

Thursday November 4, 2021 to
Saturday November 6, 2021



wordstocksudbury.ca

8th EDITION PROGRAM GUIDE
HYBRID



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**Thanks Wordstock Sudbury 2021 Festival!
for Nurturing Our Community
Through the Power of Words**



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Festival accommodations



WORDSTOCK SUDBURY LITERARY FESTIVAL

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Sudbury ON. P3C 1T4
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Festival Director's Welcome



It has been a challenging year for us all during this unprecedented time, but we remain hopeful. We may not be on the other side of the COVID pandemic yet, however, we are finding a way of moving forward. The 8th edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival is being presented as a hybrid event with in person, virtual and live streaming of sessions. We also anticipate this will be our new normal.

With our commitment to accessibility this year, thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation's support, we are implementing a number of new features such as: accessible website, live streaming, captioning and accessible venue.

The festival could not happen without our loyal community sponsors. We are grateful for Financial Decisions taking our lead sponsor spot of Publisher for a 3 year commitment. We welcome back Sudbury Credit Union, Vianet and Journal Printing. We have a few new sponsors - Plexman Dentistry and Vision Sudbury. Getting the word out about the festival every year is supported by our media sponsors - CBC Sudbury Radio, CTV Northern News and The Sudbury Star.

We are extremely grateful for government support from Ontario Arts Council, Canada Council of the Arts, City of Greater Sudbury, Arts and Culture Grants and Canadian Heritage. We are again partnering with our fellow literary arts organization, Salon du Livre Grand Sudbury who curated for the French Kiss session, and the Greater Sudbury Public Library for assisting with the children's program.

A special thank you to our volunteers, especially our Board of Directors who work all year long. The board and myself hope that we have created a literary community for all and that you enjoy this wonderful feeling of coming back together after being apart.

Heather Campbell
Festival Director
Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival

Festival Chair's Welcome



Welcome to the 8th Edition of Wordstock Sudbury Literary Festival.

The past year has marked immense growth for this beautiful, uniquely northern take on literature, bringing local authors and poets together with CanLit voices from coast to coast.

Wordstock Sudbury 2021 is our most accessible festival to date, reaching lovers of words in more ways than ever before. Whether you join us online, or in person, we have committed to removing barriers, uplifting underrepresented voices, and holding space for impactful conversations. You can expect to enjoy a weekend of programming that stands among Canada's premiere festivals for literature, and all year long you can continue to access engaging content and conversations through the Wordstock Sudbury Podcast, our monthly bookclub, and regular Poetry Slam events.

Eight years of growth has formed the foundation for this moment you enjoy with us now, and on behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank you for your support in attending. Together we create a community of listeners and lifelong learners. Our curiosity and love for creating unites us beyond the page, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it alongside you.

Sarah Cotnam
Chair
Board of Directors

MPP Jamie West's Message



For nearly a decade, Wordstock has celebrated the love of literary arts in the North. This annual literary festival champions emerging and notable authors, playwrights, and songwriters from across Canada; and, forges strong connections with new and existing supporters.

It has been an absolute pleasure to recognize the growth of the Sudbury Wordstock Literary Festival since 2013. The positive impacts that the festival has had on arts and culture in Greater Sudbury and Northern Ontario can not be overstated.

Thank you to all the volunteers and organizers who help make this annual event possible, and thank you to the community for supporting the growth and development of the arts in our community and beyond!

Jamie West
MPP

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TICKETS

When purchasing tickets please note the participation level: in person, live stream or virtual participation.

All in person sessions will be live streamed allowing audience members to participate at a distance. Live stream ticket holders will receive a link to join the platform for viewing.

Virtual Zoom sessions will also receive a registration link to participate.

All Access Festival Pass:

Includes all sessions & Masterclasses
\$130 / \$100 for students / fixed income

Festival Pass

Includes all sessions except Masterclasses
\$85 / \$50 for students/ fixed income.

Masterclasses:

\$30 / \$15 for students/ fixed income.

