

Program

Host

Charlie Petch

**Dayne Ogilvie Prize
for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers**

Robin Pacific, Prize Founder

**Matt Cohen Award:
In Celebration of a Writing Life**

Lorraine Greey, Sponsor

**Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature
for Young People**

Jamison Steeve, President & CEO
Metcalf Foundation

Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award

Sana Halwani, Board of Directors

**Latner Griffin Writers' Trust
Poetry Prize**

Scott Griffin, Co-Sponsor

**Hilary Weston Writers' Trust
Prize for Nonfiction**

Annahid Dashtgard, 2024 Prize Juror

**Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust
Fiction Prize**

Saeed Teebi, 2024 Prize Juror

Message from the Chair

Dear literature lovers,

Welcome to the 2024 Writers' Trust Awards.



For nearly 50 years, Writers' Trust of Canada has supported writers and writing in this country. In 1976, Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Graeme Gibson, Margaret Laurence, and David Young founded the organization to make Canada the best country in the world in which to be a writer. They dreamed of writers supporting writers, Canadian books finding audiences at home and abroad, and a flourishing literary culture all in service of a better world.

The Writers' Trust Awards carries on their work. It is made possible by donations; numerous corporate, foundation, and individual sponsors, including *The Globe and Mail* as media partner. This evening is partially funded by the Government of Canada and funded in large part through philanthropy. We are grateful for their support and yours — thank you for joining us to celebrate Canadian literature.

"Books are mirrors: you only see in them what you already have inside you." – Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind*

Sincerely,
Marla Lehberg
Chair of the Board of Directors, Writers' Trust of Canada

Charlie Petch

Host

Charlie Petch (they/them, he/him) is a disabled/queer/transmasculine multidisciplinary artist who resides in TkaronTO/Toronto. A poet, playwright, librettist, musician, lighting designer, dramaturg, and host, Petch is the founder of Hot Damn it's a Queer Slam. Their debut poetry collection, *Why I Was Late* (Brick Books), won the 2022 ReLit Award and was named "Best of 2021" by *The Walrus*. Their film with Opera QTO, *Medusa's Children*, premiered in 2022. They were the 2017 Poet of Honour for the speakNORTH national festival, winner of the 2020 Sheri-D Golden Beret Award



from The League of Canadian Poets, and longlisted for the 2021 CBC Poetry Prize. They were selected by Writers' Trust as writer-in-residence for Berton House in 2023. Petch is a touring performer, as well as a mentor and workshop facilitator. Their solo show "No one's special at the hot dog cart" debuted at Theatre Passe Muraille in 2024.

The Writers' Trust Team

Board of Directors

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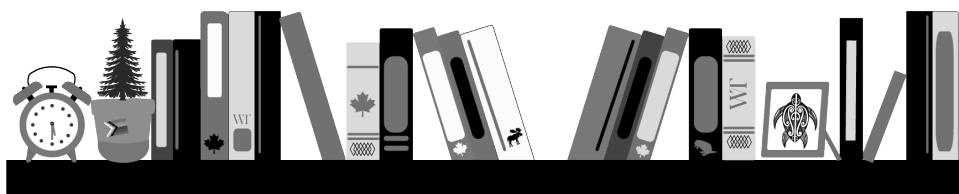
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Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers

**Founded
by Robin Pacific,
and supported
by Anuja
Varghese and our
community of
supporters**

A \$12,000 prize is presented annually to a Canadian writer who identifies as (but not limited to) lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or Two-Spirited for a debut book in any genre. Two finalists receive \$2,000 each.

Past Winners

- | | |
|------|--------------------|
| 2023 | Anuja Varghese |
| 2022 | francesca ekwuyasi |
| 2021 | Jillian Christmas |
| 2020 | Arielle Twist |
| 2019 | Jas M. Morgan |
| 2018 | Ben Ladouceur |
| 2017 | Kai Cheng Thom |
| 2016 | Leah Horlick |
| 2015 | Alex Leslie |
| 2014 | Tamai Kobayashi |
| 2013 | C.E. Gatchalian |

To see a full list of past winners visit writertrust.com/DayneOgilvie



Jillian Christmas

Jillian Christmas is an artist, creative facilitator, curator, consultant, and arts advocate. She is the spoken word curator for the Vancouver Writers Fest, poet-in-residence at the Vancouver Art Gallery, and former artistic director of Verses Festival of Words. Christmas won the 2020 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBTQ2S+ Emerging Writers for her body of work. She lives on the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh nations (Vancouver).



Adam Garnet Jones

Adam Garnet Jones is Cree-Métis from Amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton). A writer and beadworker, he previously worked as a TV and film writer/director/producer before shifting toward content development and advocacy for Indigenous creators. He founded the role of Indigenous Initiatives Lead at Telefilm Canada and is currently the director of television content and special events at the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. His novel, *Fire Song*, is an adaptation of his 2015 feature film of the same name. Jones currently lives in Tkaronto (Toronto).



