

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



UBC Press Named Benetech Global Certified Accessible™ Publisher

Publisher achieves Global Certified Accessible designation through eBOUND Canada's Accessible Certification Program

(Vancouver BC, April 21, 2022) UBC Press is now a Benetech Global Certified Accessible™ (GCA) publisher. [Benetech](#), a nonprofit that empowers communities with software for social good, issues this accreditation to those publishers who produce EPUBs that meet a full range of accessibility features required to support the needs of all readers, including those with disabilities and learning differences. UBC Press completed certification through eBOUND Canada, a not-for-profit that enables independent Canadian publishers to engage in the digital marketplace.

For production editors Katrina Petrik and Meagan Dyer, who took the lead in pursuing the certification, “Reaching the highest level of accessibility has been an ambition years in the making. Encouraging the democratic exchange of ideas means ensuring *all* readers are able to participate in the discourse. We believe the features of accessible EPUBs not only support equal access but also enhance the reading experience for everyone.”

Melissa Pitts, director of UBC Press, adds, “As publishers we have a responsibility to our authors, and to our audiences, to make UBC Press publications accessible to the most inclusive range of readers possible. I am grateful to Katrina and Meagan, and everyone involved, for this significant achievement in support of that goal.”

“All digital content can – and should – be born accessible,” said Brad Turner, Vice President and General Manager of Global Education and Literacy at Benetech. “Readers can select UBC Press’s Global Certified Accessible ebooks trusting that they meet a wide range of accessibility needs.”

[Benetech’s GCA publisher certification program](#) is the first ever, third-party EPUB certification program to verify ebook accessibility. UBC Press demonstrated that it could consistently produce files in accordance with Benetech’s GCA certification standard, meeting the EPUB Accessibility 1.0 Conformance and Discovery specification and exceeding a publishing standard level of WCAG 2.0 AA. Benetech recognizes UBC Press as a creator of fully accessible EPUBs. eBOUND Canada, a GCA international partner, completed the evaluation.

“eBOUND believes that all content born digital, should be born accessible so that all people can have access to all content. As such, eBOUND is delighted to have formed a partnership with Benetech to support our Canadian independent publisher clients as they go through the important process of having all content born accessible. eBOUND’s goal is to have 80%+ of our

publishing clients producing accessible content by 2024, supporting the goal of the Department of Canadian Heritage, who's generous support has made this work possible" said Deborah Nelson, CEO of eBOUND Canada.

To learn more about Benetech's Global Certified Accessible Program visit:
<http://bornaccessible.benetech.org>

About UBC Press

UBC Press, and its imprints On Point Press and Purich Books, produces books integral to Canada's cultural, political, and social fabric. Established in 1971, the Press publishes sophisticated and transformative works by authors whose thought and research pushes the boundaries of conventional discourse and makes a vital contribution to discourse across the knowledge commons.

About eBOUND

eBOUND Canada is a not for profit organization that works with Canadian independent publishers to help them navigate and compete in the digital landscape. Accessible content creation is foundational to the work eBOUND does.

About Benetech

Benetech is a nonprofit dedicated to reducing social and economic inequity in partnership with the communities that we serve through software for social good. Benetech's initiatives are transforming how students, jobseekers, and older adults across the globe read, learn, and work. Benetech believes that access to information is a human right, and no person should encounter barriers to education, literacy, or employment due to differences or disability. Visit www.benetech.org

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