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The Royal BC Museum's *Family* book wins two North American design awards

VICTORIA, BC—The Royal BC Museum's 2017 book, *The Language of Family: Stories of Bonds and Belonging*, continues to generate buzz and accolades, winning two awards in the 2018 PubWest Book Design Awards competition today: Gold Award, Adult Trade—Illustrated, and the Judges' Choice Award.

The PubWest Design Awards were developed 34 years ago to recognize superior design and outstanding production quality of books, e-books and **book mobile apps in 25 categories, as well as an overall Judges' Choice Award** selected from among the winners in each category. Entries are submitted from across North America.

"The Royal BC Museum's publishing wing produces works that are prized by scholars, the general public and the book publishing industry alike," said Royal BC Museum CEO Prof. Jack Lohman. "It is wonderful that this prestigious competition has recognized a Royal BC Museum book for its aesthetic excellence, which is as impressive as its literary impact."

Earlier this year, *The Language of Family* designer Lara Minja received second prize in the Prose Illustrated category from the Alcuin Society Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada, competing against 234 other entries from across the country.

"My intention in designing *The Language of Family* was to create something that would visually support the content in eliciting an emotional response—something warm, inviting, symbolic, human and tactile," said Minja. "I am delighted that readers are responding to this contemplative book so **positively.**"

As an Alcuin Society award winner, *The Language of Family* will be entered in the international book design competition in February 2019 in Leipzig, Germany. The winning books will be displayed at various international and national venues throughout the year, including the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and The National Gallery of Canada Library.

The Language of Family, originally conceived as a companion piece to the 2017 Royal BC Museum feature exhibition, *Family: Bonds and Belonging*, has been recognized for more than its excellence of design.

For her work on the book, Royal BC Museum publisher Michelle van der Merwe was a finalist for the Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence, issued by the **Editors' Association of Canada**. *The Language of Family* was also nominated for the 2018 George Ryga Award for its role in promoting social awareness.



The Language of Family is available for purchase at local bookstores, at the Royal Museum Shop (on the ground floor of the Royal BC Museum) and online through the Royal BC Museum:

publications.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/product/the-language-of-family-stories-of-bonds-and-belonging/.

The Royal BC Museum has been publishing works about the human history and natural history of BC since 1891.

About the Royal BC Museum

The Royal BC Museum explores the province’s human history and natural history, advances new knowledge and understanding of BC, and provides a dynamic forum for discussion and a place for reflection. The museum and archives celebrate culture and history, telling the stories of BC in ways that enlighten, stimulate and inspire. Located in Victoria on the traditional territory of the Lekwungen (Songhees and Xwsepsum Nations), we are a hub of community connections in BC—onsite, offsite and online—taking pride in our collective histories.

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