Individual Sessions:

\$20 / \$10 for students/ fixed income

Poetry Slam:

\$5

Free Sessions:

Open mic (Friday, November 5)

Little Readers Mask-querade (Saturday, November 6)

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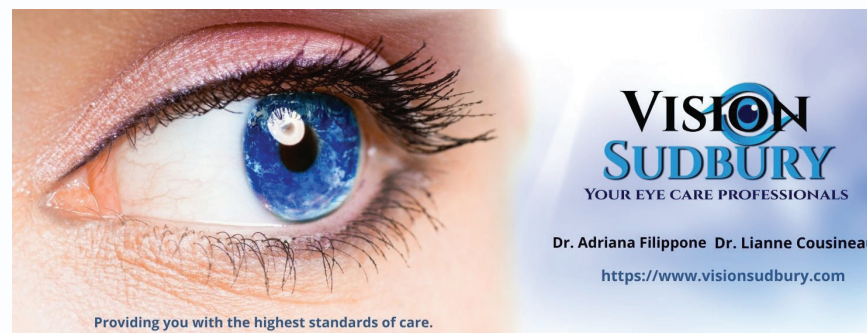
SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Masterclass #1 (virtual)**
Self-Editing Putting Your Words Forward
Becky Blake
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **Poetry Primer (in person)**
Rebecca Salazar,
Vera Constantineau and
Aurore Gatwenzi
Moderator: Kim Fahner
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Festival Opening (in person)**
Youthwords Writing Contest winners announced
In conversation with
Jean Marc Ah-Sen and
Amber McMillan
- 9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. **In conversation with (virtual)**
Ian Williams and
Bertrand Bickersteth

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2021

- 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Masterclass #2**
Crossing Genres
Jen Sookfong Lee
- 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **From Inside CanLit (in person)**
Linda Leith and Sam Hiyate
Moderator: Nathaniel Moore
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **Minwaajimo: Tell a Good Story (virtual)**
Waubgeshig Rice and
Michelle Good
- 9: p.m. - 11:30 p.m. **Open Mic (in person)**



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

- 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Masterclass #3 (in person)**
Your Copyrights
Sam Hiyate
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. **Little Readers Mask-querade (in person)**
Jon-Erik Lappano
- 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **Little Readers (virtual)**
Jen Sookfong Lee
- 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. **Short and Sweet (in person)**
Rosanna Battigelli, and Jeremy John
Moderator: John McHenry
- Let's Talk About That... (in person)**
Morgan Murray and
Kerry Clare
Moderator: Rod Carley
- 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Power of Poetry (in person)**
Liz Howard, Evan J, and
Rebecca Salazar
Moderator: Kim Fahner

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

- 2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Northern Inspirations (in person)**
David Giuliano and Kayt Burgess
Moderator: Bennett Malcolmson
- 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Navigating Ourselves (in person)**
Sumaiya Matin and
Adam Mardero
Moderator: Dinah Laprairie
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. **French Kiss: Wild West Show (virtual)**
Yvette Nolan, Gilles Poulin-Denis
and Charles Bender
Moderator: Aurélie Lacassagne
- 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. **In conversation with (virtual)**
Kerry Clare and Zoe Whittall
- 9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. **Sudbury Annual Poetry Slam (in person)**
Feature Poet: Jennifer Alicia
Mc: Blaine Thornton

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Masterclass #1: Self-Editing Putting Your Words Forward

Becky Blake

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom

Learn the art of editing one's work with an eye to clarifying theme, style, structure, and also how to polish a piece of writing by applying a more detailed focus to grammar, syntax, and formatting.

Poetry Primer

Rebecca Salazar, Vera Constantineau, Aurore Gatwenzi and Kim Fahner

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Every poet has a different approach to their creative process. Discover what "sparks" four poet's processes and their specific pathways to poetry. This session is the place to start if you're curious about poetry as a genre. Get your feet wet and come out to hear some great poems!

In conversation with

Jean Marc Ah-Sen and Amber McMillan

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Two eclectic authors, Jean Marc Ah-Sen and Amber MacMillan, come together for a conversation about writing outside the lines. As we redraw the lines of normal after the pandemic, what changes should we take forward with us?

In conversation with

Ian Williams and Bertrand Bickersteth

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | Zoom

Giller prize winner Ian Williams joins best selling author Jael Richardson for an intimate conversation to discuss their latest work, race and where we go from here.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Masterclass #2: Crossing Genres

Jen Sookfong Lee

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Zoom

Take your writing to unexpected places by mixing, switching, and upending genres. Writer, editor and broadcaster Jen Sookfong Lee will teach you the rules and how to break them.