Hazel Jane Plante

Hazel Jane Plante is a librarian, musician, and writer living on the West Coast. She is the author of the novels *Little Blue Encyclopedia (for Vivian)* and *Any Other City*. Plante lives on the unceded, ancestral, and current territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) nations (Vancouver).

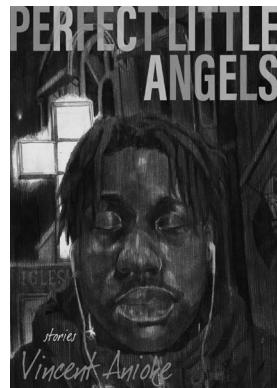


Finalist

Vincent Anioke

Perfect Little Angels

Arsenal Pulp Press



A slyly queer collection that is generous, destabilizing, and hungry for life, Perfect Little Angels takes us inside moments that feel bitingly real and mythically transcendent. Anioke renders his characters and settings with crisp prose that cuts through the noise of our world. As the stories weave together, Anioke's quiet power is revealed. He crafts small and intimate moments which carry epic reverberations and asks the reader to rethink what came before. Perfect Little Angels uncovers the weighty expectations that cultures, families, and individuals place on one another — and the dangerously unpredictable ways in which we respond.

— **Jury Citation**

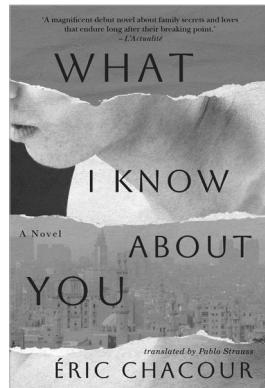
Vincent Anioke is a writer and a software engineer at Google. His short stories have appeared in *SmokeLong Quarterly*, *The Masters Review*, and *Split Lip Magazine*. In 2021, he won the Austin Clarke Prize in Literary Excellence and was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Anioke was a 2023 short fiction finalist for the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers. Born and raised in Nigeria, he now lives in Waterloo, Ontario.

Finalist

Éric Chacour

What I Know About You

Coach House Books



Until we collapse the distance between bodies, what can we really know about the forces that make and unmake us? What I Know About You pulls readers into the prickled flesh of evolving forms alive with sensation, longing, fear, betrayal, and love. 'In the beginning was your absence,' time cares nothing of 'simple questions,' the small hand always orbits the large, and we are all arriving 'a little late.' Tenderly, Chacour moves us toward each other with a language like poetry, a surgeon's precision, and a pulsing, undeniable purpose to face what can simply never be understood alone.

— Jury Citation

Éric Chacour shares his life between France and Quebec. He graduated with a bachelor's from Université Paris Dauphine-PSL then completed a master's in international relations from Université de Montréal. *What I Know About You* is his first novel and was originally published in French as *Ce que je sais de toi*. Born in Montreal to Egyptian parents, Chacour now works in the financial sector.

Translator

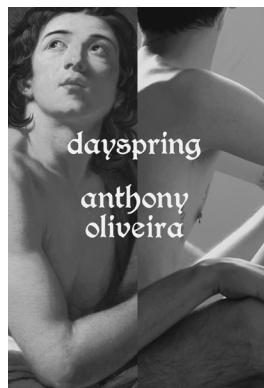
Pablo Strauss has translated several works of Quebec fiction into English. He is a three-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for translation, for *The Longest Year* (2017), *Synapses* (2019), and *The Country Will Bring Us No Peace* (2020). His shorter translations, reviews, and essays have appeared in *Granta*, *Geist*, and *The Montreal Review of Books*. Strauss grew up in Victoria and now lives in Quebec City.

Finalist

Anthony Oliveira

Dayspring

Strange Light



Ambitiously and audaciously, Anthony Oliveira transforms scripture into a poetic and erotic queer love story. Dayspring crosses centuries and genres, bends fan fiction into dazzling verse, and mixes the sacred and the profane with the sublime and the perverse. In a sly nod to red letter bibles, Oliveira uses blood-coloured ink to render the words of Jesus, who emerges as fallible and playful, horny and tender. With the heft of a tome, the lure of a page-turner, and the sweep of an epic poem, Dayspring is an effervescent and poignant work about love and humanity.

— **Jury Citation**

Anthony Oliveira is an award-winning author, film programmer, and pop culture critic. He has won three National Magazine Awards and two GLAAD Awards for his writing, which often incorporates queer themes and spans comics, prose, journalism, and academic research. Oliveira is a frequent contributor to Marvel Comics and his work can be found in *Young Avengers*, *X-Men*, and *Captain Marvel*. He is currently working on his PhD and lives in Toronto.

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for Canadian writing
news and literary
opportunities.



#WTAwards

Matt Cohen Award: In Celebration of a Writing Life

**Sponsored
by Lorraine
Greey**

This \$40,000 prize is presented to a Canadian writer whose life has been dedicated to writing as a primary pursuit, in honour of a body of distinguished work in poetry or prose, in English or French. The award is named in memory of Matt Cohen, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language fiction for *Elizabeth and After* in 1999, and a founding member of The Writers' Union of Canada.

