



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

---

**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
**From:** Councillor Loveday, Councillor Thornton-Joe, Mayor Helps, and Councillor Isitt  
**Subject:** Providing Stable Funding for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the Children's Book Prize

---

**BACKGROUND**

The Victoria Book Prize Society acknowledges and celebrates members of the extraordinarily accomplished writing community in Greater Victoria and the readers who support them. The Society awards two prizes, one for an adult book and one for a children's book, each October at a gala that is a highlight of the local literary calendar. Both prizes encompass all genres—fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

The Victoria Book Prize Society is a volunteer-run organization that establishes the policy and criteria for the prizes, administers the competitions, appoints the independent juries and organizes the celebratory gala. The Society has administered the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize since 2004 and has an excellent track record of delivering a transparent awards process and raising the profile of local writers.

The Children's Book Prize is awarded to an author or illustrator of children's or youth literature. Children's literature educates and entertains young people while helping promote diversity and inclusion. Past winners of the Children's Book Prize showcase the breadth of literature in this category and include Polly Horvath for a work of fiction, Chris Tougas for a fun picture book and Monique Gray Smith for a timely work of non-fiction aimed at middle grade students. Since its inception, the Children's Book Prize has been supported through private sponsorship, that sponsorship has become unstable, and it would now be beneficial for the City of Victoria to step in and provide funding.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Council provide an annual \$5,000 grant to the Victoria Book Prize Society for the Children's Book Prize beginning in 2020, and in perpetuity, to recognize and celebrate exceptional children's and youth literature in our community. This funding would be in addition to the \$5,000 prize for the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and would allow for both awards to be branded as "City of Victoria" prizes.

And That Council direct staff to work with the Victoria Book Prize Society to rebrand the Children's Book Prize as the City of Victoria Children's Book Prize.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Loveday



Councillor Thornton-Joe



Mayor Helps



Councillor Isitt