From Inside CanLit

Linda Leith, Sam Hiyate and Nathaniel Moore

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Sit down with three publishing professionals, two who are also authors, publisher/author Linda Leith, literary agent Sam Hiyate and author/publicist Nathaniel Moore as they talk about the business of publishing in Canada.

Minwajimo: Tell a Good Story

Waubgeshig Rice and Michelle Good

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

Join Indigenous storytellers Waubgeshig Rice and Michelle Good as they discuss the importance of sharing their stories, both difficult ones and hopeful ones. How stories contribute to understanding and moving reconciliation forward.

Open Mic

9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Benjamin Franklin said 'Write something worth reading, or do something worth writing.' Either way, you can share it at our Open Mic. Writing doesn't have to be a solo sport.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Masterclass #3: Your Copyrights

Sam Hiyate, Rights Factory

9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. | in person/live stream

We get it - the legal side of writing is much less romantic than the creative side, but an important aspect to negotiating a book deal. Learn about the business side of getting published with Sam Hiyate, literary agent and President of The Rights Factory, with over 30 years in the publishing industry.

Little Readers Mask-querade

Jon-Erik Lappano

10:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. | in person/live stream

Hang onto the Halloween costume and come to our Little Readers Mask-querade. Bring the kids to the Festival and introduce them to award winning children's author Jon-Erik Lappano. Children can enjoy the author reading from his book, craft time and Greater Sudbury Public Library pop up library.

Jen Sookfong Lee

11:00 a.m.- 11:45 a.m. | Zoom

Jen Sookfong Lee has a special story for young people in her latest children's book *Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees*.

Short and Sweet

Rosanna Battigelli, Jeremy John and John McHenry

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. | in person/live stream

Any writer will tell you that shorter is harder. Join three Canadian writers who've mastered the art of brevity and beauty as they talk about weighing their words to create the perfect short story.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Let's Talk About That...

Morgan Murray, Kerry Clare and Rod Carley

1:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. | in person/live stream

We live in an age of protest, unearthing secrets and demanding change. We have bestselling author Kerry Clare and 2021 Leacock award winner Morgan Murray in conversation with North Bay author Rod Carley.

Power of Poetry

Liz Howard, Evan J, Rebecca Salazar and Kim Fahner

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | in person/live stream

Poets root themselves in real and imagined landscapes, and these places and spaces shift through a person's life. Join a discussion with four Northern Ontario poets as they explore the notion of how 'place' can influence a poet's body of work, over time. Do we have a poetic origin place? How is our work tied to the geography of the places where we live? How do our identities shift as we move from place to place? How does that emerge in our poetic work over time?

Northern Inspirations

David Giuliano, Kayt Burgess and Bennett Malcolmson

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. | in person/live stream

Northern Ontario has a feel and flair all its own. Sit in on this conversation between two authors based in small northern Ontario towns that offer unlimited inspiration as they discuss how the North informs their writing.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Navigating Ourselves

Sumaiya Matin, Adam Mardero and Dinah Laprairie

3:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Words can help us understand ourselves and each other. Join Adam Mardero and Sumaiya Matin as they discuss their personal journey and how they share those experiences in their writing.

French Kiss: Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show: Lessons from This theatrical adventure

Yvette Nolan, Gilles Poulin-Denis, Charles Bender and Aurélie Lacassagne

5:00 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. | Zoom

Learn how Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show came together in book form. Indigenous and non-Indigenous playwrights, comedians and artisans from all over Canada collaborated to produce a unique theatrical show telling the story of the second Métis Resistance in Saskatchewan (1884-1885) and establishing a dialogue between the various memories that formed following these events.

In conversation with

Zoe Whittall and Kerry Clare

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

Sit down with award winning author Zoe Whittall as she discusses her latest book *The Spectacular* with best selling author Kerry Clare and why this book needs to be read today.

Sudbury Annual Poetry Slam

MC: Blaine Thornton, Feature Poet: Jennifer Alicia Murrin

9:00 p.m.- 11:30 p.m. | in person/live stream

Hit up our annual poetry slam to hear some talented local artists and our special feature artist two-time national poetry slam champion Jennifer Alicia Murrin.