Past Winners

2023	Helen Humphreys
2022	Candace Savage
2021	Frances Itani
2020	Dennis Lee
2019	Olive Senior
2018	David Bergen
2017	Diane Schoemperlen
2016	Brian Brett
2015	Richard Wagamese
2014	Susan Musgrave
2013	Andrew Nikiforuk

To see a full list of past winners visit
writerstrust.com/MattCohen



Committee

Patsy Aldana

Patsy Aldana founded Groundwood Books. She is past president of the National Reading Campaign and the International Board of Books for Young People, and president of the Hans Christian Andersen Awards jury. She lives in Toronto.



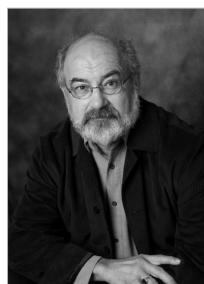
Michelle Good

Michelle Good is a writer of Cree ancestry and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. Her debut novel, *Five Little Indians*, won a Governor General's Literary Award, the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, the Kobo Emerging Author Prize, and CBC's *Canada Reads* in 2022. She was a finalist for the 2023 Balsillie Prize for Public Policy for *Truth Telling: Seven Conversations about Indigenous Life in Canada*. Good lives in southern Saskatchewan.



Wayne Grady

Wayne Grady is an author and translator who has published extensively on topics of science, nature, and travel. Grady teaches creative nonfiction at the University of British Columbia. His novel, *Emancipation Day*, won the Amazon Canada First Novel Award. He lives in Kingston, Ontario.



Sylvia D. Hamilton

Sylvia D. Hamilton is a Nova Scotian filmmaker and writer. She was a contributor to and co-editor of *We're Rooted Here* and *They Can't Pull Us Up: Essays in African Canadian Women's History*. Her poetry and essays have appeared in a variety of Canadian publications and she has been widely recognized for her work, with awards including a Gemini, the Portia White Prize, the CBC Television Pioneer Award, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Hal Wake

Hal Wake has been engaged with the literary community in Canada for almost 40 years. He has hosted or moderated hundreds of literary events at festivals in Vancouver, Victoria, New York, Melbourne, and Sydney. He was artistic director of the Vancouver Writers Festival, served on the board of directors for Writers' Trust, and is an honorary member of the Writers' Union of Canada. Wake lives in Vancouver.



Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People

Sponsored
by Metcalf
Foundation

This \$25,000 award honours a Canadian author of children's literature whose body of work demonstrates the highest literary standards. It was founded in 1963 by Vicky Metcalf, author of *Journey Fantastic*, with the purpose of stimulating the writing of literature for young people.



Past Winners

2023	Kyo Maclear
2022	Elise Gravel
2021	Linda Bailey
2020	Marianne Dubuc
2019	Susin Nielsen
2018	Christopher Paul Curtis
2017	Ruby Slipperjack
2016	Alan Cumyn
2015	Jan Thornhill
2014	Cary Fagan
2013	Barbara Reid

To see a full list of past winners visit
writerstrust.com/VickyMetcalf

Deirdre Baker

Deirdre Baker teaches children's literature at the University of Toronto. She is the author of two children's novels, *Becca at Sea* and *Becca Fair and Foul*, and reviews children's and young adult books for *The Horn Book Magazine* and the *Toronto Star*. Baker lives in Toronto.



Andrea Curtis

Andrea Curtis is an award-winning author whose books for children and adults have been published around the world. She teaches creative writing to children and her writing has appeared in publications including *Toronto Life*, *Chatelaine*, and *Today's Parent*. Curtis lives in Toronto.



Itah Sadu

Itah Sadu is a storyteller and author of award-winning children's books including *Name Calling*, *Greetings*, *Leroy*, and *I Am Big*. She is the managing director of the Blackhurst Cultural Centre and co-owner of A Different Booklist. Sadu lives in Toronto.



Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award

**Sponsored by WT
Prize Fund and
Timothy Findley
Estate**

This \$25,000 award is given to a writer in recognition of a remarkable body of work and in anticipation of future contributions to Canadian literature. To be eligible, writers must have published at least three works of literary merit that are predominantly fiction.

Past Winners

2023	Anosh Irani
2022	Shani Mootoo
2021	Cherie Dimaline
2020	Kerri Sakamoto
2019	Rawi Hage
2018	Alissa York
2017	Billie Livingston
2016	Eden Robinson
2015	Annabel Lyon
2014	Joan Thomas
2013	Lisa Moore

To see a full list of past winners visit

writerstrust.com/EngelFindley



Wayne Arthurson

Wayne Arthurson is an author of Cree and French-Canadian descent. He is the author of eight novels, five books of nonfiction, and over 200 articles in magazines and newspapers. Arthurson's novella *The Red Chesterfield* won a 2020 Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence. He has also been shortlisted twice for a High Plains Book Award. Arthurson has served on the Edmonton Arts Council and was a founding board member of Edmonton Litfest. He lives in Edmonton.



