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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

A NEW KIND OF LITERACY IMMERSION IS COMING TO FVRL
Experience digital storytelling through virtual reality.

Abbotsford, B.C. – Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) expanded its Playground last fall to include virtual reality (VR) systems. Since its launch, hundreds of customers have put on a HTC VIVE headset and let the real world wash away.

FVRL is now set to use its VR systems to take literacy immersion to a completely new level. The library has partnered with Nanaimo-based digital storytelling company BradField Narrative Designs to offer youth library programs in the fall that feature the ongoing *Inanimate Alice* saga, an interactive digital novel, told in episodes, that includes the *Perpetual Nomads* virtual reality experience.

“FVRL has positioned itself to become a library leader by offering engaging STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) related learning through its Playground,” says Scott Hargrove, FVRL CEO. “Partnering with BradField Narrative Designs allows us to bridge literacy with technology in a way few have ever experienced.”

Inanimate Alice marries text with sound, dynamic imagery and gaming elements to create an ongoing experiential story that invites readers to take part in the world of Alice Field, a girl with a globe-trotting family. The stories are laced with themes that resonate with many of today’s youth, including striving to stay positive in the face of global upheaval and geographic displacement.

“The project represents a new genre in literature,” says Ian Harper, Series Producer. “*Inanimate Alice* offers an innovative approach to twenty-first century learning and literacies. We are excited to work with FVRL and bring this transmedia storytelling experience to local youth.”

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About Fraser Valley Regional Library

FVRL 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 "to connect people to the world of information and ideas," FVRL plays a prominent role in the communities throughout the Fraser Valley.

About Inanimate Alice

Inanimate Alice is the first great literary work of the digital age for young people. The sprawling, world-travelling, adventures of a girl dreaming of one day becoming a game designer has become an inspiration for teachers and students the world over. It is the first digital text selected for Australia's national, digitally-delivered curriculum and the first in Portugal's National Reading Plan. BC-ERAC's product review concludes "the interactive nature of this engaging story is instantly accessible to all levels of readers, and allows them to develop their media literacy skills while exploring a new novel format."

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

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