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2021 FEATURED GUESTS



Adam Mardero

Adam Mardero founded the blog *Differently Wired* to educate and advocate for neurodiversity. He holds a Master's Degree in History and a Bachelor of Education. Since coming to terms with being neurodivergent, he's dedicated his life to helping further the causes of Autism and neurodiversity acceptance. Adam lives in Sudbury, Ontario.



Amber McMillan

Amber McMillan is the author of the memoir *The Woods: A Year on Protection Island* and the poetry collection *We Can't Ever Do This Again*. Her work has also appeared in PRISM international, Arc Poetry Magazine, and the Walrus. She lives in Fredericton.



Aurore Gatwenzi

Aurore Gatwenzi describes herself as a social butterfly on the cusp of millennialism and zoomers. She holds a degree in Modern Languages and spent two years in Spain teaching English as a Second Language. She is a frequent participant in the Sudbury Poetry Slam scene and is included in the anthology *Fem Grit: A Collection of Northern Voices* (2020). She is a co-founder of the Black Lives Matter Sudbury. She currently lives in Sudbury.



Aurélie Lacassagne

Born in 1978 in Tours (France), Aurélie Lacassagne has been a professor and researcher in political science for the past twenty years in northern Ontario. Her book titled *Perspectives créoles sur la culture et l'identité franco-ontariennes. Essai sur une prise de parole* won her a Communications and Society Award in the essay category. Her latest work, *Mémoires éclatées, mémoires conciliées. Essai sur « Le Wild West Show de Gabriel Dumont »* (Prise de parole) was published in April 2021.



Becky Blake

Becky Blake is two-time winner of the CBC Literary Prize (for non-fiction in 2017 and short fiction in 2013). Her stories and essays have appeared in publications across Canada, and her debut novel, *Proof I Was Here*, was published by Wolsak & Wynn in 2019. Becky holds an MFA from the University of Guelph and teaches creative writing at the University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies. She is currently working on a second novel and a memoir-in-essays.



Bennett Malcolmson

Bennett Malcolmson is a film photographer and zine maker. He received his Undergraduate in Political Science from the University of Guelph and is a graduate of Seneca College's Documentary Film Institute. He lives in Sudbury, ON with his girlfriend and their three cats.



Blaine Thornton

Writer and performer, Blaine Thornton, is a non-binary artist interested in how writing can be used as a healing vessel. They are studying creative writing at OCAD and a part of the school's Poetry slam team coached by Ian Keteku. They are currently the editor of the art collective, i hear you, based in Sudbury Ontario.



Charles Bender

Charles Bender is an actor, facilitator and director of the Wendat Nation. He has been involved in the performing arts and television industry for over twenty years. In particular, he is the artistic director of the Menuentakuan Theater Company and hosts the social interest report Sans Réserve on the APTN network. He recently started translating texts from the Canadian Aboriginal repertoire. He notably co-signed, with Jean Marc Dalpé, the French translation of Maria Campbell's work *Halfbreed*.



David Giuliano

David Giuliano is an award-winning writer of articles, essays, and poems. His book *Postcards from the Valley: Encounters with Fear, Faith and God* was a Canadian Best Seller. He has published two illustrated children's books: *The Alligator in Naomi's Pillow* and *Jeremiah and the Letter e*. His most recent book, *It's Good to Be Here: Stories we tell about cancer*, is a spiritual memoir about his 20-year journey with cancer. *The Undertaking of Billy Buffone* is Giuliano's first novel.



Dinah Laprairie

Dinah Laprairie is an editor, book coach and freelance writer. Between 2003 and 2016, Dinah was the Editor-Publisher of Open Minds Quarterly, a Sudbury-based magazine dedicated to people with experiences of mental illness, trauma and/or madness. She is the co-editor of the anthology *In New Light: The many paths of identity, struggle and mental illness* and co-author of a chapter on the benefits of creative expression in the textbook *Creek's Occupational Therapy Mental Health* (2022). Recently, Dinah sat as a member of the Ontario Arts Council's Deaf & Disability Arts Advisory Group.



Evan J

Evan J (he/they) is from Manitoba, and now works and writes in the town of Sioux Lookout, Ontario. Evan is the author of *Ripping down half the trees* (2021).



