

BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT TO PROCLAIM 3rd BC BOOK DAY, APRIL 13th, 2016

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For Immediate Release

Book publishers in British Columbia are both versatile and tenacious as they adapt to shifts in the industry and broaden their activities, while continuing to create works that reflect their region, BC, Canada and the world back to their readers. Featuring voices both old and new, books by BC publishers share important stories, histories and insights. Winning national and international awards and exporting titles to markets throughout the globe, these activities support reading and writing communities and strengthen the creative economy of the province.

On April 13th, 2016 the Legislature will host the third annual BC Book Day. The Honourable Judith Guichon, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia; the Honourable Linda Reid, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia; and MLAs and their staff will meet with the province's publishers, authors, writers' festival directors, librarians and booksellers to enjoy BC books in both print and e-formats. Following the display, a proclamation declaring April 13th as BC Book Day will be read in the Legislature before it goes into session.

The day marks another yearly celebration of BC publishers and their accomplishments, of which there are many. Despite significant changes in the industry in recent years with the introduction of ebooks and the closure of many independent bookstores, over 30 publishing houses continue to operate throughout BC producing a collective title base of 10,059 active print ISBNs. To better share these works with librarians, booksellers and the public, on November 17, 2015 the Association of Book Publishers of BC, as directed by their member publishers, launched BC Books Online, a collection of over 8,500 BC-published books and ebooks available through a microsite powered by 49th Shelf.

Working with limited resources, BC publishers continue to find innovative ways of adding to their publishing programs. Caitlin Press launched the imprint Dagger Editions, which is dedicated solely to publishing Queer Women Voices; UBC Press launched the imprint Purich, which is committed to publishing books that contribute to our understanding of Aboriginal, social justice and Western Canadian issues; and Orca Book Publishers launched the series *Origins*, which explores traditions throughout the world. Royal BC Museum published its first children's book, *Aliens Among Us*, which museum patrons have received with enthusiasm.

These accomplishments haven't gone unnoticed as titles by BC publishers garner national and international accolade. *Little You* written by Richard Van Camp and illustrated by Julie Flett (Orca Book Publishers) won the American Indian Library Association's 2016 Picture Book Award; *Anna Carries Water* written by Olive Senior and illustrated by Laura James (Tradewind Books) was listed on the New York Public Libraries Best of 2014 list and on Kirkus Reviews 12 best Diverse books of 2014; and *When Everything Feels Like the Movies* by Raziel Reid was championed by Elaine Lui on CBC's Canada Reads 2015.

Located throughout the province, ABPBC members vary from presses large to small, each producing works that contribute to the cultural fabric of our country. BC is the home to the largest Aboriginal publishing company in Canada, Theytus Books, with firms such as Sono Nis Press and McKellar & Martin Publishing Group further sharing Aboriginal voices and stories. Orca Book Publishers in Victoria and Tradewind Books in Vancouver continue to produce award-winning children's titles. Companies such as Harbour Publishing, Greystone Books, Douglas & McIntyre, Caitlin Press and the Heritage Group of publishers have long contributed to our regional and national knowledge. Both Arsenal Pulp Press and Anvil Press in Vancouver are urban presses that focus on contemporary topics. Companies such as Oolichan Books in Fernie, and Talonbooks, Ronsdale Press and New Star Books in Vancouver continue their traditions of excellence in literary publishing. The University of British Columbia Press has one of the largest academic programs in the country

ABPBC publishers serve diverse communities: art lovers, business people, scholars, travelers, history buffs, foodies and gardeners, urban and rural dwellers, educators and kids, and book lovers everywhere. BC books are also translated and sold in over 90 countries including the US, UK, Australia, Germany and Vietnam. These titles can be found across the world bringing BC culture and literature to millions.

BC Book Day continues to offer an opportunity for communities in all parts of our province to share in the celebration of BC books and authors.

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