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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The 2016 Word Awards, Student Awards, and Beginner Writer Awards are NOW OPEN!

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FEBRUARY 16, 2015 - CANADA - **The Word Awards are Now Open! Entries must be in by midnight January 15, 2016.** Writers and publishers alike are encouraged to submit any writing published during the 2015 calendar year in this year's [Word Awards](#).

This contest is not restricted to members of [The Word Guild](#). It is open to any Canadian citizen or permanent resident who affirms [The Apostles' Creed](#). Entrants range from journalists and academics to writers who have self-published their first book, or for those who publish exclusively on the Internet.

NEW, this year!

- The redefined Blog category.
- Those who write for stage or screen can now enter their [scripts and screen plays](#).
- [New Crossover \(General market\)](#) accepts pieces that have been published for mainstream audiences while still having an underlying expression of the writer's Christian worldview.
- [Catégorie Française \(French category\)](#) is open for those who write Christian pieces in French, Canada's second language. For this first year we will accept any piece published between January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2015.

These awards honour the best writing published in more than thirty categories, including novels, nonfiction books, news articles, devotionals, columns, poems, short stories, and song lyrics. Both writers and publishers may submit work for the contest.

Books entered into the writing awards have the exciting prospect of being shortlisted for the [Grace Irwin Prize](#), Canada's largest literary prize for writers who are Christian. The \$5000 prize, in honour of the late author, classics scholar, and ordained minister Grace Irwin, will celebrate the best book published in 2015 by a Canadian author who writes from a Christian worldview.

[In The Beginning unpublished author awards are now open!](#) Entries must be received by January 15, 2016.

All never-before-published Canadian Christian adult writers are invited to enter The Word Guild's "In The Beginning" Novice Writing Contest. This contest is designed to encourage and recognize new and aspiring writers from 25-99. For the purposes of this competition, "unpublished" means the writer has never been paid for something he or she has written.

The grand prize is valued at over \$425. The winner can select either free registration to Write Canada, Canada's largest Christian writing conference on June 23-25, or mentoring sessions with a professional.



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The theme for the contest is **“Speaking Out”**. Qualified participants can enter original works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry (to a maximum length of 1500 words), the first 15 pages of a novel, and new this year, the first 15 pages of a Short Script.

Fresh Ink student awards are now open! Entries must be received by January 15, 2016.

For both unpublished High school and University students the Fresh Ink contest opens as well on October 15th. This contest was established to encourage the next generation of writers.

Student writers will receive valuable feedback from professional. [University students](#) will have a chance to win Free Saturday admission to Write Canada and a meet up with a professional of their choice while [High school students](#) can win a mentor session with a professional.

The theme this year is “Speaking Out”. Students can enter original works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry (to a maximum length of 1500 words), the first 15 pages of a novel and, new this year, the first 15 pages of a Short Script.

The Word Guild is a national association of Canadian writers, editors, speakers, news reporters, script writers, academics, publishers, booksellers, librarians and other interested individuals who are Christian. We believe there is great power in both the written and spoken word, and that Jesus Christ is the ultimate "Word" - John 1:1. From all parts of Canada, many denominational and cultural backgrounds, we are united in our common passion to positively influence individuals - and ultimately the Canadian culture - through life-changing words that bring God's message of hope.

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