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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Word Awards are Now Open!

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The Word Guild is pleased to open the [29th annual Word Awards](#). Writers and publishers alike are encouraged to submit any written works published during the 2016 calendar year, written for either the general or Christian markets.

This contest is open to any Canadian citizen or permanent resident who affirms [The Apostles' Creed](#). Entrants range from journalists and academics, to self-published writers and those who publish exclusively on the Internet.

The Word Awards honour the best writing published in more than thirty categories, including novels, nonfiction books, news articles, devotionals, columns, poems, short stories, song lyrics, scripts and French books. Both writers and publishers may submit works for the contest.

Books entered have the exciting prospect of being shortlisted for the \$5000 [Grace Irwin Prize](#), Canada's largest literary prize for writers who are Christian. The prize is given annually to celebrate the best book published in 2016 by a Canadian author who is Christian, and honours the late author, classics scholar, and ordained minister Grace Irwin.

NEW awards launched this year!

- [The Debra Fieguth Award](#): For Social Justice Issues
- [The Best New Canadian Manuscript](#): For unpublished manuscripts. Sponsored by Castle Quay
- [The Harvey/Mackey Award](#): For New Journalists
- [Les Prix des Mots Catégorie Française](#): For French novelists

Entries must be submitted or postmarked by midnight January 15, 2017.

All finalists and winners will be celebrated at our annual Word Awards Gala which will be held in June. For more information about the celebration, categories, rules or submission information please visit the [Awards](#) page on our website www.TheWordGuild.com.

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