



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Aboriginal-language Books by Richard Van Camp and David Bouchard

The SSDEC announces release of two new books in Cree, Chipewyan and Slavey

Fort Smith, NT – This month the first copies of *Little You* by Richard Van Camp and *Dreamcatcher and the Seven Deceivers* by David Bouchard will be available to the public in the Northwest Territories. The books help emphasize the importance of traditional values and the role of relationships in developing a full and healthy lifestyle.

Little You is a book targeted towards newborns and very young children by Orca Press and the South Slave Divisional Education Council. Brent Kaulback, Assistant Superintendent of the SSDEC said, “Our plan is to distribute *Little You* to newborns as part of our baby book program thus ensuring that a quality book in these aboriginal languages will be part of the parent and baby’s first reading experience. We hope that this book will serve as a catalyst for parents and their children to connect with their ancestral language together in a shared family experience.”

Dreamcatcher and the Seven Deceivers is a follow-up to the very successful *Seven Sacred Teachings*. The book is rooted in traditional First Nations’ values – the Dene Laws, and offers an authentic connection between Aboriginal principles and modern life. The central theme of Bouchard’s latest work is the values and emotions that can rob us of our future: greed, envy, pride and laziness, and how they can be avoided. The story also has accompanying music by Steven Kakfwi which can be accessed through a website included in the book.

To celebrate the release of these new books the SSDEC is holding a giveaway on its Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SouthSlaveDEC. People can enter by sharing a post about the new books on the SSDEC Facebook page, twenty entrants will be drawn to win a copy of the book in a language of their choice.

Exposing children as young as possible to the written word and books is critical in improving literacy and overall achievement. The SSDEC has worked over the last few years to increase the availability of resources available in Cree, Chipewyan and Slavey, including the award-winning Aboriginal language dictionary projects.

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