

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Sigmund Brouwer wins \$10,000 EPL Alberta Readers' Choice Award for 'Thief of Glory'

Winning book written by Brouwer as a way to learn and honour the story of his parents

EDMONTON, AB, September 18, 2015 – A World War II drama featuring a boy's coming of age in a time of war and the love that inspires him to survive is the winner of the \$10,000 2015 Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award.

Thief of Glory was written by Red Deer native Sigmund Brouwer and published by Waterbook Press. The story was inspired by Brouwer's parents, especially his father's boyhood in a Japanese concentration camp in the Dutch East Indies.

The Edmonton Public Library ARC Award, one of North America's richest literary prizes, is awarded annually for the best fiction or narrative non-fiction book written by an Alberta author. Now in its sixth year, the award recognizes exceptional writing in Alberta and encourages readers to support local authors.

Alberta readers were asked to vote for their favourite book and author throughout July and August after a jury released a shortlist of five finalists. A total of 2,610 votes poured in, a 40 per cent increase over last year's votes and the highest number logged since the award was initiated.

Jeff Reynolds, Vice-Chair of the EPL Board of Trustees, presented the award at the 2015 Alberta Book Awards Gala, hosted by the Writers' Guild of Alberta and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, at Fort Edmonton Park.

"The incredible writing talent we have in Alberta deserves to be acknowledged, and it is wonderful to see interest in both submitting and voting for titles continue to grow each and every year," said Pilar Martinez, CEO of EPL.

The other four finalists for the 2015 ARC Award were:

- *The Social Life of Ink*, by Ted Bishop (Penguin Canada Books Inc.)
- *Winterkill*, by Kate A. Boorman (Abrams/Amulet)
- *Who by Fire*, by Fred Stenson (Doubleday Canada)
- *Come Back*, by Rudy Wiebe (Penguin Random House Canada/Knopf Canada)

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Thief of Glory has also been awarded the 2014 Lime Award for Historical Fiction and two 2015 Christy Awards for Book of the Year and Historical Romance. It was also named a 2015 INSPYs Shortlist Nominee for General Fiction. Brouwer, married to recording artist Cindy Morgan and father to two daughters, is the best-selling author of nearly 30 novels, with close to 4 million books in print.

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About the Alberta Readers' Choice Award

The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is presented by the Edmonton Public Library (EPL). Currently in its sixth year, the ARC Award promotes literacy and reading to Albertans by highlighting the unique and talented writers residing in our province. The \$10,000 prize, sponsored by EPL, goes to the author of the winning title as voted on by the reading public. The ARC Award is one of the largest literary prizes offered in Alberta and is comparable to many national literary awards. For more information about the ARC Award, visit www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice.

About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is proud to be [2014 Library of the Year!](#) We've come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we're just getting started! Today, EPL carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. The second most visited place in Edmonton, every year EPL hosts over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 19 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value – that is today's EPL. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. www.epl.ca/donate.

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