



INFORMATION - COMMUNIQUÉ

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On the Same Page announces this year's book

Manitobans have selected J.R. Léveillé's novel ***The Setting Lake Sun/Le soleil du lac qui se couche*** as this year's featured book for On the Same Page, a province-wide reading initiative. The book is published in French by Les Éditions du Blé and in English by Signature Editions.

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 2012.

First published in 2001, ***The Setting Lake Sun/Le soleil du lac qui se couche***, is the love story and spiritual journey of an aspiring Métis architect who meets an older Japanese poet at a Winnipeg art gallery and travels north with him to Thompson. The book has received acclaim as Winner of the Prix Champlain and the Prix littéraire Rue-Deschambault, as well as a Very Honourable Mention — John Glassco Translation Award. It was shortlisted for the Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award.

One of four titles shortlisted for the 2011-12 On the Same Page program, it garnered the most selections through online and in-person voting between June and September.

When the two literary presses, Les Éditions du Blé and Signature Editions, joined forces to bring J.R. Léveillé's book out in English and French simultaneously, it was an attempt to bridge Manitoba's two solitudes. "We're grateful that On the Same Page has brought that collaboration to wider attention, because we are committed to opening up the dialogue between the two languages, bringing a major Francophone writer from Manitoba to the attention of English-speaking readers. The *On the Same Page* nomination inspired us to release a bilingual ebook of ***The Setting Lake Sun/Le soleil du lac qui se couche***," say his publishers.

Winnipeg is front and centre in this book, with locations ranging from the Exchange District, to Central Park, to Provencher Boulevard, and readers will enjoy walking the same streets as the characters in this novel.

"This is *my* Winnipeg," says Léveillé. "I am thrilled. Manitobans took this book to heart, and I thank them. I hope it will continue to delight their spirits and remind them of the beauty to be

found in Manitoba. In French, in English, or in translation, we have a home grown literature that deserves to be read here and everywhere.”

“On the Same Page is Manitoba's biggest book club, and what better place for a book club than in a public library” says Rick Walker, Manager, Winnipeg Public Library. “With generous funding support of The Winnipeg Foundation, *On The Same Page* is helping to bring all Manitobans together to share in this unique reading experience.”

“The Winnipeg Foundation is pleased to partner with Winnipeg Public Library to present the fourth year of On the Same Page,” says Rick Frost, CEO. “This is a great community building project that both showcases our vibrant arts community and encourages lifelong literacy.”

On the Same Page was launched in 2008 and has featured *In Search of April Raintree* by Beatrice Mosionier, *Reading by Lightning* by Joan Thomas and *Juliana and the Medicine Fish* by Jake MacDonald.

For more information, visit www.OnTheSamePage.ca

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