



North Vancouver District
Public Library

Connecting Community. Sharing Knowledge. Inspiring Stories.

Inspiring Stories

October 2018

Library Month: Making Reading More Accessible

Every October, libraries and library organizations across Canada shine a light on the valuable role libraries play in Canadians' lives by celebrating Canadian Library Month. This year in celebration of Canadian Library Month, several North Vancouver District Public Library staff have taken on the role of voice actors, volunteering to read and record children's books for the National Network of Equitable Library Services (NNELS) repository.

NNELS is a publicly-funded library service working to make library collections accessible to readers with print disabilities in local communities. Approximately 10% of Canadian are unable to read traditional print materials due to a print disability, such as low vision and blindness, mobility problems such as MS and Parkinson's, dyslexia, and more. Through the NNELS program, those with perceptual disabilities can access a large library of e-audiobook titles, which can be downloaded directly to their compatible device or to a DAISY (Digital Accessible Information SYstem) reader.

Already this October, NVDPL staff have recorded 7 titles, including "Noni Says No" by Heather Hartt-Sussman, and "The Very Noisy Bear" by Nick Bland. The Library is grateful to be welcoming a distinguished local voice actor Tosca Hopkins, who will be stopping by at the end of the month to record two additional titles for the NNELS library. The audio files are being edited by NVDPL staff, and should be available to the public through the NNELS library in one month.

This program is made possible by special audio recording equipment kits, which have been loaned to the library by NNELS, and which were purchased with support from the Government of Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program. The NNELS network is supported by the BC Libraries Coop, a non-profit cooperative providing libraries and library-related organizations in Canada with shared services, cost savings, and support.

Top: Manager of Community Connections Alison Campbell reads & records a book. **Middle:** The NNELS audiobook recording kit with some of the children's books being recorded at NVDPL. **Bottom:** NVDPL staff editing audio files before sending to NNELS.

