

BC Libraries Present: Carol Off

This is a virtual event

Date September 25, 2025

Time 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm

Location Online via Crowdcast

Event type [Authors & writers](#)

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Event overview

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As co-host of CBC Radio's *As It Happens* for a decade and a half, Carol Off interviewed over 25,000 people, giving her a unique vantage point on this era of increasing polarization. In her bestselling book *At A Loss for Words*, she explores how language has been distorted and weaponized, and what happens when we lose our shared meaning for words like democracy, freedom and truth.

For the first event of the BC Libraries Present season, Carol Off will appear in conversation with Aftab Erfan, Executive Director of SFU Centre for Dialogue.

Carol Off (she/her) is a journalist who co-hosted the multi-award-winning CBC radio program, *As It Happens*, for almost sixteen years. Before that, she covered news and current affairs in Canada and around the world. As a radio correspondent, she reported on politics in Ottawa and Quebec. As a television journalist, she covered the break-up of Yugoslavia; the 9/11 attack on the United States; the election of Vladimir Putin; and politics, conflicts and culture throughout Europe, the United States, the Middle East and Africa. Her first bestselling book, *The Lion, The Fox and the Eagle: A Story of Generals and Justice in Yugoslavia and Rwanda*, was published in 2000. Since then, she's written three more award-winning works of narrative non-fiction, including, most recently, *All We Leave Behind: A Reporter's Journey into the Lives of Others*, winner of the British Columbia National Award

for Canadian Non-Fiction.

Aftab Erfan (she/her) is Executive Director of SFU Centre for Dialogue. Previously she served as the City of Vancouver's inaugural Chief Equity Officer, and Director of Dialogue and Conflict Engagement at UBC. She holds a PhD in planning from UBC, a Masters in planning from McGill University, and a BSc in environmental sciences from UBC. Her experience spans 15 years and five continents. She holds numerous honours, including BC500 most influential business leaders in BC (Business in Vancouver), Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers Challenge (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council), and Best Published Paper Award Shortlist (Association of European Schools of Planning).

BC Libraries Present is a virtual author series that brings exciting conversations to library users in every corner of British Columbia.

This series is a project of BC's public library federations, coordinated by Public Library InterLink, with the generous financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

Other talks in the Fall 2025 series include:

- [October 28: Alex Neve](#)
- [November 21: Cory Doctorow](#)

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