

The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce
The 30th Annual 2018 The Word Awards Shortlist
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2017

TORONTO, ON — (CANADIAN CHRISTIAN NEWS SERVICE) — Canada’s writers who speak into Canadian culture from a Christian worldview will be honoured and celebrated on the evening of Friday, June 15, 2018.

Novelists, columnists, apologists, theologians, dramatists, and songwriters are among those who will be recognized in our annual The Word Guild Awards Gala at Roma’s Hospitality Centre, 5980 Shawson Dr, Mississauga.

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Awards will be given out in 47 categories for books, stories, articles, poetry, blogs, and screenplays published in 2017 and reaching both Christian and Mainstream audiences.

“Through their commitment and ability to speak words of hope and truth, these writers are bringing many thousands of Canadians closer to the mystery of God in Christ, that is The Word incarnate. It’s a remarkable accomplishment to celebrate,”

~Former Chair of The Word Guild Board, Thomas Froese

Carolyn Arends of Surrey BC, Christian recording artist, songwriter, and author, leads the way with four shortlisted entries in both article and lyrics categories. Terrie Todd of Portage la Prairie MB, and Glynis Belec of Drayton ON, are shortlisted three times.

Two of Canada’s best-known newspaper columnists—Michael Coren, who writes for *The Toronto Star*, and Father Raymond J. De Souza, who writes for the *National Post*, are both shortlisted. Coren is one of many who have doubled up their chances of taking home one of the beautiful glass awards by receiving two shortlist placements. Others include Paul Boge of Winnipeg MB, Iain Provain of Vancouver BC, Angela Bick of Newcastle ON, Sally Meadows of Saskatoon SK, Tina Michele Weidelich of London ON, Karen Stiller of Ottawa ON, Eleanor Shepherd of Pointe Claire QC, Mary-Elsie Wolfe of St. Catharines ON, N.J. Lindquist of Makham ON, and Rose McCormick Brandon of Caledonia, ON.

This year sees entries from the mother-daughter writing duo, Sheila Wray Gregoire and Rebecca Gregoire Lindenach. Both women are shortlisted, however the younger “one-upped” her momma by garnering not one, but two shortlist rankings.

We even have a book by former political heavyweight turned author, Preston Manning, on our shortlist!

Shortlisted books range from self-published to co-publishing to traditionally published. You will see names like Zondervan, Word Alive, Thomas Nelson, Castle Quay, and Baylor University Press amongst the shortlisted entries. Articles were written in the smallest of local publications to national newspapers.

During the evening, we will also celebrate the 8th annual presentation of the \$5,000 Grace Irwin Prize, Canada’s largest literary prize for Christian authors, which will be awarded to the most outstanding book published in 2017. Excellence in social justice issues writing will be honoured with The Debra Fieguth Award. A winner will also be announced for the Harvey/Mackey Award, named after veteran journalists Bob Harvey and Lloyd Mackey. The 2nd Annual Castle Quay Best New Canadian Manuscript will be awarded for an unpublished book. The winner will receive a prize package including publication of their manuscript by Castle Quay Books.



“It’s a credit to each of the nominees, already, whether they win an award or not, to have their work brought forward for this sort of memorable evening,” Froese said.

This year’s Gala is sure to be a meaningful time as we reflect on the accomplishments of so many writers in the past year.

Our 30th annual awards celebration will be a black-tie event. We’re requesting tuxedos or dark suits with ties for men, formal or semi-formal wear for women. However, don’t let wardrobe concerns keep you away, especially if you’re packing light or coming from a distance; just wear your best outfit! There will be a delicious meal, desert soirée and streamlined awards ceremony (so you get home before the sun come up!). For fun, we’ve added a photo booth enabling you to capture lasting memories with your friends! Professional Photos of the evening will be taken by Stephen G. Woo Photography.

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Copies of the 2018 Shortlist Media Release in both .docx and .pdf can be found on our [media page](#)

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – CHRISTIAN

BLOG

- Eleanor Shepherd: “*Lent-Finding Balance*”
- Sheila Wray-Gregoire: “*The awful legacy of Hugh Hefner*”
- N.J. Lindquist: “*Am I Weird? A children’s book made me feel better about being me.*”

COLUMN SERIES

- Bruce Clemenger: “The Gathering Place” (*Faith Today*)
- Carolyn Arends: “Response-ability,” and “A Persistent Problem” (*Faith Today*)

COLUMN SINGLE

- Steve Bell: “*Success: The Art of Staying Closely Behind*” (*Seven Magazine*)
- Emily Cramer: “Image Crafter or Image Bearer?” (*Christian Courier*)
- Derek Schuurman: “Weapons of Math Destruction” (*Christian Courier*)

