



Call for Entries to 2020 Victoria Book Prizes

Date: Thursday, April 16, 2020

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Submissions are now being accepted for the 2020 Victoria Book Prizes, which consist of the \$5,000 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the \$5,000 City of 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 annual Victoria Book Prizes celebrate the creative works of local authors,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “Greater Victoria has become well known for its literary talent, and I’m sure this year’s submissions will be another collection of must reads.”

New for 2020, the Children’s Book Prize has been rebranded as the City of Victoria Children’s Book Prize. In fall 2019, Council approved a motion to provide an annual \$5,000 grant to the Victoria Book Prize Society for the Children’s Book Prize to recognize and celebrate exceptional children’s and youth literature in our community. This funding is in addition to the \$5,000 prize for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize. The prize was established in 2008 by the late Mel Bolen of Bolen Books.

“We are extremely grateful to the City of Victoria for stepping up and ensuring the Children’s Book Prize will continue,” said Victoria Book Prize Society President Alyssa Polinsky.

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.

Books must have been published between **April 1, 2019, and March 31, 2020**. The deadline for submissions is **May 22, 2020**. 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 **Thursday, October 8, 2020**.

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.

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, Munro’s Books, Russell Books, Tanner’s Books, Ivy’s Bookshop, 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 more information including submission forms and guidelines, visit www.victoriabookprizes.ca.

ATTACHMENT:

Photo of Brian Butler and Mayor Lisa Helps at the 2019 Victoria Book Prizes Announcement Gala, Photo credit: Victoria Book Prize Society

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For More Information:

Connor Tice
Arts, Culture and Events Liaison
Arts, Culture & Events Office
250.361.0308
ctice@victoria.ca

Alyssa Polinsky
President
Victoria Book Prize Society
250.893.1311
victoriabookprizes@shaw.ca