

For Immediate Release: April 11, 2018

Regina Public Library delves into Margaret Atwood's classic, *The Handmaid's Tale*, in city-wide book club.

Since its publication in 1985, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* has sparked debate on misogyny, patriarchy, religion, tolerance, totalitarianism, and the future of western society. As political extremism is normalized, religions risk radicalization, and protest movements – such as the Women's March, #timesup and #metoo – swell with growing support, reflection on these topics is particularly important.

Regina Public Library brings together the public and a panel of local experts to discuss the book and its treatment of these themes at our latest Top Shelf Book Club, at 7:30 pm on April 17, at George Bothwell Branch.

Top Shelf Book Club is not your typical book club. The public is invited to read the book at home, then join the conversation with a formal panel of local experts, who will engage participants in an in-depth conversation. This time, the panel includes Marian Donnelly, Executive Director of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, Saskatchewan and Barbara Byers, former Secretary -Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress. Jeff Barber, Director and CEO of Regina Public Library, will lead the discussion.

"*The Handmaid's Tale* is more than a masterpiece of dystopian fiction," said Barber. "It is a timeless reflection on themes that are of critical importance to western society. This panel discussion will provide an opportunity for the public to engage with the book, with experts and with each other on challenging topics. It's not an easy book, and it's not an easy discussion, but it is an important and meaningful one."

The program will take place in the Flex Room at George Bothwell branch after hours. Please use the Flex Room door to enter.

-30-

Media contact:

Margherita Vittorelli
Marketing and Communications Consultant
Regina Public Library
mvittorelli@reginalibrary.ca
306.777.6114 (office)