the authors of the books she was reading wrote about. She wanted readers to step right into the stories, experiencing the authors' visions and the real locales simultaneously.

Over a decade ago, she founded Project Bookmark Canada whose role is to acknowledge our writers with these plaques. So far there are over 25 Bookmarks across the country from Newfoundland to British Columbia.

We invite you to attend the unveiling ceremony of these Bookmarks at Batoche Historic Site on Saturday, November 16, at 11:30 -2:30. Gregory Scofield will be present.

Building Canada's literary trail from sea to sea to sea is an expensive undertaking, but a task the members of the board of directors are delighted to tackle. As a small, non-profit organization, we welcome your financial support for the Scofield Bookmarks, the first ones for an Indigenous writer and the first ones in the province of Saskatchewan.

Donations can be made at our website www.projectbookmarkcanada.ca or you can mail a cheque to our office at 300-192 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 2C2. Tax receipts are issued to donations over $50.