

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2021

**GREG
YOUNGING
ENDOWMENT
FUND****SFU PUBLISHING ANNOUNCES THE GREG YOUNGING
PUBLISHING AWARD ENDOWMENT**

It is with great pride and pleasure that the SFU Publishing Program announces the establishment of The Greg Younging Publishing Award Endowment. The endowment will create a fully funded opportunity for an Indigenous student to complete the Master of Publishing (MPub) degree at Simon Fraser University.

This award honours Dr. Gregory Younging, who was the first Indigenous graduate of the MPub.

It was during his studies at SFU that Greg began his work on what would become the influential book, *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guidebook for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples*. The guide is fast becoming a staple for writers, editors, and publishers throughout North America.

"Greg was a huge presence in publishing in Canada. We worked very closely with him here at SFU and following his passing on May 3, 2019 we knew we wanted to establish something lasting that would further his life's work, which was to build a stronger Indigenous publishing infrastructure in Canada. Greg was very aware of the opportunities that education can provide, and we hope this endowment will be one of those opportunities. Having the support of publishers from across the country has been affirming. We are thrilled to announce today our first multi-year commitment: a three-year, \$45,000 donation from Penguin Random House of Canada," said Suzanne Norman, industry liaison of the SFU Publishing Program.

The endowment will be built over the next three years, with the goal of welcoming the first award recipient in fall, 2025.

The Master of Publishing Program is an 18-month professional program comprising academic and professional experiential learning. It was founded 25 years ago in consultation with members of the Canadian publishing industry which continues to strongly support the program's students through hosting professional placements and as new hires, as well as teaching as guest faculty and serving on advisory boards and funding projects. Applications to the MPub close each Feb 1, with successful applicants beginning their studies that fall.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Norman snorman@sfu.ca.

PUBLISHING@SFU

515 West Hastings St. Vancouver BC Canada V6B 5K3

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PUBLISHING AWARD ENDOWMENT****About Greg Younging**

Dr. Greg Younging was a nationally and internationally renowned expert on Indigenous publishing and a tireless voice and advocate for raising Indigenous voices in Canada.

He is perhaps more broadly known for his book, "Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guidebook for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples", which is fast becoming a staple for writers, editors, and publishers throughout North America.

His reputation in Canada as a leading scholar in Indigenous Studies often led him to take on important but sometimes very difficult work, including as Assistant Director of Research for the Canadian federal government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada.

Greg's passion for making more space for Indigenous writing and publishing led him to complete a PhD focusing on copyright and Indigenous stories. At the time of his death on May 3, 2019 he was a professor and co-ordinator of the Indigenous Studies Program at the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at the University of British Columbia-Okanagan.

A member of the Opsakwayak Cree Nation, Greg was the managing editor of Theytus Books, Canada's oldest fully owned Indigenous Publisher from 1990 to 2003, returning to the role in 2016 until his passing.

He has worked for a number of organizations including: The Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples, Assembly of First Nations, Committee of Inquiry into Indian Education, Native Women's Association of Canada. He was member of the Aboriginal Arts Advisory Committee of the Canada Council (1997-2001) and the British Columbia Arts Council (1999-2001).

As a professor at the University of British Columbia Okanagan, Greg had a profound impact on the university. He published numerous works, including nonfiction and poetry.

For more information on how to support The Greg Younging Publishing Award Endowment please contact Suzanne Norman, snorman@sfu.ca. Those interested in donating directly can visit the SFU Publishing website or send donations (cheques only at this time) to

The Greg Younging Publishing Award Endowment c/o The SFU Publishing Program 3573 - 515 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC. V6B 5K3

Make cheques payable to Simon Fraser University. Tax receipts will be issued.

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