

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Human Library!

THE PURPOSE of the Human Library is to open dialogue to promote a better understanding of different experiences and ways of thinking, especially around diversity and stereotypes of certain groups in our community.

HUMAN BOOKS

Human Books are real people representing the title of their Book for a group. They are not actors or playing a role. Human Books represent groups of people that often face prejudice, stereotypes or racism. Our Human Books are community members who are open and willing to talk about their experiences.

Our Human Books helped choose their titles and descriptions and openly invite you to read them and learn more – you can come to challenge yourself, or you can come as an informed reader wanting to know more. You can ask **“What is it like to be you?”**

DURING THE EVENT:

- ✓ **You can borrow a Human Book** for a 20-minute discussion.
- ✓ **Ask!** You can ask the Book about things that you have always wanted to know about the group in question.
- ✓ **Respect** your Book, even if you do not share their opinions, beliefs or view of life. The Human Library is based on mutual respect.

Everyone is valuable and interesting just as they are. So are you! Express your opinion confidently and approach your Book with an open mind. Here are a few tips for a Reader at the Human Library.

THE BOOK CATALOGUE

The catalogue shows all the Books on offer and a list of preconceptions about each Book. Are some of the preconceptions or stereotypes or prejudices true? Find out by borrowing a Human Book!

BORROWING A HUMAN BOOK

On event day (November 23rd between 1-3pm), visit the Librarians' Table inside the **Keith Gordon Room** of the Bob Harkins Branch of the library. Try to arrive about 5 minutes before your scheduled reading. The librarians will introduce you to the Book you reserved. The room will have a selection of tables and chairs for your comfort while reading. You can only take out one Book at a time. The borrowing time can be extended if both the Book and the reader wish so. However, if there is another reservation for the Book, the loan can unfortunately not be extended.

You cannot take the Book home under any circumstances.

Questions? Contact the library at (250) 563-9251, Ext 141 or ask@lib.pg.bc.ca.

IMMIGRANT & MULTICULTURAL SERVICES SOCIETY



WelcomeBC

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In partnership with:



Human Library Catalogue

Black African

What is it like to be judged before you even say a word just because of the colour of your skin? Or thought of as stupid? Under my black skin I look exactly the same as everybody else. I am not a Financial Advisor by chance, I have the education, the credentials, the work ethic and I have earned the Canadian Experience to excel in the job. You can learn more about what it has been like to be me.

Bride (in an Arranged Marriage)

What does it mean to have an arranged marriage and how is it decided? Is it really just about “surviving” a relationship out of one’s control or is there more to the story?

Chinese Immigrant

What is it really like to move to Canada from China and to sometimes have people think that you are only a shy, hard worker who can cook, excels at math, obeys a husband, and might be a communist?

Christian

What is it like to be a Christian pastor in a modern world? Are they really closed-minded and uninformed about the “real” world, always against things, don’t care about others outside their religion and don’t always practice what they preach?

Ex-Convict

What is it like to come back into the world after being in prison? Can people really change or does jail make you worse? What comes afterwards and what is life like now?

Foreign-Trained Professional (Teacher with education from another country)

What is it like to move to Canada with professional credentials only to have them questioned? What are the cultural differences of the workplace and how does that affect someone as they adjust to their new country?

Former Jehovah’s Witness

What happens when something makes you decide to leave the faith that you lived within for 30 years? Does it mean leaving everything behind and that you should be considered “dead in the eyes of God”, unrighteous or a sinner?

Girl Builder (*woman who built a log home at 17 by herself*)

What is it like to be a strong-spirited teenager who decides to do something that others think can’t be done? Surely she must have hired men to help? How can one girl do that alone and what happened in the years afterwards?

Police Officer (RCMP)

What is it like to be an RCMP Officer today? Are they all aggressive bullies, who enjoy power over others, and are corrupt? What is the job like with some of those stereotypes in the mix?

The Minority

What's it like to grow up as one of the only visible minorities in your school? To look around you and always be the odd one out in a group of friends? To live in a city where your presence is still thought to be a novel concept? What happens when you're that person, but you don't remotely conform to the stereotype of your race as painted in popular culture?

Urban Aboriginal

Who is an Urban Aboriginal? Is the old stereotype of the lazy drunk with a low income and low education, who doesn't look after his house or pay taxes even remotely close to the truth?

Sample questions to get the conversation flowing:

- What kind of discrimination have you faced?
- How do people treat you when they find out you’re a (fill in the blank)?
- How do you overcome some of the preconceptions listed with your title?