

Dear Reader,

It is my great pleasure to invite you to the *First Annual Stay Home, Read Gala* for the Wood Buffalo Regional Library.

My far-thinking friends at the Library came up with this brilliant idea for a fundraising Gala well before the circumstances that have us spending so much time at home with our books. Even then, the idea was perfect for people who love books. I've been to book festivals where we wore colour-coded badges based on our self-determined level of introversion. The scale ranged from "I'm perfectly happy sitting alone with my book" to "I don't mind spending a few minutes chatting about this amazing book." A fundraiser where you don't need the name tag because you get to stay home with a book is pure genius.

But, of course, our library is more than books. It connects our community through family programming, public Internet access and free educational resources such as language learning assistance for our incredibly diverse community. It helps preserve our local history and shares important information about Truth and Reconciliation. It is a safe and accessible champion for diversity and civil discourse, and everyone is welcome.

During the *Stay Home Read Gala*, I hope you will give generously to help the Wood Buffalo Regional Library support people of all ages, backgrounds and experiences connect with ideas in our home, Wood Buffalo.

Therese Greenwood