



Media Release

For immediate release

Libraries name 2023 Writers in Residence

ST. ALBERT, AB, December 5, 2022 – The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries is delighted to announce that Tololwa Mollel and Kate Boorman have been selected to serve as the 2023 Writers in Residence at the Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Strathcona County and St. Albert public libraries. Mollel and Boorman will offer a wide range of supports and programs to writers of all ages and experience levels, through their time with the libraries.

The Metro Edmonton Federation is a consortium of four libraries: Edmonton Public Library (EPL), Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, St. Albert Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Each is a partner in this venture and will play host to a Writer in Residence over the coming 12 months.

“We are pleased to welcome award-winning author Tololwa Mollel,” said Peter Bailey, CEO of St. Albert Public Library. “Tololwa brings a wealth of experience in multiple writing genres to his role as regional writer in residence, and we’re excited to see how his skills and enthusiasm will inspire area writers of all ages and across genres.”

As the regional Writer in Residence, Tololwa Mollel will split his time between Strathcona County, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert, with multiple-month stints in each community. The first stop in his residency will be Strathcona County Library, starting in early January.

Mollel is an author of internationally published children’s books, as well as a playwright, storyteller, and performer. Among his children’s books are *The Orphan Boy* – winner of the Governor-General’s award; *My Rows and Piles of Coins* and *Big Boy* – both winners of the Writers Guild of Alberta award; and *From Lands of the Night*.

He has also published adult nonfiction work and short stories, and his work has been translated into variety of Asian, European, and African languages.

Mollel says, “My goal as WIR is to provide writing support suited to particular needs, helping individuals to develop not only their written work but their ‘voices’ as writers as

well. I also aim to share my passion for writing and creative work, through inclusive WIR programs for preschoolers, preteens, teens, adults, and seniors.”

As the Edmonton Public Library Writer in Residence, Kate Boorman will spend her year on the third floor of EPL’s Stanley A. Milner Library in the Writer in Residence office.

Boorman is an award-winning author who writes speculative fiction. Her books have been published in four world territories and have appeared on a variety of Best Of lists, and have won multiple awards, including the Alberta Writers’ Guild Award for Children’s Fiction and a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection.

While in residence, each writer will devote roughly half their time to mentoring other writers and the other half to working on personal projects.

Local writers at all levels can take advantage of workshops with both Writers in Residence, and will also have the opportunity to work with them one-on-one. All of these services will be offered at no charge. More information will be posted on the websites of Edmonton Public Library (epl.ca) and Strathcona County Library (sclibrary.ca) early in 2023.

The Metro Federation Writer in Residence program is wrapping up a successful ninth year; 2022 writers Rayanne Haines and Norma Dunning have engaged with numerous aspiring and experienced writers in the metro Edmonton area through free one-on-one writing support, creative opportunities and dozens of writing programs. Haines and Dunning will pass the torch to the 2023 writers in the New Year.

- 30 -

About the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries

The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries consists of Edmonton Public Library, Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, St. Albert Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Libraries in the Federation collaborate on programs, projects and events, and share methods to help customers learn to use eReaders and download eBooks.

About Edmonton Public Library

Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is proud to be 2014 Library of the Year! 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 EPL hosts over 15.4 million in-branch and online visits across our 21 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/give

About Fort Saskatchewan Public Library: Fort Saskatchewan Public Library is open, bright, and full of activity! Serving a population of over 24,000 (and growing!) FSPL is a place for children, youth, adults, and seniors to engage in a variety of interactive programs and activities. From finding your perfect next read to our innovative Makerspace, FSPL is a space for everyone. Not only do we provide resources and programs for learning and development, we are also a place to meet friends, relax, and to enjoy being a part of the community. www.fspl.ca

About St. Albert Public Library: St. Albert Public Library is your place to be, to meet, and to grow. This vital community hub is one of the busiest mid-sized libraries in Canada, the most visited place in downtown St. Albert, and is consistently rated as one of the key strengths of the city. SAPL is home to STARFest – St. Albert Readers Festival – a world-class annual literary festival that consistently showcases an exciting range of authors who are driving national conversations. In 2020, SAPL was a leader in the rapid pandemic pivot to online programming and creative outdoor programs and activities with our Outreach Literacy Van – we take pride in evolving alongside the community we serve. SAPL is committed to reducing barriers to access, and creating opportunities for citizens to engage with ideas, resources, and each other. With locations in downtown St. Albert and Jensen Lakes Crossing, we are here for you, and here for all. 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.ca

Media contact:

Leslie Greentree
Marketing & Communications Specialist
St. Albert Public Library
780-459-1750 | lgreentree@sapl.ca