

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



April 30th, 2024

The Association of Book Publishers of BC to honour Medicine Wheel Publishing and Marisa Alps at bi-annual awards ceremony

VANCOUVER — The Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia (Books BC) is pleased to announce the 2024 recipients of two awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the province's publishing industry. Medicine Wheel Publishing will receive the Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award, and Marisa Alps will receive the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award. The recipients will be honoured at an industry reception to be held in Vancouver on May 8, 2024.

The Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award



Medicine Wheel Publishing is the recipient of the 2024 Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award. Medicine Wheel Publishing produces acclaimed, culturally authentic Indigenous books, resources, and tools tailored for moral and cultural education. Featured on CBC Books, referenced in the House of Commons, and showcased on national television, Medicine Wheel Publishing was established by Teddy Anderson (Yeṽ#l S,Äôaghi), a multicultural individual and adopted member of the Carcross Tagish First Nations of the Tlingit Community. As of 2022, Medicine Wheel Publishing benefits from the guidance of an Indigenous Elders,Äô and Educators,Äô Council, comprising knowledgeable members of the Indigenous community.

Medicine Wheel Publishing has donated over 15,000 books to Indigenous schools and communities and provided over \$300,000 in donations or discounts to Indigenous communities, teachers, social workers, and more.

The Jim Douglas Publisher of the Year Award is presented when appropriate by Books BC to an active BC book publishing company that has, in recent times, earned the respect and applause of the community of publishers for a specific publishing project, an extraordinary contribution to the BC publishing community, and/or its extended commitment to excellence in publishing.

The Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award



Marisa Alps is the recipient of the 2024 Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award. Alps is a 30-year veteran of the publishing industry, with 28 years at Harbour Publishing, Nightwood Editions, then Douglas & McIntyre and now Artistic Director of the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts. Her commitment to BC authors and their books is shown in the countless hours she has poured into supporting them, with just as many hours spent on advocacy and mentoring newcomers to the industry. It is estimated that Alps has trained over a hundred interns and co-op students over the years, many who are still working in the industry.

Named for the pioneering publisher and founder of Gray's Publishing, the Gray Campbell Distinguished Service Award is presented bi-annually by Books BC to an individual or individuals who have made a significant contribution to the book publishing industry in the province.

Founded in 1974, the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia (Books BC) represents 26 BC-owned companies. Books BC supports the aspirations and activities of its membership through cultural, economic, and political initiatives and engages book-related communities in British Columbia, Canada, and beyond. For more information, visit books.bc.ca.

Books BC's Annual Publishing Awards Night takes place on the unceded traditional territories of the Squamish (Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw), Tsleil-Waututh (səl'ílw'ətaʔt), and Musqueam (xwməθkwəyəm) Nations. Books BC thanks our event sponsors, Marquis and Friesens. Books BC also acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund, the Canada Council for the Arts, BC Arts Council, the Province of British Columbia through Creative BC, and the City of Vancouver for our activities.

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