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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY ROLLS OUT SPHERO SPRK+ COLLECTION** *Robotic ball available for loan to library customers.*

Abbotsford, B.C. – Get on the ball! Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) has just launched Sphero SPRK+ robotic balls for loan. Customers can check out these app-enabled devices, free of charge, for a two- or three-week lending period – just like library books. The Spheros will circulate throughout FVRL's 25 libraries. Each will come in a kit that includes a Sphero SPRK+, inductive charging base, charging cable and protractor.

Designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and invention, Sphero SPRK+ is more than a robot. Wrapped in a polycarbonate shell, the device is durable and waterproof. When connected to Sphero Edu, a social coding app, it becomes a powerful tool for learning – the fun way. Sphero SPRK+ fosters a love of robotics, and encourages the learning of coding and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) principles for all ages. Robotics programs are becoming extremely popular at FVRL.

“FVRL is proud to be one of the first libraries in Canada to loan the Sphero SPRK+ to customers. This is another exciting addition to our ‘Playground’ of things, which also includes ukuleles for customers to borrow, as well as green screens and Makey Makeys for use in library programs,” says Heather Scoular, Director Customer Experience. “FVRL continues to look for ‘things’ that support the creative economy and enable our customers of all ages to learn and grow their skills in fun and engaging ways.”

Sphero SPRK+ kits are available to FVRL cardholders. Don't have an FVRL card? Get your free library card at any one of FVRL's 25 locations.

Sphero SPRK+ launch events will be held at four FVRL locations. Please contact the library for more details.

- **Abbotsford Community Library:** Thursday, July 13, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
- **City of Langley Library:** Thursday, July 20, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **Maple Ridge Public Library:** Monday, July 24, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
- **George Mackie Library (North Delta):** Wednesday, July 26, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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## **About Fraser Valley Regional Library**

Fraser Valley Regional Library is the largest public library system in British Columbia, with 25 community libraries serving almost 700,000 people in its service area. Established in 1930, it is funded with taxes raised in the community it serves, plus a Government of BC operating grant. The governing Board consists of elected officials representing 15 member municipalities and regional districts. With its mission "to connect people to the world of information and ideas," FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

### **FVRL Member Libraries**

*Abbotsford Community*

*Boston Bar*

*Clearbrook*

*Hope*

*Maple Ridge*

*Muriel Arnason*

*Sardis*

*Walnut Grove*

*Yarrow*

*Agassiz*

*Brookwood*

*Fort Langley*

*Ladner Pioneer*

*Mission*

*Murrayville*

*Tsawwassen*

*White Rock*

*Aldergrove*

*Chilliwack*

*George Mackie*

*City of Langley*

*Mount Lehman*

*Pitt Meadows*

*Terry Fox*

*Yale*

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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