INSPIRATIONAL/DEVOTIONAL

- Tina Michele Weidelich: “Christmas Behind Barbed-Wire Fences” (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)
- Carolyn Arends: “Happy Birthday, Dear Church” (*Christianity Today*)
- Angela Bick: “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!” (*Christian Courier*)

LONG FEATURE

- Paul Spilsbury: “Jewish Theocracy and the Zealots”
- John H. Redekop: “A Professors Pilgrimage” (*Direction*)
- Karen Stiller: “Welcoming Refugees in Uganda” (*Faith Today*)

NEWS

- Janice Keats: “Lucasville Woman Brings Hope to Hurricane Harvey Survivors” (*Chronicle Herald*)
- Craig Macartney: “Rev. Lim and the Church That Prayed Him Out” (*Faith Today*)



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Carolyn Arends: "I Was an Ash Wednesday Rookie" (*Christianity Today*)
- Marguerite Cummings: "Baby in The Manger" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)
- Rose McCormick Brandon: "Oh!" (Standard Publishing (David C. Cook))

POETRY

- Naomi Peters: "You Will Not Remember Me" (Goldrock Press)
- Sandy Ayer: "Resurrection Breakfast"

SHORT STORY

- Rose Scott: "Light of The World 2.0" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)
- Sally Meadows: "A Blessed Christmas" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)
- Robert White: "No Room?" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

SONG LYRICS (TERRENCE L. BINGLEY AWARD)

- Tina Michele Weidelich: "You're Never Alone"
- Carolyn Arends: "This is The Place"

FULL LENGTH STAGE OR SCREEN PLAY

- Barb Draper: *Family Ties Through Thick and Thin*
- Ray Wiseman: "Christmas, 1940" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET PUBLICATIONS

COLUMN SERIES

- Terrie Todd: "Practically a Spa Day" / "A Bone to Pick" (*The Herald Leader*)
- Hendrik van der Breggen: "Apologia Column" (*The Carillon*)
- Glynis Belec: *Sugar and Spice* - August 2017 – "The Canadian Way" & September 2017 – "Vanity Unleashed" (*The Rural Route*)

COLUMN SINGLE

- Father Raymond de Sousa: "From sea to shining sea. A chance to celebrate Canada with faux guilt or self-congratulatory fluff" (*National Post*)
- Michael Coren: "The man I will worship this Easter" (*The Toronto Star*)
- Michael Coren: "Why I Pray" (*The Walrus*)
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PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Karen Stiller: "The Lonely Social Life of a Minister's Wife" (*The Walrus*)
- Valentina Gal: "Seven Silver Dollars" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)
- Eleanor Shepherd: "I Knew You Would Come" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN

- Wanda Vincent: *Grumpy-bumpy Bob's Great Day* (Word Alive Press)
- Donna Simard: *Shhh! It's a Surprise! Off to Nunavut* (Word Alive Press)

- Peter Serger: *MIPD Episode 1: Robots for the Glory* (Kurios Kingdom Publishing)

HISTORICAL

- Terrie Todd: *Maggie's War* (Waterfall Press)
- Terrie Todd: *Bleak Landing* (Waterfall Press)

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

- Iain Provan: *The Reformation and the Right Reading of Scripture* (Baylor University Press)
- W. Ross Hastings: *Echoes of Coinherence: Trinitarian Theology and Science Together* (Cascade Books)

APOLOGETICS/EVANGELISM

- Mark Clark: *The Problem of God* (Zondervan)
- Rebecca Gregoire Lindenbach: *Why I Didn't Rebel* (Thomas Nelson)

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Garry E. Milley: *Seven Shades of Sin: Unmasking Temptation* (London Elite Images)
- Mary-Elsie Wolfe: *Becoming His Story: Inspiring Women to Leadership* (Castle Quay Books)
- Iain Provan: *The Reformation and the Right Reading of Scripture* (Baylor University Press)

CULTURE

- Mary-Elsie Wolfe: *Becoming His Story: Inspiring Women to Leadership* (Castle Quay Books)
- Preston Manning: *Faith, Leadership and Public Life* (Castle Quay Books)
- Rebecca Gregoire Lindenbach: *Why I Didn't Rebel* (Thomas Nelson)

CHRISTIAN LIVING

- Jared Brock & Aaron Alford: *Bearded Gospel men* (Thomas Nelson)
- Mary-Elsie Wolfe: *Becoming His Story: Inspiring Women to Leadership* (Castle Quay Books)

