



























WPL

Vancouver Public Library

VPL's digital media lab is a FREE space dedicated to digital creativity, collaboration and storytelling.

vpl.ca/InspirationLab





Indigenous Storyteller in Residence

**Vancouver**Public Library









#### 'LIBRARY SAVED MY LIFE'

He's blunt, all right. Douglas Zak will tell you that himself, and make no bones about it.

Zak, 69, has struggled with mental illness and has lived in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside on and off for 30 years. He earns his living with a job he calls "niche recycler" and has kind words for the library, where he spends several hours a day immersed in newspapers and magazines.

"The library and staff literally saved my life, as I probably would have perished without the culture it afforded," he told VPL's Carnegie branch in a hand-written letter, where his story tumbles onto multiple, heart-felt pages. The words "saved my life" are underlined for emphasis.

Ask him what he loves most about his almost-daily visits, and he's quick to share his favourite memories of library staff.

"I have never met a bad librarian," he notes. "To me, they are the equivalent to ambulance responders, firefighters, police, social workers, nurses, doctors... the height of the best professions."

Oh... and they're always open to the needs of patrons, to the small things that make a difference, he noted in an appreciative P.S. to his letter. "I have noticed that the variety and number of magazines has dramatically increased [in] the past month. Thank you."

It's the community of the library space that draws him, and sustains him. Twenty years after first setting foot in the place, he comes to the library, he says, for pleasure and out of necessity.

"The library is incredible," he says. "It's where everything about us is stored. The library is my home for culture. I love it."











The Picture of the King" Item H-03662

Reconciliation: Opening the Door to Conversations

#### De-Constructing Colonization in Each of Our Lives

Thursday, May 11, 7:00-8:45 pm Newcombe Conference Hall at the Royal BC Museum

Join Louise Mandell, Q.C., LL.D, for a talk that explores de-constructing colonization in each of our lives – making space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians to dream a way forward that respects and reflects the diversity, strength and hope embodied within Indigenous traditions.

Archivist Genevieve Weber from the Royal BC Museum will also give a brief talk on how BC Archives is working with communities to strengthen the Indigenous voices in their collection.

Register at gvpl.ca or call 250-940-GVPL (4875) for more information.

This presentation is part of a four-part speaker series presented by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre and Greater Victoria Public Library.

Save the date for our next presentation: Building Bridges Through Understanding the Village June 10, 12:00-4:00 pm

Wawadit'la, Mungo Martin House, Thunderbird Park adjacent to the Royal BC Museum, 675 Belleville St.

Visit gvpl.ca/openingthedoor

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Generously supported by:





















#### Come to any of our ID Clinics (registration required), and get help to replace your ID:

Birth Certificates (Canada only)

Secure Certificates of Indian Status

Other ID as available

#### 2018/19 ID Project — Clinic Schedule

ID Clinics require registration, which opens at the Clinic location at 9am.

Clinics are open 10am – 1pm. First come are first served.

MONTH	Greater Victoria Public Library – Central (Community Rooms)	Our Place (Chapel)
October	October 12	October 19
November	November 9	November 23
December	no clinic	no clinic
January	January 11	January 25
February	February 8	no clinic
March	March 15	March 1 and March 29

The ID Project is supported by the Downtown Service Providers Committee of Victoria and the Constituency Office of Carole James, MLA





















Fort St. John Public Library



Rossland
Public Library





Salt Spring Island
Public Library



Powell River
Public Library





Greenwood
Public Library



Okanagan Regional Library



# Prince Rupert Public Library



Terrace
Public Library



Invermere Public Library