



Province-wide reading program lands a big one On the Same Page announces this year's book

For immediate release. Manitobans have selected Jake MacDonald's young adult novel *Juliana and the Medicine Fish* as this year's featured book for On the Same Page, a province-wide reading initiative. The announcement was made today at a press conference at Fort Whyte Alive.

On the Same Page, a project of The Winnipeg Foundation and Winnipeg Public Library, encourages all Manitobans to read, and talk about, the same book at the same time. The program includes book giveaways, author appearances and special events to take place early in 2011.

"Libraries have always been great places to find a book and On the Same Page is a great way to get people reading," says Rick Walker, Manager, Winnipeg Public Library. "Manitoba's biggest book club keeps getting better each year! With generous funding from our partner, The Winnipeg Foundation, we look forward to hosting a series of events designed to encourage all Manitobans to read the same book and share the same story."

First published in 1997, *Juliana and the Medicine Fish* was a finalist for Ontario's Silver Birch Award, BC's Red Cedar Award, and the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award. The coming of age story about a girl dealing with her parents' divorce is set at a rustic fishing lodge and includes themes of Aboriginal history and spirituality. It was one of four titles shortlisted for the 2010-11 On the Same Page program and garnered the most selections through online and in-person voting between June and October.

"On the Same Page promotes reading, life-long literacy, local artists, and community building," says Rick Frost, CEO of The Winnipeg Foundation. "We're very pleased to partner with Winnipeg Public Library on this initiative."

On the Same Page was launched in 2008 and has featured *In Search of April Raintree* by Beatrice Mosionier and *Reading by Lightning*, by Joan Thomas. For information, visit <http://www.onthesamepage.ca>

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