INSPIRATIONAL/DEVOTIONAL

- Allison Alley: *Eyes to See: Reflecting God's love to a world in need* (Compassion Canada)
- Belma Vardy: *Because God Was There A Journey of Loss, Healing and Overcoming* (Castle Quay Books)
- Paul Boge: *Hannah's Hope: A Mully Children's Rescue Story* (Castle Quay Books)

LIFE STORIES

- Shelaine Strom: *But Pain Crept In* (In the Midst Publishing)
- Paul Boge; *Hannah's Hope: A Mully Children's Rescue Story* (Castle Quay Books)
- Earnest Nullmeyer: *How I Triumphed Over Multiple Traumas With a Smile on My Face, Sparkle in My Eyes* (Castle Quay Books)

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION

LIFE STORIES

- Mark Petersen: *Love Giving Well* (Cascade Books)
- Shireen Jeejeebhoy: *Concussion Is Brain Injury*
- Beverley Boissery: *The Temerity of Hope* (Wesbrook Bay Books)



Books – SPECIALTY

- Glynis Belec: *Good Grief People* (Angel Hope Publishing)
- Faye Hall & Malcolm Guite: *Seven Whole Days* (Castle Quay Books)
- N.J. Lindquist, editor: *Christmas with Hot Apple Cider* (That's Life! Communications)

FRESH INK {Student Awards}

1st 3 CHAPTERS (UNPUBLISHED NOVEL)

- Leah Beldman: *Cat & Maus* (Home Education)
- Anica Best: *Withered* (Royal West Campus)

SHORT STORY

- Conor Sweetman: *Banquet* (York University)
- Kristen Wood: *Half Empty* (Tyndale University College)
- Gloria Elekwa: *My First Christmas* (University of CalGarry E.)

POETRY

- Natasha Daley: *The Dash* (Tyndale University)
- Carly Ververs: *Train Thoughts* (Redeemer University College)
- Kristen Wood: *My Brother Ozymandias* (Tyndale University College)

IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Work Awards}

1st 3 CHAPTERS (UNPUBLISHED NOVEL)

- Karen Barnstable: *Hindsight*
- Brenda Tindall: *Hanging Onto Life*
- Melanie Kilsby: *Whiteshire Castle*

POETRY

- Vicki Whittemore: "SOS"
- Karma Pratt: "Patchwork Soul"

MISCELLANEOUS SHORTLIST ENTRANTS

The following people will also be winning awards for their entries:

Daniel Coleman: *Yardwork: Biography of an Urban Place* (Wolsak & Wynn)

Robert Bruinsma: "Chasing Butterflies" (*Christian Courier*)

Glynis Belec: "The Search" (*Christmas with Hot Apple Cider*)

Stacey Weeks: *In Too Deep* (White Rose Publishing0)

Kevin Miller: *Moody Bee* (Millstone Press)

Marcia Laycock: "A Pattern in Blue"

Reg Quist: *The Church at Third and Main* (Christian Kindle News)

Linda Stauth: *Stormy Lake* (Word Alive Press)

Angela Reitsma Bick: "God's Infinite Love: Speaking Up After a Son's Suicide" (*Christian Courier*)

Preston Pouteaux: *The Bees of Rainbow Falls: Finding Faith, Imagination, and Delight in Your Neighbourhood* (Urban Loft Publishers)

Rose McCormick Brandon: "When a Nation Prays: The prayer story behind the miracles of Dunkirk"
(*Testimony*)

Sarah Brownlee: "My Side Of The Mountain" (Langley Christian School)

Carly Ververs: "When The Snow Comes" (Redeemer University College)

ADDITIONAL WINNERS

Winners for the following categories will be announced at The 2018 Word Awards Gala:

ASP/ CHRISTIAN PROFILE/HUMAN INTEREST & SHORT FEATURE
ASP/ GENERAL MARKET/ SHORT STORIES
SCRIPTS / CHRISTIAN / SHORT SCRIPT
SCRIPTS / GENERAL MARKET / SHORT SCRIPT
BOOKS/ CHRISTIAN/ FICTION / CONTEMPORARY, ROMANCE & SUSPENCE
BOOKS/ CHRISTIAN/ NON-FICTION/ INSTRUCTIONAL
BOOKS//GENERAL MARKET/ FICTION/ CHILDREN
BOOKS/GENERAL MARKET/ NON-FICTION/ CULTURE

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

The shortlist announcement for the **Castle Quay Best New Canadian Manuscript** has been *rescheduled* to **Friday, May 25th at 12pm noon EST**, due to the large number of entries and the excellence of submissions. Careful consideration is being taken by the management of Castle Quay to decipher which entry best deserves the title of *Best New Canadian Manuscript* in 2018!

See you all at our 30th annual awards gala!

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