Corinna Chong

Corinna Chong's reviews and short fiction have appeared in magazines across Canada. She is the author of the novels *Belinda's Rings* and *Bad Land*, as well as the collection of short stories *The Whole Animal*. Chong's story "Kids in Kindergarten" won the 2021 CBC Short Story Prize and her story "Love/Cream/Heat" was selected for Biblioasis' *The Best Canadian Stories 2024*. She teaches English, creative writing, and fine arts at Okanagan College and lives in Kelowna, British Columbia.



Phil Halton

Phil Halton is a Canadian Army veteran and author of the novels *This Shall Be a House of Peace*, *Every Arm Outstretched*, and *Red Warning*. Halton is also the author of *Blood Washing*, a nonfiction book on the long history of conflict in Afghanistan. With Jonathan Link and Wan Mek, he created the graphic novel *The Sandbox*. Halton is co-founder of the literary journal *Blood & Bourbon* and has edited an oral history of the Queen's York Rangers. He lives in Saint John, New Brunswick.



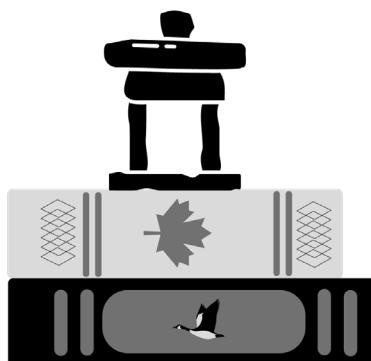
Latner Griffin Writers' Trust Poetry Prize

**Sponsored by The
Albert and Temmy
Latner Family
Foundation and
Scott Griffin**

This \$60,000 prize is awarded to a Canadian poet in recognition of a remarkable body of work and in anticipation of future contributions to Canadian poetry. To be eligible, poets must have published at least three collections that demonstrate outstanding mastery in the art of poetry.

Past Winners

2023	Laisha Rosnau
2022	Joseph Dandurand
2021	Weyman Chan
2020	Armand Garnet Ruffo
2019	Stephen Collis
2018	Jordan Scott
2017	Louise Bernice Halfe
2016	Gregory Scofield
2015	Karen Solie
2014	Ken Babstock



Julie Pellissier-Lush

Julie Pellissier-Lush is a Mi'kmaq storyteller, photographer, actor, drummer, author, and the first Indigenous Poet Laureate for Prince Edward Island. Through her books, songs, poetry, and other creative pursuits, Pellissier-Lush celebrates and shares the powerful stories of the Mi'kmaq on Prince Edward Island. She is the author of *My Mi'kmaq Mother*, *Epetkwitk*, and *La petite robe rouge*. Pellissier-Lush also wrote poems for the play *Mi'kmaq Legends*. She is the recipient of the Queen's Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Senators 150 Medal. She lives in Charlottetown.



Ayaz Pirani

Ayaz Pirani is a poet whose published collections include *Happy You Are Here*, *Kabir's Jacket Has a Thousand Pockets*, *Bachelor of Art*, and *How Beautiful People Are*, which was longlisted for the Raymond Souster Award. Pirani's work has appeared in literary magazines including *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *The Antigonish Review*, *The Malahat Review*, and *Guest 16*. He has studied humanities in Toronto and Montreal, as well as fine arts at Vermont College. Born in Tanzania and raised in Ontario, Pirani now lives near Monterey Bay, California.



Laisha Rosnau

Laisha Rosnau is a poet and novelist. She is the author of two novels and four collections of poetry: *Our Familiar Hunger*, *Pluck*, *Lousy Explorers*, and *Notes on Leaving*. Rosnau is the recipient of the Dorothy Livesay Award, the Kobzar Book Award, and the 2023 Latner Griffin Writers' Trust Poetry Prize. She is the executive director of Caetani Cultural Centre and she and her family are resident caretakers of Bishop Wild Bird Sanctuary. Rosnau lives in the suknacqinx region of the unceded traditional territory of the syilx people of Okanagan Nation (Coldstream, British Columbia).



Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction

Sponsored
by The Hilary and
Galen Weston
Foundation

This prize is awarded to the year's best book of literary nonfiction. The winning work demonstrates a distinctive voice, as well as a persuasive and compelling command of tone, narrative, style, and technique. The prizewinner receives \$75,000; finalists each receive \$5,000.



Past Winners

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2023 | Christina Sharpe for <i>Ordinary Notes</i> |
| 2022 | Dan Werb for <i>The Invisible Siege</i> |
| 2021 | Tomson Highway for <i>Permanent Astonishment</i> |
| 2020 | Jessica J. Lee for <i>Two Tress Make a Forest</i> |
| 2019 | Jenny Heijun Wills for <i>Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.</i> |
| 2018 | Elizabeth Hay for <i>All Things Consoled</i> |
| 2017 | James Maskalyk for <i>Life on the Ground Floor</i> |
| 2016 | Deborah Campbell for <i>A Disappearance in Damascus</i> |
| 2015 | Rosemary Sullivan for <i>Stalin's Daughter</i> |
| 2014 | Naomi Klein for <i>This Changes Everything</i> |
| 2013 | Graeme Smith for <i>The Dogs Are Eating Them Now</i> |

To see a full list of past winners visit writerstrust.com/nonfiction

Annahid Dashtgard

Annahid Dashtgard is a nonfiction author and CEO of the diversity and inclusion company Anima Leadership. The author of *Breaking the Ocean and Bones of Belonging*, she is a recognized expert on race, trauma, leadership, and social change. Her essays have been published in *The Walrus*, *Chatelaine*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Toronto Star*. Alongside her writing, she hosts the podcast *Soundwaves of Belonging*. Dashtgard currently serves on The Writers' Union of Canada national council and lives in Toronto.



