



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 14, 2023

Vaughan Public Libraries and City of Vaughan, with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Unveil Two Every Child Matters Crosswalks

VAUGHAN, ONTARIO – Vaughan Public Libraries, in partnership with the City of Vaughan, is honoured to announce a special event on Friday, September 22, 2023, at 1 pm. In collaboration with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, two 'Every Child Matters' crosswalks will be unveiled to foster understanding, compassion, and reconciliation. These crosswalks honour the lives of the children who were lost to the residential school system and acknowledge the strength and resilience of the survivors.

The event will take place at the Civic Centre Resource Library, located at 2191 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario in advance of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.

"We recognize the importance of remembering and acknowledging the painful history of the residential school system," said Margie Singleton, CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries. "By partnering with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, we are taking a step towards healing and promoting a better future for all. We believe that these crosswalks can act as a reminder of our past and an inspiration for a more inclusive and kind community."

"Before reconciliation can occur, we must acknowledge the truth: Indigenous children were tragically taken from their families and placed in institutions that caused them great harm," said Steven Del Duca, Mayor of Vaughan. "Many never made it back home. Those who did were haunted by traumatic memories that affected them, their loved ones and their communities. Reconciliation means recognizing the truth of their experiences, acknowledging their pain and trauma, and striving to do better. We, the settlers of these lands, must engage in the challenging process of decolonizing our actions and beliefs, and commit to the Calls to Action. Vaughan Public Libraries' two new Every Child Matters crosswalks serve as a memorial to the innocent lives lost and reinforce that every child matters. They also represent our dedication to understanding, acknowledging and addressing past wrongs, and our commitment to honouring and upholding our promises and treaties. Our work continues as we seek to honour this land's First Peoples and move our city forward together."

The event will include remarks from community leaders, representatives from the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, and local officials.

Members of the media and the public are invited to join us on September 22, 2023, at 1 pm, at the Civic Centre Resource Library for this important event.



About Vaughan Public Libraries

Vaughan Public Libraries is a leading community-centred library system dedicated to educate, excite and empower the community. With over three million visitors annually and 500,000 resources, advanced technology, and diverse programming, we offer lifelong learning opportunities. Our firm commitment to excellence, diversity, equity, and inclusion fosters a welcoming environment where all can thrive.

For more Information, please contact:

Robert Symes
Marketing & Communications Manager
Vaughan Public Libraries
905-653-READ (7323) ex. 4608
Robert.Symes@vaughan.ca

Denise Foley
Marketing & Communications Assistant
Vaughan Public Libraries
905-653-READ (7323)
Denise.Foley@vaughan.ca

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