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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **FVRL LAUNCHES CUBETTO'S GRAND TOUR** *Friendly Wooden Robot Travels Fraser Valley to Teach Programming Basics*

[Abbotsford, BC] – Meet Cubetto, the friendly wooden robot that teaches computer programming basics to children. Cubetto is the newest addition to The Playground at FVRL – a collection of library items and experiences to foster STEAM learning (science, technology, engineer, arts and math). To celebrate Cubetto's debut, Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) is launching a grand tour! From April 23 to May 30, Cubetto will make stops at 14 library locations across the Fraser Valley and Lower Mainland.

Cubetto is the third programmable robot in the FVRL Playground. It follows on the success of two other robotic learning tools – the Sphero SPRK+ and the Ozobot Bit – both of which have been popular with library customers. Cubetto is special, however, because it is designed especially for children as young as three years old. The Cubetto robot, originally a Kickstarter project by Britain's Primo Toys, encourages imagination and exploration through stories and hands-on play. Kids control the robot's movements by placing coloured coding blocks on a wooden control panel. Cubetto has no screen, and there is no reading to do. Children use shapes and colour to learn the basics of coding, directions, logic and pattern recognition – skills and concepts that will help them succeed the digital economy of the future.

FVRL Customer Experience Director Heather Scoular explains: "Cubetto offers a fun first step into the world of computer programming. Because there's no computer screen, this is an ideal learning activity for our littlest coders." This screen-free philosophy is supported by the Canadian

Paediatric Society, which recommends limiting screen time for children under five years old and emphasizing learning in real-time interactions.

Cubetto is just the latest addition to the FVRL Playground, which includes a number of non-traditional lending collections and learning experiences. The Playground began in 2016 when FVRL received a donation of ukuleles from a local arts group. Since then, the Playground has grown to include programmable robots, telescopes, green screens, circuit boards and virtual reality experiences.

**Cubetto's Grand Tour is coming soon to a library near you! Visit FVRL's online [event database](#) for full schedule and details.**

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**Learn more about Cubetto at FVRL (Multimedia):**

- Learn about Cubetto, the newest addition to the FVRL Playground: [www.fvrl.ca/cubetto](http://www.fvrl.ca/cubetto)
- Meet Cubetto in this promotional video: <https://youtu.be/wSsQPf8JGOo>
- See attached artwork for FVRL Cubetto's Grand Tour. Please give photo credit to Fraser Valley Regional Library.

**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 communities 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 of "opening minds, enabling dreams," FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

**FVRL Member Libraries**

<i>Abbotsford Community</i>	<i>Agassiz</i>	<i>Aldergrove</i>
<i>Boston Bar</i>	<i>Brookwood</i>	<i>Chilliwack</i>
<i>Clearbrook</i>	<i>Fort Langley</i>	<i>George Mackie</i>
<i>Hope</i>	<i>Ladner Pioneer</i>	<i>City of Langley</i>
<i>Maple Ridge</i>	<i>Mission</i>	<i>Mount Lehman</i>
<i>Muriel Arnason</i>	<i>Murrayville</i>	<i>Pitt Meadows</i>
<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Tsawwassen</i>	<i>Terry Fox</i>
<i>Walnut Grove</i>	<i>White Rock</i>	<i>Yale</i>
<i>Yarrow</i>		

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

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