Taylor Lambert

Taylor Lambert is an author and journalist. His books include *Darwin's Moving*, which won the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, and *Rising*. He has earned two National Magazine Award nominations for his reporting on two political Jasons: Jason Kenney's time as a student activist in San Francisco and Jason Nixon's controversial path to power. Lambert lives in Edmonton.



Christina Sharpe

Christina Sharpe is a writer, professor, and Canada Research Chair in Black Studies in the Humanities at York University. Sharpe is the author of *Monstrous Intimacies* and *In the Wake*, which was named by *The Guardian* and *The Walrus* as one of the best books of 2016. Her third book, *Ordinary Notes*, won the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction, was a finalist for the National Book Award for Nonfiction, and was named a Best Book of the Year by *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *The Globe and Mail*, NPR, *New York Magazine*, and *Granta*. Sharpe lives in Toronto.



Martha Baillie

There Is No Blue

Coach House Books



In this exquisitely written memoir, Baillie delves into the fine despair coating family relationships, calling into question how clearly we see those we live most closely to. Through the art of the essay, she explores her mother's passing, her father's protective role, and the long-term consequences of living with a sister who has schizophrenia. Here are the age-old challenges of loving someone who doesn't understand us, the doomed attempts to save someone from themselves, and the constant reckoning with the millions of ways family imprints itself on us. An elegy to the beautiful fight to keep a family together and an ode to the devastating loss when things fall apart, There Is No Blue rattles the bones of what it is to be in imperfect relationships with the people we are tied to by birth and blood.

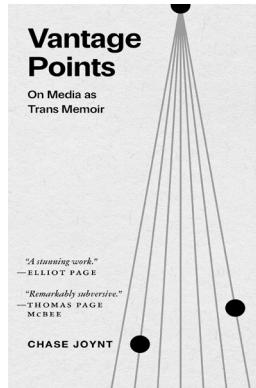
— Jury Citation

Martha Baillie is the author of six novels and two nonfiction books. Her novel *The Incident Report* was longlisted for the Giller Prize and made into a feature film. Co-written with her late sister Christina Baillie, *Sister Language* was a 2020 Trillium Book Award finalist. *The Search for Heinrich Schrögel* was an Oprah Editors' Pick and named as one of the best books of the year by *The Globe and Mail* and *Quill & Quire*. Her nonfiction can be found in *Brick: A Literary Journal* and her poetry has appeared in the *Iowa Review*. Baillie works part-time at Toronto Public Library and lives in Toronto.

Chase Joynt

Vantage Points:
*On Media as Trans
Memoir*

Arsenal Pulp Press



Moving, provocative, and insightful, Vantage Points is a remarkable nonfiction kaleidoscope. Using media theory to explore deeply personal experiences and traumas, Joynt creates a dizzying and devastating work that grapples with the long shadows cast by masculinity, heteronormativity, and abuse. Marshall McLuhan's ideas provide the scaffolding for an assembly of juxtaposed moments, memories, and trenchant cultural observations. These historical asides, though rapid-fire, are never scattershot but deadly accurate. The result is a disorienting and disruptive mosaic, a powerfully challenging work that stays with the reader long after.

— Jury Citation

Chase Joynt is a nonfiction filmmaker and writer. He co-authored *You Only Live Twice*, which was a Lambda Literary Award finalist. His documentary *Framing Agnes* was named a Best Movie of the Year by *The New Yorker* and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, where it won the NEXT Innovator Award and the NEXT Audience Award. Joynt co-directed *No Ordinary Man*, which won nine awards on the international festival circuit and was named a TIFF Top Ten. He won a Telly Award for directing for his work on *Two Sentence Horror Stories* in 2022. Joynt co-runs Level Ground Productions in Los Angeles.

Finalist

Amy Lin

Here After: A Memoir

Zibby Books



Here After is a memoir about love, about grief, about what survives a sudden and terrible loss. Lin's prose is precise, spare, elegant, and finely honed. In her hands we come to understand what grief extracts, what it demands, and what it means to be in the world after the death of a deeply loved spouse. Lin describes the myriad ways grief impacts us, how it lands in the body as physical and psychic pain, how the heart and lungs really do hurt, and how it collapses time — reshaping our relationship to the self and to the world. *Here After* is a beautiful testament to surviving as the one left behind.

