

NEWS RELEASE
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I AM HUTTERITE WINS NON-FICTION AWARD AT SASKATCHEWAN BOOK AWARDS

The 2007 winners of the Saskatchewan Book Awards were announced on Saturday, November 24th at the 15th annual Awards Gala in Regina. *I Am Hutterite* by Mary-Ann Kirkby, won the award presented to a Saskatchewan author for the best non-fiction book, judged on the quality of writing. The book was also short-listed as Best First Book at the Awards.

"We never had radio or television on the colony," said Kirkby in her acceptance speech to an enthusiastic crowd of more than 400 authors, publishers and book lovers at the Conexus Arts Centre. "Story-telling was our entertainment; we learned it at our mother's knee."

The jurors described *I Am Hutterite* as "a superb memoir that takes us into the hidden heart of a prairie Hutterite colony. In a style both sparing and supple, Mary-Ann Kirkby conjures up both the warmth and simplicity of Hutterite life and the pain of leaving it. This has the makings of a prairie classic."

I Am Hutterite was released in June 2007 by Polka Dot Press and is now a Canadian best-seller. "We left a conflict; we didn't leave a culture," says Kirkby, who had to come to terms with the heart-breaking circumstances that led her family to leave the colony and begin a new life. "The book's popularity and the public's positive response are deeply satisfying," she adds. "At last the outside world has a window into the hearts and minds of Hutterite people." *I Am Hutterite* is available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Chapters, Coles and other fine independent bookstores across Canada.

For more information call: 306-922-3721

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