THE WORD AWARDS 2026

WINNERS LIST

UNPUBLISHED WORKS - FRESH INK

Fresh Ink - High School — Manuscript - First 3 Chapters

WINNER Mikayla Traver • Lowbanks, ON — *Ally of Shadows*

Fresh Ink - High School — Poetry

WINNER Allison Vivanco • Surrey, BC — *Patmos in the Rain*

Fresh Ink - University — Manuscript - First 3 Chapters

WINNER Ruth Ann Bos • Ancaster, ON — *Vision*

Fresh Ink - University — Non-Fiction Piece

WINNER Juliana vanPopta • Hamilton, ON — *Wet Sneakers*

Fresh Ink - University — Poetry

WINNER Monica Bartsch • Tillsonburg, ON — *They Came For Us In the Night*

Fresh Ink - University — Short Story (1500 words or less)

WINNER Anna Harris • Ancaster, ON — *Bruise-coloured*

AWARD OF MERIT Jerica Corey • Yarmouth, NS — *Into Light*

UNPUBLISHED WORKS - IN THE BEGINNING

In the Beginning — Manuscript - First 3 Chapters

WINNER Tom McLagan • Markham, ON — *Serving God Together: Reclaiming God's Vision for Women in Leadership*

In the Beginning — Non-Fiction piece

WINNER Julie Stautland • Niagara, ON — *Let Your Light Sparkle - 31 Days of God's Truth to Overcome Fear, Shame and Self-Doubt*

AWARD OF MERIT William Ian Walker • Hamilton, ON — *Creativity: A Divine Current Through My Life*

In the Beginning — Poetry

WINNER Jazmine Lawrence • Beaver Bank, NS — *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*

In the Beginning — Short Story (1500 words or less)

WINNER Jendaya [Jenna] Sanderson • Stouffville, ON — *The Sacrifice*

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

WINNER Ruth A. Kerr • Stettler, AB — *Fierce*

CHRISTIAN PUBLISHED

Christian Article/Short Piece — Blog - Personal

WINNER Dr. Paul E. Hughes • Langley, BC — *Five Men Learning to Love Well* | Publisher: Faith Today

Christian Article/Short Piece — Blog - Topical

TIE Connie Leung Nelson • Edmonton, AB — *How The Gospel Answers Shame in College Students* | Publisher: The Gospel Coalition

TIE Matthew Todd • Coquitlam, BC — *Handing On the Faith to the Next Generation* | Publisher: Faith Today

AWARD OF MERIT Alice Plug-Buist • Hamilton, ON — *Clearing Muck for Our Neighbours* | Publisher: Faith Today

Christian Article/Short Piece — Column - Single

WINNER Willy Kotiuga • Pointe-Claire, QC — *Artificial Intelligence: Servant, Not Substitute* | Publisher: Faith Today

Christian Article/Short Piece — Inspirational/Devotional

WINNER Tricia Gibb Lane • Bright's Grove, ON — *What Would I Say to My Younger Self?: Lessons from the Journey as a Female Church Pastor* | Publisher: testimony/Enrich

AWARD OF MERIT Terrie Todd • Portage la Prairie, MB — *Meeting Mr. Miki* | Publisher: Guideposts

Christian Article/Short Piece — Long Feature

WINNER Jon Corbin • Bedford, NS — *Hip Hop Was Always Part of the Story* | Publisher: Faith Today

Christian Article/Short Piece — Personal Experience

WINNER Patti Miller • Montreal, QC — *Pastoring Through Brokenness* | Publisher: testimony/Enrich

Christian Article/Short Piece — Personal Opinion

WINNER Floyd A. Brobbel • Oakville, ON — *This Year is Coming to an End* | Publisher: Voice of the Martyrs Canada

AWARD OF MERIT Duane Henry • Ancaster, ON — *Ham's Children: More Than Slaves* | Publisher: testimony/Enrich

Christian Article/Short Piece — Poetry

WINNER Lindsey Gallant • Wheatley River, PE — *We Are All Mary* | Publisher: The Habit Portfolio

Christian Article/Short Piece — Profile/Human Interest

WINNER René Lussier • Saint-Hyacinthe, QC — *Michel Charbonneau: Paying Homage to a True Christian Hero* | Publisher: testimony/Enrich

