

UBC PRESS ACQUIRES PURICH PUBLISHING

December 8, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Purich Publishing Ltd. and UBC Press are pleased to announce that, effective December 1, 2015, UBC Press has acquired Purich’s publishing assets.

Founded in 1992, Purich Publishing has been at the vanguard of publishing books on Aboriginal law, social justice, and western Canadian issues. Over the years, its owners-- Don Purich, a lawyer and the former director of the University of Saskatchewan Native Law Centre, and Karen Bolstad, also a former practicing lawyer -- built a strong reputation for working closely with authors to select and develop works that offer uniquely important perspectives on topics including, Indigenous law, identity, youth justice, the duty to consult, Indigenous health and education, and nationhood.

“Don and Karen have created an impressive publishing program, and my colleagues and I are delighted to welcome Purich authors and their books to UBC Press,” says Melissa Pitts, director of UBC Press. “The Purich list is a perfect complement to the Press’s existing strengths in Indigenous Studies, but its broader scope and more socially activist focus will push UBC Press to the forefront of this immensely important and intellectually vital publishing area.”

“After 23 years of publishing important and leading edge books, and working with many wonderful authors and editors, the time has come for us to move on to the next phase of our lives,” Don Purich said. “In doing so we wanted to ensure a good home for our current and future authors.”

“We have had many opportunities to work with UBC Press” said Karen Bolstad. “Their former director was a mentor to us, they have sent titles to us, and we have referred authors to them. I am confident we’ve found the right home for our authors, and we are looking forward to our new relationship with everyone at UBC Press,” she said.

As part of the acquisitions agreement, Purich and Bolstad will step back from their role as full-time publishers, but will continue to offer guidance as consultants to the soon-to-be launched UBC Press Purich imprint.

Graeme Wynn, the chair of the UBC Press Publications Board, is also enthusiastic about the Purich acquisition, commenting “This is an exciting step forward for UBC Press, enhancing our already significant publishing presence in Indigenous Studies, diversifying our list, and sharpening our focus on issues of significant importance to Canada”

UBC’s newly created Institute for Critical Indigenous Studies provided additional support for the purchase. Says Daniel Heath Justice, Chair of the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program at UBC and a member of the UBC Press Publications Board, “This agreement affirms UBC’s profile and prominence as a leading site for trail-cutting Indigenous Studies research and publishing in North America.”

For more information, please contact Melissa Pitts at pitts@ubcpress.ca or 604-822-6376 or Don Purich or Karen Bolstad at purich@sasktel.net or 306-373-5311.