

Manitoba Book Awards/Les Prix du livre du Manitoba
2023 Jury Biographies/Biographies des jurés 2023

Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award For Non-Fiction / Prix Alexander-Kennedy-Isbister pour les études et essais

Alicia Chantal is an editing consultant and owner of Fresh Look Editing, based in Edmonton. She is passionate about helping individuals and organizations create messages that educate and empower. Alicia specializes in non-fiction copyediting and proofreading and is currently the co-coordinator of Cloud Club (West) for the Chartered Institute of Editing and Proofreading. When not at her desk, Alicia can be found spending time with her family, reading, or watching a good show.

Neil Besner taught Canadian literature at the University of Winnipeg for 30 years (1987-2017), retiring as Provost and Vice President, Academic. He has published many articles, book chapters, and reviews, as well as books on Mavis Gallant and Alice Munro, and has co-edited collections of poetry and short fiction. He is also a published translator from Portuguese to English. His most recent book is *Fishing With Tardelli: A Memoir of Family in Time Lost* (2022).

Steve Benstead has had two novels published and his short fiction has appeared in *The Fiddlehead*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *The Journey Prize: Stories 25*, *Grain Magazine*, *Prairie Fire*, and *The Antigonish Review*. He also has written the text for *Winnipeg: City at the Forks* and has worked in Winnipeg as a bookseller for over thirty years.

Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award / Prix littéraire Carol-Shields de la ville de Winnipeg

Rhea Tregebov was raised in the North End of Winnipeg. She is an award-winning poet and the celebrated author of five children's picture books as well as two novels, *Rue des Rosiers* (2019) and *The Knife Sharpener's Bell* (2009). She lives and writes in Vancouver, where she is Associate Professor Emerita at the School of Creative Writing at UBC. She is currently completing her eighth collection of poetry.

Oyíndámólá Áláká is a Nigerian-born award-winning community organizer, project manager and creative strategist. She holds a B.A (Adv.) in Women and Gender Studies from the University of Manitoba. She is the recipient of the Manitoba Human Rights Commission - Sybil Shack Youth Award (2019), the Black History Month Manitoba Youth Achievement Award (2020), Nigerian Professionals in Manitoba Top 10 Nigerian Professionals. She is also a sought-after political campaign strategist and has worked on historical campaigns both at the municipal and provincial levels of the Manitoban government. In 2020, Oyíndámólá co-founded NOIR Professionals, a start-up with the goal of connecting, creating, and cultivating opportunities for Black professionals in Canada. Currently, she is the general manager at Manitobans for the Arts.

Dylan Jones graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Rhetoric, Communications, and Writing, and a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies at the University of Winnipeg where he currently works as a program officer in the Research Office supporting the Canada Research Chairs Program. He is also an avid runner and enjoys listening to podcasts while he runs along Winnipeg's many trails and roads.

Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book

Carolyn Gray is published in drama, fiction, and creative non-fiction. In the past few years, she has focused on screenwriting. She won the John Hirsch Award for Most Promising Manitoba Writer and the Manitoba Day Award for Excellence in Archival Research. Other credits include sessional instructor of creative writing at Brandon University, Winnipeg Public Library Writer-in-Residence, Editor at the literary magazine *Prairie Fire*, and an MFA in Writing from the University of Saskatchewan.

Sonja Boon is an award-winning researcher, writer, teacher, and flutist. Professor of Gender Studies at Memorial University, she is the author of the memoir *What the Oceans Remember: Searching for Belonging and Home* (WLU Press, 2019), and has published in ROOM magazine, The Ethnic Aisle, Riddle Fence, and Geist. For six years, Sonja was principal flutist with the Portland Baroque Orchestra. She has also appeared with the Toronto Symphony, Hallé Orchestra, and Holland Festival of Early Music.

Kevin Spenst (he/him) is the author of three poetry collections with Anvil Press and over a dozen chapbooks with three more just out with Collusion Books, the Alfred Gustav Press, and 845 Press. He teaches, reads, writes, and lives in Vancouver on unceded Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh territory.

