



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Telling Tales Festival Announces Exciting New Changes for 2024!

**Hamilton, ON, June 5, 2024:** [Telling Tales](#), Canada's beloved children's literary festival, returns featuring over 40 authors from its new [Reading List](#), a fresh look, and a renewed commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.

The 16th annual festival is a free, two-day event on September 21st and 22nd, 2024, at the Royal Botanical Gardens' Hendrie Park. It features top Canadian authors and illustrators that celebrate and foster shared community values. Telling Tales highlights books that reflect the rich tapestry of our neighbourhoods, offering children and teens stories that feature a wide range of experiences and perspectives within engaging narratives.

"This year we have focused on engaging local voices through our Selection Advisory Committee and offering authors from diverse social locations a platform to showcase their stories," shares Telling Tales Executive Director Heather Kanabe. "Titles were selected based on the quality of the writing and that feature underrepresented voices, and characters of various ethnicities, family structures, and abilities so every child can see themselves represented."

Plus, audiences asked and we listened. For accessibility and in response to visitor feedback, our festival programming tents will be organized by age groups. This will make it easier for kids, parents, and caregivers to find the authors and illustrators that will appeal. All festival presentations will be supported multi-sensory activities customized in conversation with a local Occupational Therapist and Telling Tales programming team.

Our hard-working [Selection Advisory Committee](#), consisting of nine paid students, teachers, educators, librarians, and Hamilton and Burlington community members, have been busy curating a wide variety of books that will be featured in our 2024-2025 Telling Tales programming.

Our [2024 Reading List](#) features books by familiar faces such as Kevin Sylvester as well as new voices. Kids under 6 will love Sylv Chiang's [Still My Tessa](#), a heartwarming story about a sibling using new pronouns, while older kids and teens will get the chance to meet Eric Walters and Wali Shah, authors of [Call Me AI](#). This year, kids and teens can access curated Bingo Cards to plan their summer reading list and access special discounts at official festival bookstores [A Different Drummer Books](#) and [Epic Books](#).

In addition to Telling Tales Festival featured authors, audiences can join Reading List authors throughout a season of virtual and in-person events starting with CGN: Celebrating Graphic Novels on June 12th all day. Follow Christine D.U. Chung and Salwa Majoka ([Viewfinder](#)) and Anna Humphrey ([Fluffle Bunnies: Buns Gone Bad](#)) as they demonstrate their styles of writing and illustrating.

We have hit refresh on our brand, priorities, and commitments so we can offer all Telling Tales visitors an outstanding experience that celebrates our love of reading and the importance of literacy.

For detailed information about Telling Tales' 16th season of programming, events, and opportunities to donate, visit [tellingtales.org](http://tellingtales.org)

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Telling Tales is a Canadian Registered Charity committed to delivering outstanding literary programming for children and youth that raises awareness of the importance of literacy in our communities. Telling Tales season is co-hosted by Hamilton Public Library, Rotary Clubs of Burlington and Hamilton, and Royal Botanical Gardens. [Full list of supporters.](#)