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Alberta Magazine Publishers Association
1721 29 Ave SW Suite 420
Calgary, AB T2T 6T7

Re: Nomination of Mila Bongco-Philipzig for Editor of the Year

Dear Alberta Magazine Publishers Association Jury,

As the founder of The Polyglot, I am honoured to nominate Mila Bongco-Philipzig for Editor of the Year. Her work on The Polyglot's special issue celebrating artists and writers of Philippine heritage was nothing short of visionary. This issue, which Mila brought to life with dedication and passion, marked a milestone for our magazine and for Edmonton's literary and artistic communities.

People of Philippine heritage represent the largest immigrant language group in Edmonton, yet, as my PhD research has shown, heritage languages are at risk of disappearing within 1–3 generations of immigration to Canada. Mila understood the importance of addressing this loss and worked tirelessly to ensure that this special issue was more than just a publication; it was a statement on the vitality and necessity of heritage language maintenance. She forged a key partnership between The Polyglot and the Philippine Edmonton Events and Arts Society (PHIDEAS), amplifying voices often unheard in mainstream literary spaces.

As guest editor, Mila meticulously selected contributors, curated the issue's flow, and worked closely with writers and artists in Canada, the U.S., and the Philippines. She navigated the complexities of multilingual and multicultural storytelling with care and expertise. She even secured funding by applying for a City of Edmonton Anti-Racism grant, ensuring that this issue was not only published but also compensated and celebrated in a way that reflected its significance. Mila went beyond editorial duties: she planned and hosted the issue's very



successful and well-attended launch at LitFest, giving the contributors and their work the platform they deserved.

Mila's editorial leadership extends beyond this single issue (she has also been a mentor and editor for our 2024 chapbook by Candice Joy Oliva, ISARO). She embodies the fusion of arts and heritage, creating spaces for linguistic and cultural hybridity to thrive. Her editorial work highlighted incredible Alberta writers like Ryan Lacanilao, Giselle General, and Ting Pimentel-Elger, who write in or fuse their Philippine heritage languages—Tagalog, Bikol, and more—into their work. We at The Polyglot continue to admire Mila's ability to uplift these voices, and we hope that she is recognized with this award.

Mila Bongco-Philipzig exemplifies what it means to be an outstanding editor, not only for her skill in curating and shaping a publication but for her commitment to meaningful representation and cultural preservation. I wholeheartedly support her nomination for Editor of the Year and hope that her invaluable contributions to Alberta's literary landscape will be recognized.

Sincerely,

Adriana Oniță

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