Gilles Poulin-Denis

Gilles Poulin-Denis is an actor, writer, translator, and director from Saskatchewan. As a performer, Gilles has worked for many theatre companies, from Vancouver to Brussels. He has also authored four plays and several short texts. He is the artistic director of the 2PAR4 theatre company as well as of the biennial Zones Théâtrales at the National Arts Centre / Centre national des arts.



Ian Williams

Ian Williams is the author of five books. His novel, *Reproduction*, won the Scotiabank Giller Prize. His last poetry collection, *Personals*, was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award. *Not Anyone's Anything* won the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for the best first collection of short fiction in Canada. *You Know Who You Are* was a finalist for the ReLit Poetry Award.



Jean Marc Ah-Sen

Jean Marc Ah-Sen is the author of *Grand Menteur, In the Beggarly Style of Imitation* (a finalist for the Toronto Book Awards), and one of the participants in the collaborative omnibus novel *Disintegration in Four Parts*. The National Post hailed his writing as “an inventive escape from the conventional”. His writing has appeared in Hazlitt, The Literary Review of Canada, Maisonneuve, and elsewhere. He lives in Toronto with his wife and two sons.



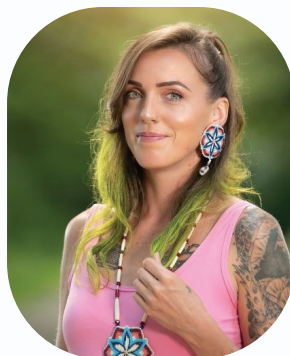
Jon-Erik Lappano

Jon-Erik Lappano's debut picture book, *Tokyo Digs a Garden*, illustrated by Kellen Hatanaka, won the Governor General's Literary Award and was a finalist for the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award and Japan's Sakura Medal. He has also written *Maggie's Treasure*, illustrated by Kellen Hatanaka, to wide acclaim, and *Song for the Snow*, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler. Jon-Erik lives in Stratford, Ontario, with his family.



Jen Sookfong Lee

Jen Sookfong Lee was born and raised in Vancouver's East Side. Her books include *The Conjoined*, nominated for International Dublin Literary Award and a finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize, *The Better Mother*, a finalist for the City of Vancouver Book Award, *The End of East*, *The Shadow List*, and *Finding Home*. Jen acquires and edits for ECW Press and co-hosts the literary podcast, Can't Lit.



Jennifer Alicia

Jennifer Alicia (they/she) is a queer, mixed Mi'kmaw/Settler (German, Irish, Scottish) storyteller originally from Elma'stukwek, Ktaqm-kuk (Bay of Islands, Newfoundland), now residing in Toronto. She is a two-time national poetry slam champion and a member of Seeds & Stardust Poetry Collective. Jennifer Alicia's debut chapbook *Mixed Emotions* was recently published by Moon Jelly House. They are also working on a play titled *Restor(y)ing Identity*, and part of it was presented at the first ever Nogojiwanong Indigenous Fringe Festival in June 2021.



Jeremy John

Jeremy John is currently ranked as the sixty-second most famous person from Brantford, Ontario. (Look it up. There are a lot.) Jeremy's career in broadcasting has included co-hosting shows on 680 NEWS, KiSS FM, and Breakfast Television. Jeremy now lives with his wife and kids, plus a dog he pretends not to like, in Sudbury, Ontario.



John McHenry

Since becoming STC's Artistic Director in 2017 John has directed Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, *Here on the Flight Path*, *The Birds and The Bees*, *Plaid Tidings* and *A Christmas Story*. For STC's 50th anniversary season he will direct *Quiet! I'm Talking*, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, the world premiere of *Ever Falling Flight* and *This One*. Originally from England, his professional career began on the STC stage as a dancer in *Show Boat* in 1986. He appeared in several more STC musicals and became the theatre's director of marketing in 1989. He is an accomplished marketing, communications and public relations specialist John has worked at Huron Country Playhouse, Theatre Aquarius, Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company, Presentation House Theatre and Blyth Festival.



Kayt Burgess

Kayt Burgess's debut novel *Heidegger Stairwell* (2012) won the International 3 Day Novel Contest and a finalist for the 2013 ReLit Award for Fiction. She was a scriptwriter on the best-selling augmented reality app *Zombies, Run!* and writes stories, poems, plays, and produces work in experimental digital storytelling. She received her Ph.D. from Bath Spa University in 2017. Kayt was born in Manitouwadge, Ontario and lives in Elliot Lake.