Christian Article/Short Piece — Song Lyrics

WINNER Christopher Mackness • Hamilton, ON — *THE CRY (STORY)* | Publisher: C-DOT (Independent Music Artist)

CHRISTIAN MARKET BOOKS

Christian Fiction — Children

WINNER Janet Surette • Barrie, ON — *The Maiden & The Wall* | Publisher: Tellwell Publishing, Illustrations by Rylie Prentice, Cover designed by Janet Surette & Rylie Prentice

AWARD OF MERIT Bridget Hagstrom • Leduc, AB — *Princess Annelissa* | Publisher: FiveArrowsMedia Inc, Illustration by Melissa Baker Nguyen, Cover designed by FiveArrowsMedia Inc.

Christian Fiction — Middle Grade

WINNER Susan Reimer • Cochrane, ON — *The Space Between Us* | Publisher: Chicken Scratch Books

Christian Fiction — Young Adult

WINNER Jil Koller • Oro Medonte, ON — *Heart of a Bowman* | Publisher: Mountain Brook Ink

Christian Fiction — Contemporary

WINNER Robert Montgomery • Gatineau, QC — *Ryan's War* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

Christian Fiction — Historical

WINNER Jack A. Taylor • Maple Ridge, BC — *Turning West (Book 3 Prince of Persia Series)* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

AWARD OF MERIT Helena Smrcek • Brantford, ON — *A Season of Forever* | Publisher: Fab Four Press

Christian Fiction — Novella

WINNER Melanie Stevenson • Cambridge, ON — *Falling for You (from the 'I Heard the Bells' Christmas anthology)* | Publisher: Fab Four Press

Christian Fiction — Romance

WINNER Pattie Janzen • Martensville, SK — *You Are Amadeus* | Publisher: PDJ Publishing

Christian Fiction — Speculative

WINNER Amanda Wright • Summerland, BC — *Darkfell* | Publisher: Quill & Flame Publishers

Christian Fiction — Stories (under 10,000 words)

WINNER Eleanor Bertin • Botha, AB — *Call Me Birdie* | Publisher: Leaf & Blade Publishing

AWARD OF MERIT Terrie Todd • Portage la Prairie, MB — *Final Critique* | Publisher: FellowScript Magazine

Christian Fiction — Suspense

WINNER Blossom Turner • Lake Country, BC — *Maranatha The Victory Battle (Book 3 in the Victory Series)* | Publisher: TurnStyle Books

AWARD OF MERIT Laura Thomas • West Kelowna, BC — *The Final Word* | Publisher: Mountain Brook Ink

Christian Non-Fiction — Academic

WINNER J. D. Lyonhart • Jamestown, ND — *The Journey of God: Christianity in Six Movements* | Publisher: InterVarsity Press, Illustrations by

Christian Non-Fiction — Apologetics/Evangelism

WINNER Kiri Jane Erb • Comox, BC — *Love, War and The Mess In Between* | Publisher: Wipf and Stock Publishers

Christian Non-Fiction — Biblical Studies

WINNER Janet Surette • Barrie, ON — *Every Good Thing: A Glory Story of Gospel Partnership* | Publisher: Admiration Books

Christian Non-Fiction — Children

WINNER **Vickram Bachan** • Toronto, ON — *The Donkey's Wish* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

Christian Non-Fiction — Christian Living - Personal Growth or Inspirational

WINNER Meta Kool • St Thomas, ON — *Born to Stand Out* | Publisher: FiveArrowsMedia Inc.

Christian Non-Fiction — Culture & Contemporary Issues

WINNER Jane Watrich • Regina, SK & Nellie O'Hara • Burlington, ON — *Sound the Alarm* | Publisher: FiveArrowsMedia Inc.