— **Jury Citation**

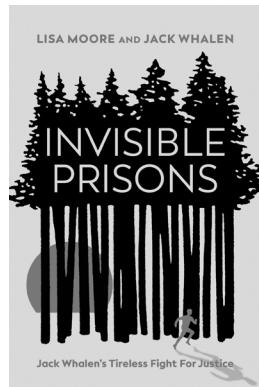
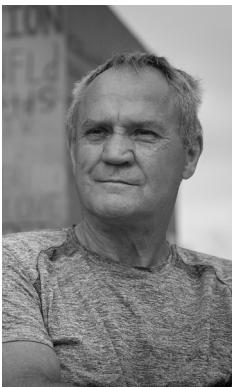
Amy Lin is a writer and educator. She holds a BA in English literature and education and completed her MFA at Warren Wilson College. Her work has been published in *Ploughshares*, *failbetter*, and *Oprah Daily* and she writes the Substack At *The Bottom Of Everything*. Lin has been awarded residencies from Yaddo and Casa Comala. *Here After* is her first book. She lives in Calgary.

Finalist

Lisa Moore & Jack Whalen

*Invisible Prisons:
Jack Whalen's
Tireless Fight for
Justice*

Knopf Canada



Utterly compelling, *Invisible Prisons* is an indictment, a courageous testimony, and a call to change. Lisa Moore and Jack Whalen collaborate to bring to life Whalen's distinct voice and the terrible experiences he was subjected to as a teenage boy during four years of abuse in a 'reform school' in Newfoundland. By documenting Whalen's removal from his family home by the hands of the state, his incarceration in places known to be violently abusive, and his refusal to remain there, Moore and Whalen give language to the violence hiding in plain sight and the effects of solitary confinement on the body and psyche. Whalen escapes again and again, and we see how he is sustained by his determination to be free – along with the love and support of his birth and made families.

— Jury Citation

Lisa Moore is the author of the bestselling novels *Alligator*, *February*, and *Caught*; the short story collections *Open* and *Something for Everyone*; and the young adult novel, *Flannery*. She has won the Commonwealth Fiction Prize, CBC's *Canada Reads*, and the Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award and received nominations for the Man Booker Prize, the Giller Prize, and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Moore's third novel, *Caught*, was adapted into a CBC television series. She lives in St. John's.

Jack Whalen spent more than 700 days in solitary confinement as a teen at the Whitbourne Boys' Home. He can sometimes be found crossing the country in a truck carrying a replica of the cell in which he was once imprisoned, seeking justice for those who endured similar abuse as children. Whalen divides his time between Oshawa, Ontario and St. John's.

Finalist

Jenny Heijun Wills

Everything and Nothing At All: Essays

Knopf Canada



EVERYTHING AND NOTHING AT ALL



Everything and Nothing At All combines memoir and cultural analysis to weave a rich and complex tapestry of identity, belonging, and rejection in the contexts of self, family, and communities both large and small. These richly decorated and incisive essays are sometimes poignant, sometimes harrowing, and always rooted deeply in Wills' lived experience, even as she finds parallels in literature and the world at large. In elegant prose, Wills fashions a searing cultural and social commentary and a moving personal journey that considers — and challenges — what it means to be seen and unseen.

— Jury Citation

Jenny Heijun Wills was born in Seoul, raised in Southern Ontario, and currently lives in Winnipeg. She is the author of *Older Sister. Not Necessarily Related.*, which won the 2019 Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the 2020 Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book. Wills contributed to *When We Become Ours*, an anthology for young adults about the adoptee experience. She is a professor of English at the University of Winnipeg.



Visit **writerstrust.com** to see full prize histories and learn more about our programming in support of Canadian writers and writing.



Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize

Sponsored by
Balsillie Family
Foundation

This prize is awarded to the year's best novel or short story collection. The prizewinner receives \$60,000; finalists each receive \$5,000.



Past Winners

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2023 | Kai Thomas for
<i>In the Upper Country</i> |
| 2022 | Nicholas Herring for
<i>Some Hellish</i> |
| 2021 | Katherena Vermette for
<i>The Strangers</i> |
| 2020 | Gil Adamson for
<i>Ridgerunner</i> |
| 2019 | André Alexis for
<i>Days by Moonlight</i> |
| 2018 | Kathy Page for
<i>Dear Evelyn</i> |
| 2017 | David Chariandy for
<i>Brother</i> |
| 2016 | Yasuko Thanh for
<i>Mysterious Fragrance of
the Yellow Mountains</i> |
| 2015 | André Alexis for
<i>Fifteen Dogs</i> |
| 2014 | Miriam Toews for
<i>All My Puny Sorrows</i> |
| 2013 | Colin McAdam for
<i>A Beautiful Truth</i> |

To see a full list of past winners visit
writerstrust.com/fiction

Saeed Teebi

Saeed Teebi is a writer and lawyer. His debut collection of short stories was a finalist for the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Prize, the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and the Forest of Reading Evergreen Award. The title story, "Her First Palestinian," was shortlisted for the 2021 CBC Short Story Prize. Teebi was born to Palestinian parents in Kuwait and has lived in Canada since 1993.



