



Call for Entries to 2019 Victoria Book Prizes

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Submissions are now being accepted for the 2019 Victoria Book Prizes, which consist of the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the \$5,000 Victoria Children’s Book Prize. The Victoria Book Prize Society’s annual awards gala showcases the literary achievements of authors and illustrators who make Greater Victoria their home.

The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is awarded to a local author for the best book of fiction, literary non-fiction or poetry published in the preceding year. Established in 2004, this prize is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies.

“We’re fortunate to have a wealth of talented writers in our community and I’m excited to see what this year’s call will bring,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding literary achievements of local authors who make a tremendous contribution to our community.”

This year marks a change for the children’s book prize. The prize is awarded to an author or illustrator of children’s or youth literature and was established in 2008 by the late Mel Bolen of Bolen Books. In 2019, the prize will be awarded as the Victoria Children’s Book Prize, while the Society secures a new sponsor for the award beginning in 2020. Past winners of the Children’s Book Prize include Polly Horvath, Chris Tougas and Monique Gray Smith.

“We are grateful to Bolen Books for their vision in establishing the Children’s Book Prize, and we thank them for their support over the past 10 years,” said Victoria Book Prize Society President, Alyssa Polinsky. “Each year we receive a large number of submissions in the children’s category demonstrating the incredibly rich and diverse titles that are being written for young readers.”

The Victoria Book Prize Society is a volunteer-run organization that establishes the policy and criteria for the prizes, appoints the juries and administers the competitions. Two independent juries composed of representatives from the literary arts community review and assess the submissions.

Books must have been published between **April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2019**. The deadline for submissions is **May 22, 2019**. Shortlisted nominees for both prizes will be announced in September, and authors will be showcased at a gala held at the Union Club of British Columbia on **Wednesday, October 9, 2019**.

The Victoria Book Prize Society would like to thank and acknowledge the following organizations for their support: the City of Victoria, Brian Butler of Butler Brothers Supplies, the Union Club of British Columbia, the Magnolia Hotel and Spa, Chateau Victoria, the Inn at Laurel Point, Friesens Corporation, CBC Radio, Island Blue Print Co. and the Greater Victoria Public Library.

For applications and guidelines visit: victoriabookprizes.ca or victoria.ca.

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