Christian Non-Fiction — Devotional/Inspirational

WINNER Ann Griffiths • Abbotsford, BC — *God, I'm Broken: Finding Hope and Comfort in Your Grief Journey* | Publisher: Redemption Press

Christian Non-Fiction — Life Stories/Memoir/Autobiography

WINNER Gregory Musselman • St. Albert, AB — *From the Sidelines to the FrontLines* | Publisher: Genesis Publishing Group

AWARD OF MERIT Paul H. Boge • East St. Paul, MB — *Ordinary People, Extraordinary God: The Story of Noel Isaacs and the Himalayan Mountain People* | Publisher: RFI Publishing

GENERAL MARKET - PUBLISHED

General Article/Short Piece — Long Feature

WINNER Lynn C. Bilton • Brighton, ON — *Celebrating Extraordinary Canadians* | Publisher: Watershed Magazine

General Article/Short Piece — Personal Experience

WINNER Allison Lynn Flemming • St. Catharines, ON — *The Meal That Made Me Brave* | Publisher: Chicken Soup for the Soul

General Fiction — Children

WINNER Lori Taetz • Kelowna, BC — *Grandma and the Internet* | Publisher: Friesen Press, Illustrations by Pia Reeves

General Fiction — Contemporary

WINNER Graeme Connell • Calgary, AB — *Blu, amid blooms and branches*

General Fiction — Historical

WINNER Jack A. Taylor • Maple Ridge, BC — *The Betrayal* | Publisher: Friesen Press

General Fiction — Middle Grade

WINNER Todd Anderson • Kanata, ON — *Sugar, Spice and Everything Nice*

General Fiction — Young Adult

WINNER Kyrie Wang • Montreal, QC — *Traitor's Heart (Enemy's Keeper Book 2)*

General Non-Fiction — Children

WINNER Bill Strom • Abbotsford, BC — *Professor Kipper Kidd Talks Phone-y Baloney* | Publisher: Integratio Press

General Non-Fiction — Culture & Contemporary Issues

WINNER Mark Scott • Franklin, MA — *The Beauty of Souls Aesthetic Encounters with Marilynne Robinson* | Publisher: Fortress Press

General Non-Fiction — Life Stories

WINNER Linda Brierly • Clearwater, BC — *Edge of the Ledge, A Memoir of Adventures Lived and Lessons Learned* | Publisher: Friesen Press

Poetry Book

WINNER D.S. Martin • Komoka, ON — *The Role of the Moon* | Publisher: Paraclete Press

Specialty Book

WINNER Deidre Galbraith • Calgary, AB — *NITANIS The Story of Mary Greyeyes / First Indigenous Woman in the Canadian Armed Forces* | Publisher: Sparrow House Collective

Script

WINNER Lynn C. Bilton • Brighton, ON — *Dark Horse*

SPECIALTY AWARDS

Harvey/Mackey Journalist Award

SHORTLIST

Dr. Paul E. Hughes • Langley, BC — *Five Men Learning to Love Well* | Publisher: Faith Today

Alice Plug-Buist • Hamilton, ON — *Clearing Muck for Our Neighbours* | Publisher: Faith Today

Jon Corbin • Bedford, NS — *Hip Hop Was Always Part of the Story* | Publisher: Faith Today

Lynn C. Bilton • Brighton, ON — *Celebrating Extraordinary Canadians* | Publisher: Watershed Magazine

WINNER Jon Corbin • Bedford, NS — *Hip Hop Was Always Part of the Story* | Publisher: Faith Today

Debra Fieguth Social Justice Award

SHORTLIST

Jon Corbin • Bedford, NS — *Hip Hop Was Always Part of the Story* | Publisher: Faith Today

Floyd A. Brobbel • Oakville, ON — *This Year is Coming to an End* | Publisher: Voice of the Martyrs Canada

Larry Willard • Little Britain, ON & Chuck Stephens • Newmarket, ON — *Is That True? Discerning Truth in an Age of Deception* | Publisher: Castle Quay Books

Gregory Musselman • St. Albert, AB — *From the Sidelines to the FrontLines* | Publisher: Genesis Publishing Group

Vilma Blenman • Pickering, ON — *Brown Eyes Watching: Reflections of a Black Canadian Poet*

Deidre Galbraith • Calgary, AB — *NITANIS: The Story of Mary Greyeyes / First Indigenous Woman in the Canadian Armed Forces* | Publisher: Sparrow House Collective

WINNER Deidre Galbraith • Calgary, AB — *NITANIS: The Story of Mary Greyeyes / First Indigenous Woman in the Canadian Armed Forces* | Publisher: Sparrow House Collective

