



## Media Release

September 28, 2017

### **Alberta's Book Publishers Renew Call for an Alberta Book Publishers Fund**

**Alberta** – The book publishing industry in Alberta has renewed its call to the Government of Alberta to implement the proposed Alberta Book Publishers Fund (ABPF), which was designed by the Province in the early 2000s, but has still never been funded.

Over that same period, Alberta's film and television industry has proved the benefits of consistent and sizable investment in Alberta's cultural industries, leveraging aggressive investment made through the Alberta Media Fund to deliver impressive economic impacts and job creation.

Alberta has missed out on magnifying the benefits of its investment in innovation by focusing on growing its investment on a single cultural industry, while other provinces have reaped the benefits of including book publishing in their strategies. Over the past 15 years, Alberta's book publishers and their assets have left the province in significant numbers in response to the competitive advantages offered by British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec and other provinces.

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) points to the aggressive and successful funding approaches taken by other provinces—including BC, Ontario and Quebec—that have captured key Alberta publishing companies and assets and grown their own industries during this same period.

“Even Nova Scotia has found the resources to more than quintuple its support to book publishers since 2016,” says BPAA President Alexander Finbow. “It makes sense for Alberta to begin now to consolidate and grow this essential contributor to a mature community. Book publishing is part of the solution to Alberta's economic and diversification challenges.”

The proposed ABPF would invest \$15 million over 3 years in Alberta's book publishing industry.

“We greatly appreciate the support our industry now receives from the Province of Alberta,” says Finbow. “We will continue our advocacy for the creation of an Alberta Book Publishers Fund so that Alberta’s book publishers can continue to make a significant contribution to the cultural substance in our province and country.” Over the coming weeks, members of the BPAA will be meeting again with decision makers and other stakeholders to promote the opportunities represented by the proposed ABPF.

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Background:  
Alberta Book Publishers Fund Proposal

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