



Huron hosts award-winning author Thomas King at Huron1Read Capstone Event

London, ON - Huron University College welcomes public intellectual and award-winning author Thomas King to discuss his book *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative* with students and the London community at the Huron1Read capstone event on Wednesday, January 11 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Kingsmill Room at Huron University College.

The Huron1Read program was developed in 2015 as a way to introduce first-year students to academic life and further foster a sense of community among students, faculty and staff at Huron.

After a successful inaugural year, Huron1Read welcomed the class of 2020 with this year's selection, *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*. The reading was incorporated into Orientation Week and select first-year classes, and has provided students the chance to discuss topical themes such as identity, borders, and narrative. It is also an opportunity for Huron to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action for post-secondary education, which identifies "building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect" as a critical component of reconciliation.

Colleen Burgess, Huron's Associate Librarian says, "After a semester studying *The Truth About Stories*, students will take what they have learned beyond the classroom, engaging with King in a public question and answer forum. Members of the public and broader campus community are welcome to attend the event."

The Truth About Stories, which first took shape as the 2003 Massey Lectures, was awarded a 2003 Trillium Book Award. Beginning with Indigenous oral narratives, moving through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, Mr. King actively deconstructs and re-presents false notions of Indigeneity projected by White North America. *The Truth About Stories* demonstrates that stories are critical to human understanding, but equally important is active, engaged listening.

This Huron1Read program is generously supported by Huron University College Alumnus Doug Raymond, BA 1985.

Background

Thomas King is a Professor Emeritus of English at Guelph University, where he taught in the School of English and Theatre Studies. Mr. King published his first novel in 1990, and has since become an award-winning author, presenter, and radio-host. Notable works include children's book *A Coyote Columbus Story* (1992) and *Green Grass, Running Water* (1993) *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America* (2012), which won the 2014 RBC Taylor Prize. In 2003, Mr. King became the first Indigenous person to deliver the Massey Lectures, five lectures on one topic to various audiences across the country.