Manitowapow Award / Prix Manitowapow

Charlene Van Buekenhout is a Red River Metis and Belgian Canadian theatre artist working and living with her family on Treaty 1 land. Her artistic career can be seen throughout the past 20 years of the professional and independent theatre landscape in Winnipeg. She spent 6 years as the programming and marketing director at Dalnavert Museum and is now a freelance arts leader, administrator, creator, performer, director, and experimentalist. Her recent creation and performance work in theatre has been to revitalize, use, and create awareness for the endangered Southern Michif language.

D.A. Lockhart is the author of multiple collections of poetry and short fiction. His work has been shortlisted for the Raymond Souster Award, Indiana Author's Awards, First Nations Communities READ Award, and has been a finalist for the ReLit Award. He is pùkuwànkooamimëns of the Moravian of the Thames First Nation. Lockhart currently resides at Waawiyaaatong and Pelee Island where he is the publisher at Urban Farmhouse Press.

Darrel J McLeod is Nehiyaw (Cree) from Northern Canada, Treaty 8. He has been a French immersion teacher, School Principal in Yekooche First Nation, Director of a curriculum center, Executive Director of Education and International Affairs at the Assembly of First Nations, and Chief Negotiator for the Government of Canada. Darrel is fluent in French, Spanish as well as English, and is studying Cree. Darrel's memoirs, *Mamaskatch, A Cree Coming of Age* and its sequel, *Peyakow: Reclaiming Cree Dignity* were published by Douglas and McIntyre in 2018 and 2021, respectively. *Mamaskatch* won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction, was shortlisted several other prestigious awards, and has been published in French and German. *Peyakow* was shortlisted for the Writers' Trust non-fiction prize in 2021, as well as being shortlisted for two B.C. book prizes, the Hubert Evans Non-Fiction Prize, and the Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes. Darrel is busy putting the final touches in his first novel, *A Season in Chezgh'un* and writing his fourth book, *The Days After and the Days Before*. He lives near Sooke and winters in Puerto Vallarta. Darrel is also an accomplished jazz singer.

Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Awards / Prix Manuela-Dias de conception graphique et d'illustration en édition

Sarah Brazauskas is a freelance graphic designer, illustrator, artist and Manitobah Storyboot School coordinator. She is Anishinaabe and Lithuanian/Irish/Scottish from Rennie, Manitoba with roots in Pinaymootang, MB and Cote First Nation, SK and mother to Albina Brazauskas-Courchene.

Maryse Cloutier has been the Managing Editor at the University of Ottawa Press for the past three years. Before joining the Press, as a graduate of the Université de Saint-Boniface in translation, she was managing a linguistic service agency, and worked as a translator and editor in various fields for ten years. Since her arrival at the Press, she has worked on around 100 manuscripts published or soon to be, including many with illustrations.

Alexander Finbow is currently the Publisher at Renegade Arts Entertainment, the Alberta based graphic novel publisher, and President of the Book Publishers Association of Alberta. He is also an author and filmmaker.

Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction

Michael Afenfia wears many hats. He is a storyteller and author of several critically acclaimed novels. Two of his novels made the shortlist for the Association of Nigeria Authors (ANA) Prize for prose in the year they were published. Michael is a lawyer with a master's in business administration (MBA), a public speaker and mentor to many upcoming writers. He is currently the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Association of Immigration Settlement & Integration Agencies (SIASIA).

Heather O'Neill is a novelist, short story writer and essayist. She is the author of several books including, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, *Lonely Hearts Hotel*, and, most recently, *When We Were Lost Our Heads*.

Michael Kaan is the author of the novel *The Water Beetles*, which won the Amazon First Novel Award, the Margaret Laurence Prize, and the McNally Robinson book of the year award, and was a finalist for the 2017 Governor General's Award for English Fiction.

Mary Scorer Award for Best Book by a Manitoba Publisher / Prix Mary-Scorer pour le meilleur livre par un éditeur du Manitoba

An editor and letterpress printer, **Marnie Parsons** is the owner and publisher of Running the Goat, Books & Broadsides, a small press that specializes in fine children's books. She lives and works in Tors Cove, NL.

Artist and writer **Jim Nason** is the author of seven volumes of poetry, a short story collection, and three novels. His new poetry book, *Self Portrait Embracing a Fabulous Beast* is forthcoming with Frontenac House Books, 2023.

