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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. Albert Public Library offers Indigenous Canada Learning Circle series

ST. ALBERT — This September, St. Albert Public Library is proud to host a program series following the widely acclaimed Indigenous Canada Massive Open Online Course, a 12 session course developed by the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada from an Indigenous perspective.

This free series will run every second Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Downtown Library between September 13 and February 28. In this series, participants are asked to complete the corresponding weekly learning module independently. Time spent together in person will focus on discussions of course content, complemented with sharing by guests from the Indigenous community. These sessions are referred to as Learning Circles.

“The series explores our shared histories from a historical and critical perspective, and provides a welcoming space for personal reflection and group discussion,” says Stephanie Foremsky, Public Services Manager for St. Albert Public Library. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for community members to learn from others and make friends on a shared journey to reconciliation.”

Library CEO Peter Bailey says, “Libraries are centres for community conversation, and have an important role to play in strengthening our community’s ability to respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We welcome everyone in to this opportunity to learn together.”

The Indigenous Canada series was a great success when the Library first ran the program in 2018; since then the series has been brought to national attention by *Schitt’s Creek* star Dan Levy, who took the course in 2020 and then recommended on social media that every Canadian should do the same. This widely acclaimed and locally developed 12 session course is led by Indigenous scholars, Dr. Tracy Bear and Dr. Paul L. Gareau.

“Through conversations with Indigenous partners, we aim to bring the series back to St. Albertans in a form that puts individuals at the forefront of their personal journey to reconciliation,” Foremsky says. “At a time when reconciliation still requires a strong focus on starting with the truth, the University of Alberta’s Indigenous Canada course was determined to be the best place to return to.”

The Indigenous Canada Learning Circle series will take place at the Downtown Library in St. Albert Place, the architectural gem crafted by Indigenous Canadian architect Douglas Cardinal. Register in advance for the full series at sapl.ca.

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