Kerry Clare

Kerry Clare's first novel, *Mitzi Bytes*, was called "entertaining, engaging and timely" by the *Toronto Star*, who also noted that it "heralds the arrival of a fantastic, fun new novelist on the Canadian scene." She is editor of *The M Word: Conversations About Motherhood*, a National Magazine Award-nominated essayist, and editor of Canadian books website *49thShelf.com*. She writes about books and reading at her popular blog, *Pickle Me This* and lives in Toronto with her family.



Kim Fahner

Kim Fahner lives and writes in Sudbury, Ontario. She was the fourth, and first woman, poet laureate for the City of Greater Sudbury (2016-18). Her latest book of poems is *These Wings* (Pedlar Press, 2019), with her forthcoming collection, *Emptying the Ocean* (Frontenac House Press) in Fall 2022. Kim's poem "Beekeeping" won first place in League of Canadian Poets' 2021 National Broadsheet Contest. Kim is the Ontario Representative for The Writers' Union of Canada, a member of The League of Canadian Poets, and a supporting member of the Playwrights' Guild of Canada.



Linda Leith

Linda Leith was born in Northern Ireland, and attended schools in London, Basel, Belfast, Paris and Montreal, graduating from the University of London, which granted her a PhD on the work of Samuel Beckett when she was twenty-four. A novelist, essayist, literary translator and the founder of Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and Linda Leith Publishing, she lives in Montreal.



Liz Howard

Liz Howard's debut collection *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* won the 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for the 2015 Governor General's Award for Poetry. Her second collection, *Letters in a Bruised Cosmos*, was published by McClelland and Stewart in June 2021. Howard received an Honours Bachelor of Science with High Distinction from the University of Toronto, and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Guelph. She is of mixed settler and Anishinaabe heritage. Born and raised on Treaty 9 territory in northern Ontario, she currently lives in Toronto.



Michelle Good

Michelle Good is a Cree writer and a member of the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan. After working for Indigenous organizations for twenty-five years, she obtained a law degree and advocated for residential school survivors for over fourteen years. *Five Little Indians*, her first novel, won the HarperCollins/UBC Best New Fiction Prize, the Amazon First Novel Award, the Governor General's Literary Award and the Rakuten Kobo Emerging Writer Award. It was also longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and a finalist for the Writer's Trust Award.



Morgan Murray

Morgan Murray (he/him) is a settler from the same backwoods central Alberta village as figure-skating legend Kurt Browning (Caroline, AB in Treaty 6 territory). His first novel, *Dirty Birds* was a finalist for the 2021 Leacock Medal for Humour, longlisted for CBC Canada Reads 2021, a finalist for three Atlantic Book Awards (winning the Best Atlantic Published Book) and the ReLit Awards, and won silver in the 2020 International Forewords Indies Award for Humour. He now lives in the backwoods of Cape Breton (Unama'ki) with his wife and little family.



Nathaniel G. Moore

Nathaniel G. Moore is the author of eight books including *Savage 1986-2011* (Anvil Press), winner of the 2014 ReLit Award for best novel. He has worked in publicity for the Canadian small press for two decades, including stints as books editor of Broken Pencil, managing editor of the Danforth Review, columnist at Open Book, Senior Publicist at Nightwood Editions / Harbour Publishing, Publicity Manager at Goose Lane Editions, and currently, owner of moorehype (moorehype.com) a boutique publicity firm based in Fredericton, NB. His latest publication, *Honorarium* (2021) with Palimpsest Press is a collection of essays.



Rebecca Salazar

Rebecca Salazar (she/they) is a writer, editor, and community organizer currently living on the unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik people. The author of poetry chapbooks *the knife you need to justify the wound* (Rahila's Ghost) and *Guzzle* (Anstruther), Salazar also edits for The Fiddlehead and Plenitude magazines.



Rod Carley

Rod Carley's first novel, *A Matter of Will* (Latitude 46), was a finalist for the 2018 Northern Lit Award for Fiction. His short story, *A Farewell to Steam*, was featured in the non-fiction anthology, *150 Years Up North and More* (Latitude 46). Rod is also an award-winning director, playwright and actor, having directed and produced over 100 theatrical productions to date including fifteen adaptations of Shakespeare. He is the Artistic Director of the Canadore College Acting for Stage and Screen Program and a part-time English professor at Nipissing University in North Bay, ON. *Kinmount* (Latitude 46) is his second novel.



