

It was 2001 when Augie Merasty wrote a letter to the University of Saskatchewan asking for some help in recording his memoir. David Carpenter spent the next decade exchanging letters with Augie and slowly gathering pages of his childhood memories. Together the two men produced a remarkable book that will be read by even more people this month as the inaugural One Book One Province selection.

The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir is concise and powerful. As the legacy of residential schools becomes part of our social conscience, reading this first hand account of one child's experiences makes the historic tragedy personal. "This story really brings home what being in a residential school must have been like and brings us to a better understanding of just who those little people were who experienced these schools. I hope that by reading and discussing this book it will help all of us understand more about the residential school experience," says Colleen Murphy, chair of the One Book Steering Committee.

March 1st has been declared One Book One Province Day in Saskatchewan and libraries across the province will host events throughout the month. It is SLA's hope that through this community-wide reading initiative, residents will take advantage of the opportunity to become more socially engaged in their community through a shared story. Colleen encourages everyone to participate: "One of the main reasons people share stories (in books, movies, theatre, orally) is to help us to know and empathize with the other. I also hope that it will simply bring people together to share a story. There can never be too much of that."

More information about planned events and programs can be found on the website:
<http://saskla.ca/program/one-book-one-province>