

Fact Sheet:

StoryBook Ottawa Inc./Livre de contes Ottawa Inc.

StoryBook Ottawa Inc./Livre de contes Ottawa Inc. is an Ottawa-based registered charity with the stated purpose, **“To advance education by providing books to students attending publicly-funded English and French elementary schools in low-income Ottawa neighbourhoods.”**

- Ottawa has a number of neighbourhoods that contain elementary schools attended by children from underrepresented, low-income, and racialized communities. These demographics can negatively affect children’s reading skills, resulting in as many as 50% of Grade 3 students not being able to read to the Provincial standard.
- Many of these families often cannot afford to buy books for their children, yet the number of books in the home is one of the greatest indicators of a child’s success, both academically and in life.
- StoryBook Ottawa partners with elementary schools in low-income Ottawa neighbourhoods to give **every child** in the school their very own book:
 1. We select four different books for each grade in the school which will have wide appeal.
 2. We create a book selection sheet for each grade. The sheets contain a picture of each book and a place for the child to make their selection.
 3. We purchase the books from Scholastic and The Spaniel’s Tale, a local bookseller.
 4. Inside each book we placed a sticker for the child to write their name, indicating that “This Book Belongs to...”, and a bookmark with reading tips.
 5. Each book is placed in a gift bag and the books are distributed by the school.
- StoryBook Ottawa’s approach is unique; each child **chooses their own book**, increasing their motivation to read, children **receive a new book**, creating a sense of ownership; and children **keep their book**, giving them the opportunity to practice reading at home. Many children receive their very first book from StoryBook Ottawa!
- In 2025-2026 StoryBook Ottawa will gift books to over 3,000 children in 13 elementary schools (Public, Catholic, and French). Our student survey indicates that 76% of the children read their new book.
- The average cost to purchase a book is \$10 per child; 98% of our donations goes to purchasing books!



"Getting my own book made me so happy! I read it every night." - Grade 3 Student

"Many of our families can't afford books. This gift means everything." - Ottawa Teacher