Dagmawit Dejene is currently working as a Sales Promotions Coordinator at Owlkids Books, a children's book publisher in Toronto, ON. She completed a certificate in publishing from Centennial College in 2021 and has a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from Toronto Metropolitan University.

McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award

Kevin Sylvester is an author and illustrator of more than 30 books for children. His latest is *Apartment 713*. He has been nominated for the GGs, Lambdas, MYRCAs, Silver Birch (Ontario) and more.

Cary Fagan's books for children have won the Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award, the IODE Jean Throop Book Award, a Mr. Christie Silver Medal, and the Joan Betty Stuchner--Oy Vey! --Funniest Children's Book Award. For his body of work, he has received the Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People. He also writes books for adults. His work has been translated into twelve languages.

Lindsay Wong is the author of the critically acclaimed, award-winning, and bestselling memoir *The Woo-Woo*, which was a finalist for Canada Reads 2019. She has written a YA novel entitled *My Summer of Love and Misfortune*. Her debut short story collection *Tell Me Pleasant Things About Immortality* was released in February 2023. Wong holds a BFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia and an MFA in literary nonfiction from Columbia University. She currently teaches creative writing at the University of Winnipeg.

McNally Robinson Book of the Year

Kate Caley has published two short story collections and three collections of poetry, and her plays have been performed in Canada, the US and the UK. She has won the Trillium Book Award, an O. Henry Prize, and the Mitchell Prize for Poetry, and been a finalist for the Governor General's Award for Fiction. Her writing has appeared in *Best Canadian Poetry* and *Best Canadian Stories*. She lives in Toronto with her wife and their children.

Per Brask has published three books of poetry. He has also published six volumes of Danish poetry, co-translated with Patrick Friesen, one of which was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2016. He has contributed essays, poetry, stories, and translations to literary and academic journals. He has also edited books. He taught in The U of W's Department of Theatre and Film from 1982-2018.

Darcy Tamayose is a writer, graphic designer, and PhD student. Her recent short story collection, *Ezra's Ghosts* (NeWest Press) was finalist for the Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize 2022. Her work, which includes the novel, *Odori*, and youth fiction book, *Katie Be Quiet* received the Canada-Japan Literary Award and has been shortlisted for both the Alberta Writer's Guild Georges Bugnet Award and Foreword Indie Juvenile Award. Born and raised in the prairie landscape of southern Alberta, Tamayose lives there today surrounded by her daughter, family, and friends.

Le Prix littéraire Rue-Deschambault

Matthew Tétreault est Métis et Canadien-Français de la région sud-est du Manitoba, dans les alentours de Ste. Anne. Il tient un doctorat de l'Université de l'Alberta, sur la littérature et l'histoire littéraire des Métisses de la rivière Rouge. Il est aussi l'auteur d'une collection de petites histoires, *What Happened on the Bloodvein*, et son premier roman, *Hold Your Tongue*, une exploration de l'histoire, la culture, et des expériences des Métis francophone du sud-est du Manitoba, sort ce printemps.

Poète, romancière et essayiste, **Louise Dupré** a publié près d'une trentaine de titres, dont les recueils *Plus haut que les flammes* (2010), *La main hantée* (2016) et *Exercices de joie* (2020) aux Éditions du Noroît et aux Éditions Bruno Doucey, ainsi que le roman *Théo à jamais* (2020) chez Hélotrope. Elle a obtenu de nombreux prix littéraires, dont deux fois le prix du Gouverneur général. Elle est membre de l'Académie des lettres du Québec et de l'Ordre du Canada.

Herménégilde Chiasson détient, entre autres, un Master of Fine Arts de la State University of New-York et un doctorat en philo de la Sorbonne. Il a publié plus de 50 livres, écrit quarante pièces de théâtre, réalisé 16 films et exposé ses oeuvres d'arts visuels dans plus de 150 expositions solos ou de groupe. En 1999 il recevait le prix du Gouverneur-Général en poésie et en 2011 le prix Molson du Conseil des arts du Canada. Il habite à Grand Barachois en Acadie.