Rosanna Battigelli

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli was born in Calabria, Italy, and immigrated to Sudbury, Ontario at three years of age. An alumna of the Humber School for Writers, she has been published in nineteen anthologies and journals. Rosanna's novel *La Brigantessa* (Inanna Publications, 2018) was awarded Gold for Historical Fiction in the 2019 Independent Publisher Book Awards and a finalist for the 2019 Canadian Authors Association Fred Kerner Book Award and the 2019 Northern Lit Award. Rosanna also has two children's books published with Pajama Press. She recently released *Pigeon Soup & Other Stories* (2021, Inanna).



Sam Hiyate

Sam Hiyate worked at the literary magazines *Blood & Aphorisms* and *The Quarterly* in the 90s. He ran the edgy micropublisher, *Gutter Press*, from 1993 to 2002, as publisher, and launched the literary division of The Lavin Agency in 2003, building a client list and completing his first deals. Sam's projects for The Rights Factory include memoir, literary and commercial fiction, narrative nonfiction, health and lifestyle, self-improvement and graphic novels. He looks for works with distinct and compelling voices and he loves humour. He's keen to discover and help new writers prepare their works for market, and to help them build lasting careers with their talent.



Sumaiya Matin

Sumaiya Matin is a writer and a strategic advisor for the Ontario government, working on anti-racism initiatives. She lives in Toronto.



Vera Constantineau

Vera Constantineau is the current poet laureate of the City of Greater Sudbury. Her interest as a poet lies mainly in Japanese forms, in particular haiku, senryu and haibun although she does write tanka as well. She recently completed a manuscript of haibun and has plans for a second haiku collection to follow three lines at a time, her first mini chapbook.



Waubgeshig Rice

Waubgeshig Rice is an author from Wasauksing First Nation. He has written three fiction titles, and his short stories and essays have been published in numerous anthologies. His most recent novel, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, was published in 2018 and became a national bestseller. He graduated from the journalism program at the university formerly known as Ryerson in 2002, and spent most of his journalism career with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a video journalist and radio host. He left CBC in 2020 to focus on his literary career. He lives in Sudbury, Ontario with his wife and two sons.



Yvette Nolan

Born in Saskatchewan to an Anishinaabe (Algonquin) mother and an Irish immigrant father, Yvette Nolan knows how to wield the pen: she is the author of several plays and has directed numerous shows. She was artistic director of Native Earth Performing Arts and has written a book about Indigenous theatre in Canada, *Medicine Shows: Indigenous Performance Culture*. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.



Zoe Whittall

Zoe Whittall is the author of three previous novels: the Giller-shortlisted *The Best Kind of People*, Lambda-winning *Holding Still for as Long as Possible*, and debut *Bottle Rocket Hearts*. She has published three collections of poetry, *The Best Ten Minutes of Your Life*, *Precordial Thump*, and *The Emily Valentine Poems*. She is also a Canadian Screen Award-winning TV and film writer, with credits on the Baroness Von Sketch Show, *Schitt's Creek*, *Degrassi*, and others. She lives in Toronto.

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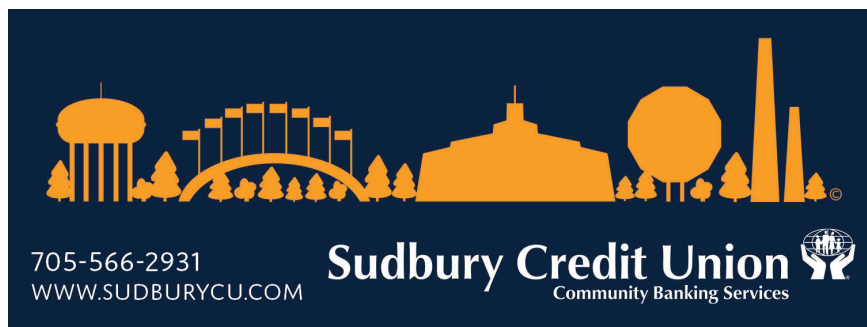
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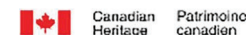
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