Indigenous Writer Award

SHORTLIST

Kene Jackson • Acme, AB — *Tuff Dog Telecaster* | Publisher: Intertribal Life

Daniel Zacharias • Wolfville, NS & Christopher Hoklotubbe • Lisbon, IA — *Reading the Bible on Turtle Island: An Invitation to North American Indigenous Interpretation* | Publisher: InterVarsity Press

Nikki T. White • Langley, BC — *A Curious Art* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

Howard Jolly • Niverville, MB — *An Indigenous Reflection on the New Testament* | Publisher: Sparrow House Collective

WINNER Howard Jolly • Niverville, MB — *An Indigenous Reflection on the New Testament* | Publisher: Sparrow House Collective

Writer of Colour Award

SHORTLIST

Connie Leung Nelson • Edmonton, AB — *The Gift of the Unexpected in Parenting* | Publisher: Rooted Ministry

Connie Leung Nelson • Edmonton, AB — *How The Gospel Answers Shame in College Students* | Publisher: The Gospel Coalition

Jon Corbin • Bedford, NS — *Hip Hop Was Always Part of the Story* | Publisher: Faith Today

Duane Henry • Ancaster, ON — *Ham's Children: More Than Slaves* | Publisher: testimony/Enrich

Kyrie Wang • Montreal, QC — *Traitor's Heart (Enemy's Keeper Book 2)*

Vilma Blenman • Pickering, ON — *Brown Eyes Watching: Reflections of a Black Canadian Poet*

WINNER Vilma Blenman • Pickering, ON — *Brown Eyes Watching: Reflections of a Black Canadian Poet*

Best Fiction Book

SHORTLIST

Susan Reimer • Cochrane, ON — *The Space Between Us* | Publisher: Chicken Scratch Books

Helena Smrcek • Brantford, ON — *A Season of Forever* | Publisher: Fab Four Press

Melanie Stevenson • Cambridge, ON — *Falling for You (from the 'I Heard the Bells' Christmas anthology)* | Publisher: Fab Four Press

Jack A. Taylor • Maple Ridge, BC — *Turning West (Book 3 Prince of Persia Series)* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

Amanda Wright • Summerland, BC — *Darkfell* | Publisher: Quill & Flame Publishers

WINNER Amanda Wright • Summerland, BC — *Darkfell* | Publisher: Quill & Flame Publishers

AWARD OF MERIT

Susan Reimer • Cochrane, ON — *The Space Between Us* | Publisher: Chicken Scratch Books

Best Non-Fiction Book

SHORTLIST

Vilma Blenman • Pickering, ON — *Brown Eyes Watching: Reflections of a Black Canadian Poet*

Mark Glanville • Vancouver, BC — *Preaching in a New Key: Crafting Expository Sermons in Post-Christian Communities* | Publisher: InterVarsity Press

Meta Kool • St Thomas, ON — *Born to Stand Out* | Publisher: FiveArrowsMedia Inc.

J. D. Lyonhart • Jamestown, ND — *The Journey of God: Christianity in Six Movements* | Publisher: InterVarsity Press

D.S. Martin • Komoka, ON — *The Role of the Moon* | Publisher: Paraclete Press

Jane Watrich • Regina, SK & Nellie O'Hara • Burlington, ON — *Sound the Alarm* | Publisher: FiveArrowsMedia Inc.

WINNER J. D. Lyonhart • Jamestown, ND — *The Journey of God: Christianity in Six Movements* | Publisher: InterVarsity Press

Best Book Cover

SHORTLIST

Joann Brnjas • Kitchener, ON — The Voice I Couldn't Ignore | Publisher: Marrow Publishing, Cover design by Damonza

Paige Lennox • Kelowna, BC — The Carpenter's List - How One Man's Obedience Became a Church Without Walls

Terrie Todd • Portage la Prairie, MB — *Even If I Perish* | Publisher: Mountain Brook Ink, Cover design by Lynnette Bonner

Blossom Turner • Lake Country, BC — *Mara The Unseen Battle* | Publisher: TurnStyle Books, Cover design by Louis David

Nikki T. White • Langley, BC — *A Curious Art* | Publisher: Word Alive Press

Amanda Wright • Summerland, BC — *Darkfell* | Publisher: Quill & Flame Publishers, Cover design by Ashley Bustamante

WINNER Amanda Wright • Summerland, BC — *Darkfell* | Publisher: Quill & Flame Publishers, Cover design by Ashley Bustamante