

From: ["Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>](mailto:Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca)
To: ["Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"](#)
Date: 11/19/2021 9:00:06 AM
Subject: [Upcoming IB: Winners of the Vancouver Book Awards and next Poet Laureate \(November 20, 2021\)](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to inform you that the City will be issuing the below information bulletin announcing the winners of the Vancouver Book Awards and the next Poet Laureate to be released Saturday at 4 pm following the livestream of the Vancouver Book Awards. Please keep this information embargoed until it has been announced. There will be corresponding social media posts and I encourage you to re-share them on your personal channels.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x^mməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

City of Vancouver
Information Bulletin
November 20, 2021

Catherine B. Clement and Michelle Good winners of the Vancouver Book Awards; Fiona Tinwei Lam named new Poet Laureate

The City of Vancouver is excited to announce Catherine B. Clement's *Chinatown Through a Wide Lens: The Hidden Photographs of Yucho Chow* and Michelle Good's *Five Little Indians* are the winners of the 2020 and 2021 Vancouver Book Awards. Adding to the excitement is the naming of Vancouver's next Poet Laureate, Fiona Tinwei Lam.

The Book Award winners and new Poet Laureate were announced this afternoon at a hybrid event livestreamed from the Vancouver Public Library's Central Branch.

The winning books

- **Catherine B. Clement for *Chinatown Through a Wide Lens: The Hidden Photographs of Yucho Chow*** (Chinese Canadian Historical Society of BC) **2020 Winner**
Clement's book showcases the long-hidden work of Vancouver's first and most prolific Chinese photographer. For almost 80 years, Yucho Chow's affordable and friendly studio in Chinatown opened its doors to everyone. He captured the faces of many early marginalized communities

denied service by white photographers. Collected over 10 years from private, family collections, these aging images are visual evidence of the diverse communities that once turned to Vancouver's Chinatown for acceptance and services during a time of enormous racism.

□ **Michelle Good for *Five Little Indians* (Harper Collins) 2021 Winner**

Five Little Indians tells the story of how the paths of five friends cross and crisscross over decades as they struggle to overcome, or at least forget, the trauma they endured during their years at the Mission - a remote, church-run residential school. The teens find their way to the foreign world of Downtown Eastside Vancouver, where they cling together, striving to find a place of safety and belonging in a world that doesn't want them. Good chronicles, with compassion and insight, the desperate quest of these residential school survivors to come to terms with their past and ultimately find a way forward.

To learn more about the Vancouver Book Awards, including the 2020 and 2021 shortlist and information about the selection committee, [visit our website](#).

The Poet Laureate

Fiona Tinwei Lam has authored three poetry collections and a children's book and collaborated on award-winning poetry videos that have screened at festivals internationally. She also edited the anthology, *The Bright Well: Contemporary Canadian Poems on Facing Cancer*, and her work appears in over 40 anthologies. She currently teaches at SFU's Continuing Studies.

As Vancouver's new Poet Laureate, Tinwei Lam hopes to build on the legacy of her predecessors and over the next two years, through community outreach, will encourage a new generation of poems and poetry videos related to the many significant historical, cultural and ecological sites within Vancouver and on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkəᶇvəmə (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations

To learn more about Vancouver's Poet Laureate, [visit our website](#).

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