Joan Thomas

Joan Thomas is the author of five novels including *Wild Hope* and *Five Wives*, which won the 2019 Governor General's Literary Award for English-language fiction. A past Berton House writer-in-residence, she is the recipient of a Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book, the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Prize, and the Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award. Thomas' work has also been longlisted for the Giller Prize and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. She lives in Winnipeg.



Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike

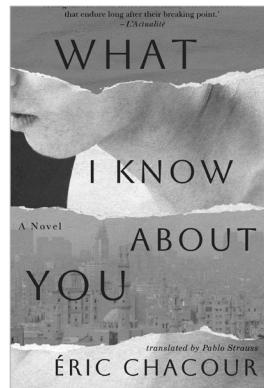
Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike is a writer, poet, and assistant professor in the department of English at the University of Calgary. He is the author of the poetry collection *there's more*; the short story collection *Double Wahala, Double Trouble*; and the children's book *Wish Maker*. Umezurike is also the co-editor of the poetry anthology *Wreaths for a Wayfarer*. He won the Nigeria Prize for Literary Criticism in 2021 for his essays on publishing during the military dictatorship in Nigeria. Umezurike's critical works have appeared in *Journal of Literary & Cultural Disability Studies*, *Journal of the African Literature Association*, and *Metacritic*. He lives in Calgary.



Éric Chacour

What I Know About You

Coach House Books



Until we collapse the distance between bodies, what can we really know about the forces that make and unmake us? What I Know About You pulls readers into the prickled flesh of evolving forms alive with sensation, longing, fear, betrayal, and love. 'In the beginning was your absence,' time cares nothing of 'simple questions,' the small hand always orbits the large, and we are all arriving 'a little late.' Tenderly, Chacour moves us toward each other with a language like poetry, a surgeon's precision, and a pulsing, undeniable purpose to face what can simply never be understood alone.

— Jury Citation

Éric Chacour shares his life between France and Quebec. He graduated with a bachelor's from Université Paris Dauphine-PSL then completed a master's in international relations from Université de Montréal. *What I Know About You* is his first novel and was originally published in French as *Ce que je sais de toi*. Born in Montreal to Egyptian parents, Chacour now works in the financial sector.

Translator

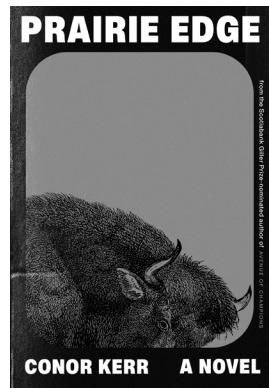
Pablo Strauss has translated several works of Quebec fiction into English. He is a three-time finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for translation, for *The Longest Year* (2017), *Synapses* (2019), and *The Country Will Bring Us No Peace* (2020). His shorter translations, reviews, and essays have appeared in *Granta*, *Geist*, and *The Montreal Review of Books*. Strauss grew up in Victoria and now lives in Quebec City.

Finalist

Conor Kerr

Prairie Edge

Strange Light



At the heart of Prairie Edge is a resonant act of defiance that encapsulates the history, landscape, and vision of the Métis people. Kerr writes out of a deep sympathy for the Great Plains and its people, expanding the map of a prairie city to take in the tent settlements, the rehab centre, and the terrain of the vanished bison. Kerr's main characters — two young people whose lives have been shaped by dislocation and violence — are achingly real. With a masterful grasp of pace and story, Kerr traces their extraordinary friendship, illuminating the costs of loyalty and the risks and rewards of engaging with the past. Prairie Edge is eloquent, humane, and far-seeing. An essential Canadian story.

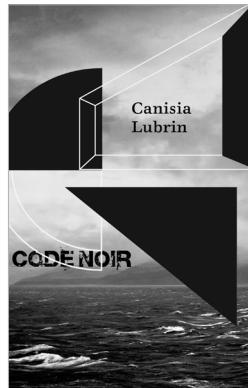
— **Jury Citation**

Conor Kerr is a Métis/Ukrainian writer living in Edmonton. A member of the Métis Nation of Alberta, he is descended from the Lac Ste. Anne Metis and the Papaschase Cree Nation. In 2022 he was named one of CBC's Writers to Watch. He is the author of the poetry collections *An Explosion of Feathers and Old Gods*, as well as the novel *Avenue of Champions*, which was shortlisted for the Amazon Canada First Novel Award, longlisted for the 2022 Giller Prize, and won the 2022 ReLIT award. *Prairie Edge* is longlisted for the 2024 Giller Prize. Kerr is an assistant professor at the University of Alberta where he teaches creative writing.

