



# NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 4C5 | 905 356 8080

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## **Check out the Living Library: “Stories of Housing and Home” at the Niagara Falls Public Library**

**Niagara Falls, ON:** The Living Library collection “Stories of Housing and Home” launches on Wednesday October 20. Living Libraries provide a safe space for individuals with lived experience to share their stories and spark dialogue to create understanding and connection. This debut collection of books is called “Stories of Housing and Home” and delves into discussion around homelessness and housing insecurity. It is presented in partnership with the Niagara Falls Public Library, The Region of Niagara, and Niagara Regional Housing, with special thanks to Brock University for their assistance.

“A Living Library is a unique experience where members of our community can sit down and have a one-on-one conversation with a person who has lived experience.” Library CEO Alicia Subnaik Kilgour explains. “This opportunity to explore areas which are often not discussed brings about a new understanding and connection to the community around us. We took the concept online and created a virtual Living Library in order to continue the work while keeping everyone safe during this time.”

“Housing and Home as our first Living Library Collection came from our partnership with Niagara Region, and from witnessing the struggles that all of our community in the City are dealing with daily.” says Subnaik Kilgour. “The Library has worked with Jeffrey Sinclair at Niagara Region for many years, and connecting our two organizations’ work together in this way was organic.”

“We’ve brought together a collection of people who have firsthand experience with these struggles, to record unscripted and candid conversations” says Jeffrey Sinclair, Homelessness Action Plan Advisor with the Niagara Region. “They have volunteered to be vulnerable and share deeply personal stories on a topic that is often uncomfortable to talk about, so that everyone in the community can learn from them. As the Books share their stories, we hope to help Readers’ challenge their own biases, see beyond stereotypes, and create understanding.”

The spirit of discussion and idea exchange will be honoured through an online form where Readers can submit questions which will be responded to by the Books. “In time, when it’s safe, we look forward to hosting in-person Living Library events” says Subnaik Kilgour.

The Living Library is available online starting October 20th at <http://nfpl.info/LivingLibrary>

*The Niagara Falls Public Library is a free, inclusive community space open to all. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls are invited to register for a free library card to access all of our resources, both physical and digital. The Niagara Falls Public Library dates back to 1878, and today has four library locations serving the City of Niagara Falls - Victoria Avenue Library, Stamford Centre Library, Community Centre Library and Chippawa Library. Please visit our website at [my.nflibrary.ca](http://my.nflibrary.ca) for more information.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Laura Martin, Manager, Community Development & Programming, Niagara Falls Public Library  
4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 4C5, (905) 356-8080 ext.237, [lmartin@nflibrary.ca](mailto:lmartin@nflibrary.ca)