

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## “I want you to meet a brave young woman...” – Jack Webster

### ***Born with cerebral palsy (CP), Nova Bannatyne was a trailblazer for disabled students in BC***

(Victoria, BC) – Nova Bannatyne-Eng, one of the first children with a significant disability to be integrated into, and graduate from, a BC public school, has written an eloquent memoir of her remarkable early life.

***Just Think, I Could Have Been Normal: Growing Up Extraordinary with Cerebral Palsy*** is being launched on April 16th at Guildford Library in Surrey at 10:30 am to noon. Nova is available for interviews.

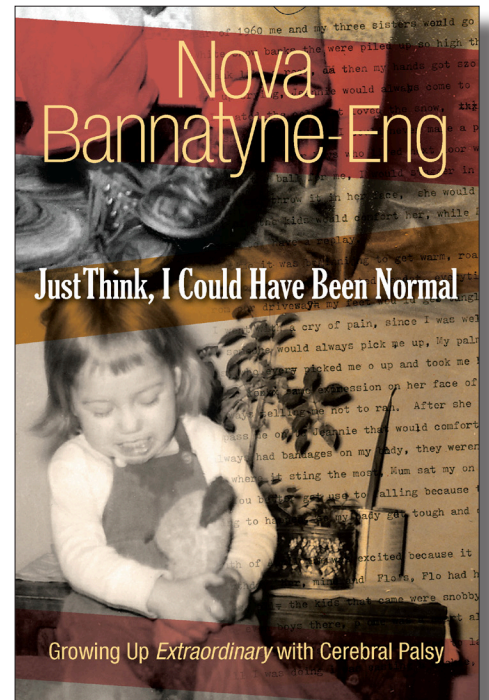
“Nova gives insight into what people with disabilities want and need,” says Ellen Baglot, one of Nova’s first teachers, “the same as everyone else, to be respected, appreciated and loved. She also helps readers realize much of the solution has to come from within.”

As a disabled child in Kimberley, BC, Nova fought for acceptance, and countless others province-wide followed in her footsteps. Now retired, she has been presenting to school children, educators and other groups. For most people, meeting Nova is their first encounter with cerebral palsy.

“I have pursued a career based on seeing the able in disabled, thanks to her courageous and inspirational example,” says teacher Lorri Taylor at Vancouver Children’s Hospital. “Nova is the bravest person I have ever known.”

The late Jack Webster, introducing Nova on his CJRO radio show in 1977, said, “we don’t normally run up against people who have got the kind of guts and the courage and the charm and obviously the talent of the Nova Bannatynes of this world.”

***Just Think, I Could Have Been Normal: Growing Up Extraordinary with Cerebral Palsy*** by Nova Bannatyne-Eng, published by Agio Publishing House (Victoria, BC), is available in trade paperback edition (ISBN 978-1-927755-40-2; us\$15.95/ ca\$19.95) and eBook (ISBN 978-1-927755-41-9; us\$4.99). For retail distribution inquiries, contact the author at [novabannatyne@gmail.com](mailto:novabannatyne@gmail.com)



### INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- What 3 things about CP would you like everyone to know?
- You have difficulty eating and walking, so how do you manage to drive a car?
- What positive advice would you give to a person with CP?
- Does CP affect intelligence?
- Is CP a progressive condition?

### CONTACT

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### About the author – Nova Bannatyne-Eng

Nova was born with cerebral palsy in Kimberley, BC in 1956. Currently she lives in Surrey, BC with her cat, Oliver. Her husband Ray Eng died in 2007. Her grown children - daughter Jamie and son Jackson - live close by, and Nova is a loving grandma to Jamie’s son, Andrew.

Nova worked for the Centre for Child Development in Surrey, BC until 2013. She has spoken to school children and other special interest groups about the challenges of living with cerebral palsy, and she plans to expand her role as a presenter and advocate in the future.

***Just Think, I Could Have Been Normal* is available through Amazon.com and at selected bookstores**