



North Vancouver District  
Public Library

Connecting Community. Sharing Knowledge. Inspiring Stories.

# Inspiring Stories

April 2019

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the North Shore Writers Festival

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the North Shore Writers Festival took place on April 5 and 6 at Lynn Valley Library. Squamish and Nanaimo Nations Elder Sam Seward facilitated a special welcoming ceremony to officially open the festival, complete with fresh bannock for attendees!

Highlights for this year's anniversary celebration included award-winning Cree, Lakota and Scottish author Monique Gray Smith sharing her personal journey as a storyteller and the process of writing her latest YA book *Tilly and the Crazy Eights*; award-winning Audiobook Narrator Erin Moon discussing the art of becoming a narrator and developing an audiobook; Vancouver-based author and Canada Reads 2019 finalist Lindsay Wong in conversation with JJ Lee on her darkly comedic memoir *The Woo-Woo: How I Survived Ice Hockey, Drug Raids, Demons, and My Crazy Chinese Family*; and Cree author Darrel McLeod in conversation with Alexander Dirksen on his 2018 Governor General award-winning memoir *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age* and how storytelling can help build strength and resilience. Rounding out the festival line-up was a North Shore Writers' Association workshop on Finding Your Audience, a Literary Trivia Quiz Night hosted by CBC's Grant Lawrence (NVDPL's team won for the 5th year in a row!), a book fair featuring local authors, a free lunch break lounge and Writers Café, and closing reception with JJ Lee.

At the Writers and Readers reception, festival-goers were joined by local officials and community members, to hear from festival originator Sarah Ellis, longtime NVDPL librarian and award-winning children's author, on her impetus for starting the festival and how she has enjoyed seeing it evolve after all these years. Director of Library Services, Jacqueline van Dyk, closed out the festival with an announcement on behalf of the three North Shore Library Systems: a brand new partnership initiative to support local authors, called the North Shore Authors Collection.

### We're hearing great feedback:

- "Thank you for having me as a guest author and for the beautiful way I was welcomed! I had an amazing time and am very grateful to have been invited!" - Author Monique Gray Smith
- "Thank you for offering such a valuable, insightful, and creative opportunity and experience." - Festival attendee
- "Please continue the festival- it pushed me to keep the faith with my journey in writing." - Festival attendee
- "This event was so well organized and thought out. Every one of the speakers were so interesting- it was exciting!" - Festival attendee

More photos on the back page!