Canisia Lubrin

Code Noir

Knopf Canada



*A collection that is profound and inveterately inventive, Code Noir expands what is possible in the realm of narrative. With purposeful defiance, Lubrin writes stories that cut effortlessly across eras and continents with the Black diaspora, within and against a history of institutionalized violence and oppression. She pushes against the laws governing what words can and can't do, emerging finally with a sharp-edged language that is entirely *sui generis*. Lubrin's work is conceptual genius, allusive across a wide swath of culture, from jazz to literature to art. Code Noir is a singular achievement.*

— Jury Citation

Canisia Lubrin is a writer, editor, and teacher whose books include *Voodoo Hypothesis* and *The Dyzgraphxst*. Her work has been nominated by the Griffin Poetry Prize and two OCM Bocas Prizes, and in 2020 she was selected as a Writers' Trust Rising Star. In 2021 she was awarded a Windham-Campbell prize for poetry and *The Globe & Mail* named her Poet of the Year. Lubrin has held fellowships at the Banff Centre, Civitella Ranieri in Italy, Simon Fraser University, and Literature Colloquium Berlin. She coordinates the Creative Writing MFA in the School of English & Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph. *Code Noir* is Lubrin's debut work of fiction. She lives in Whitby, Ontario and is poetry editor at McClelland & Stewart.

Fawn Parker

Hi, It's Me

McClelland & Stewart



Richly intertextual, Hi, It's Me narrates the fraught and tender relationship between mother and daughter in prose that unfurls teasingly. Parker portrays friendship, beauty, eating disorder, sexuality, morbidity, and grief with measured humour, detailing a daughter's reckoning with her mother's death and a legacy she is conflicted about upholding. By turns philosophical and trenchant, readers are reminded that however transitory life is or fractured our relationships are, there is some vitality we can still salvage from what is left behind. This intricate, acutely rendered story is as much about loss as self-forgiveness and reconciliation with memories that insist we attend to them, that resist erasure.

— Jury Citation

Fawn Parker is the author of the novels *Set-Point*, *Dumb-Show*, and *What We Both Know*, which was longlisted for the 2022 Giller Prize. Her poetry collection, *Soft Inheritance*, won the Fiddlehead Poetry Book Prize and the J. M. Abraham Atlantic Poetry Award. Her story “Feed Machine” was longlisted for the 2020 Writers’ Trust McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize, and her story “WunderHorse II” was anthologized in André Forget’s *After Realism*. Parker is a PhD student at the University of New Brunswick. She divides her time between Toronto and Fredericton.

Finalist

Sheung-King

Batshit Seven

Penguin Canada



An audacious reinvention of the novel for a dystopian age, Batshit Seven is a canny depiction of late-stage capitalism set among the glittering towers and street markets of Hong Kong. Sheung-King deftly conveys the dilemma of the self-aware citizen through the character of Glue, a transnational would-be writer whose identity, self-respect, and even language are being insidiously dismantled by a society where everything is commodified. Assimilation or self-parody are increasingly Glue's only options — modes of existence Sheun-King brilliantly evokes through the very language of the novel. A perfect amalgam of form and idea, Batshit Seven is poignant, darkly hilarious, and stunningly original.

— Jury Citation

Sheung-King's debut book, *You Are Eating an Orange. You Are Naked.*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language fiction and the Amazon Canada First Novel Award. It was also longlisted for CBC's *Canada Reads*, won an AudioFile Earphones Award, and was named a Best Book Debut by *The Globe and Mail*. Sheung-King taught creative writing at the University of Guelph, where he received his MFA. He divides his time between Canada and China.

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- ▲ **Career development and professional mentorship programs for emerging writers**
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In 1976, five prominent writers — Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Graeme Gibson, Margaret Laurence, and David Young — founded Writers' Trust to ensure that Canadian writing would continue to thrive for the benefit of all readers. Writers' Trust has built on this mission over the past 48 years, elevating our country's writers to amplify the empathetic, imaginative Canadian voices that can change worlds at home and far beyond our own border.

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DAYNE OGILVIE PRIZE FOR LGBTQ2S+ EMERGING WRITERS

In honour of a debut book in any genre by a Canadian writer from the LGBTQ2S+ community.

- Vincent Anioke for *Perfect Little Angels*
- Éric Chacour for *What I Know About You*
- Anthony Oliveira for *Dayspring*

MATT COHEN AWARD: IN CELEBRATION OF A WRITING LIFE

In recognition of a life dedicated to writing as a primary pursuit.

VICKY METCALF AWARD FOR LITERATURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In honour of a body of work of children's literature demonstrating the highest literary standards.

WRITERS' TRUST ENGEL FINDLEY AWARD

For a remarkable body of work in fiction and in hope of future contributions to Canadian literature.

LATNER GRIFFIN WRITERS' TRUST POETRY PRIZE

For an outstanding body of work and in hope of future contributions to Canadian poetry.

HILARY WESTON WRITERS' TRUST PRIZE FOR NONFICTION

For the year's best work of literary nonfiction.

- Martha Baillie for *There Is No Blue*
- Chase Joynt for *Vantage Points*
- Amy Lin for *Here After*
- Lisa Moore and Jack Whalen for *Invisible Prisons*
- Jenny Heijun Wills for *Everything and Nothing At All*

ATWOOD GIBSON WRITERS' TRUST FICTION PRIZE

For the year's best novel or short story collection.

- Éric Chacour for *What I Know About*
- Conor Kerr for *Prairie Edge*
- Canisia Lubrin for *Code Noir*
- Fawn Parker for *Hi, It's Me*
- Sheung-King for *Batshit Seven*

