

## ***Five Little Indians* Voted as the 2021 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™ Winner**

*Readers across Ontario vote for the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction*

### **NEWS RELEASE**

**TORONTO, ON** (October 18, 2021) – After months of reading the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for adults, readers from over 85 Ontario libraries have chosen Michelle Good’s *Five Little Indians* (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd) as this year’s Evergreen Award winner.

“Michelle Good’s novel, *Five Little Indians*, illustrates how fiction can help us cultivate empathy, arrive at understanding, and seek truth. This story helps us understand the deep and real harms committed by the Canadian residential school system, and the ongoing impacts of those harms on Indigenous people today,” says Erin Kernohan-Berning, chair, Evergreen Award Committee. “That *Five Little Indians* has been voted this year’s Evergreen Award winner by readers demonstrates that Indigenous stories are important, and I hope that readers continue to learn from and elevate these stories. I am pleased to welcome Michelle Good to the list of Evergreen Award-winning authors.”

Readers are invited to attend the 2021 Evergreen Award™ Winner in Conversation event with Michelle Good, presented virtually as part of the 42nd edition of the Toronto International Festival of Authors on October 22 at 2:30 p.m. EDT. Learn more and [register for free](#).

The Evergreen Award program is designed for adults, comprised of the best titles in Canadian fiction and non-fiction, and run through book clubs, public libraries, and other community forums. It is one of ten programs that form the Forest of Reading, Canada’s largest recreational reading program of its kind. A committee of library professionals chooses the nominated titles that are announced every January. Votes are tallied for the award in the month of September.

**About *Five Little Indians*:** Taken from their families when they are very small and sent to a remote, church-run residential school, Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Howie and Maisie are barely out of childhood when they are finally released after years of detention. Alone and without any skills, support or families, the teens find their way to the seedy and 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. The paths of the five friends cross and crisscross over the decades as they struggle to overcome, or at least forget, the trauma they endured during their years at the Mission. With compassion and insight, *Five Little Indians* chronicles the desperate quest of these residential school survivors to come to terms with their past and, ultimately, find a way forward.

– 30 –

The Forest of Reading program is a national program and was created in 1995 as a project of the [Ontario Library Association \(OLA\)](#). The OLA is a centre of excellence for the library and information

sector, with 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

**[Tinlids Inc.](#)** is the official wholesaler for the 2022 Forest of Reading program.

The **[Toronto International Festival of Authors](#)** (TIFA) inspires, empowers and connects through the art of stories, offering book lovers a breadth of bold, ambitious and accessible literary experiences. As Canada's largest literary festival, the charitable organization provides engaging opportunities to meet, hear and learn from the world's best contemporary writers and thinkers, and to celebrate the power of stories. Since 1974, TIFA has presented thousands of authors, including 22 Nobel Laureates, who represent diverse perspectives and a range of literary genres for all ages. TIFA's creative programmes continue to adapt to changing times, capturing the most innovative and enlightening forms of storytelling, on stage and online. Alongside the flagship Festival, TIFA delivers a year-round programme of events and activities that reflect Toronto to its residents, its literature to the nation, and its creative ambition to the world. TIFA will celebrate the 42nd edition of the Festival from October 21–31, 2021.

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