



ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA	3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	5
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	6
YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT	7
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES	9
WGA EVENTS	17
WGA LITERARY AWARDS	23
IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	25
DONORS	26
WGA STAFF & VOLUNTEERS	27
TREASURER'S REPORT	29
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	31
STRATEGIC PLAN	43

ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA) was formed in October 1980 on the SAIT campus to provide a meeting ground and collective voice for all the writers of the province. Our members write in every genre at every level of expertise.

The WGA helps give Alberta writers a sense of unity and community and is the largest provincial writers' organization in Canada.

VISION STATEMENT

A thriving writing community that is diverse, valued, and celebrated.

MISSION STATEMENT

We support and advocate for all writers and provide opportunities to grow and connect while enriching Alberta's culture and economy.

VALUES GUIDING BELIEFS

The WGA believes that:

- I. The literary arts are essential to the well-being of all individuals, communities, and the economy of Alberta;
- II. Working in partnership with other organizations contributes to the quality of life in Alberta;
- III. Networking and collaboration are beneficial to innovation and the creative process;
- IV. A free and safe environment is essential for writers to pursue their craft;
- V. Knowledge and ongoing development are fundamental to creative growth.

MEMBERSHIP

WGA membership is open to all writers who are residents, or former residents, of Alberta. Our members include professional, emerging, and aspiring writers, and hobbyists. Memberships, which are valid for 12 months from the date of purchase, are available for \$80 for the general public, \$50 for seniors (age 60+), or \$40 for low-income persons and for libraries that wish to receive WestWord. Post-secondary students may receive a free membership for the duration of their studies. Lifetime membership may be awarded in recognition of one's service to the Alberta writing community. Approximately one third of our members reside in Edmonton, one third in Calgary, and one third in other Alberta communities.

As of 2020, we have the following number of members:

- 364 Regular
- 335 Senior
- 85 Low Income
- 2 WestWord Library Subscriptions
- 299 Student
- 16 Lifetime

WGA members currently receive the following benefits:

- A one-year subscription to WestWord, our quarterly magazine containing articles of interest to writers and listings of markets, contests, awards, and events
- Access to the Manuscript Reading Service
- Access to the members-only section of the WGA website, including a listing in the online member directory and access to documents such as WestWord back issues and event videos
- Free entrance to monthly WGA events in Edmonton and Calgary
- Discounted subscription rates to Alberta literary magazines such as Freefall and On Spec
- Opportunities to connect with other writers and other members of the writing and publishing community
- Opportunity to apply for the Mentorship Program
- Participation in members-only programs and events such as retreats
- Reduced rates for programs such as workshops and conferences, as well as select literary events presented by other organizations
- Support information from office staff to help you meet your writing goals
- Support for starting critique groups
- Weekly electronic news bulletins (WriteClick) providing up-to-date information on writers' markets, news, and events
- Discounted rate for Kimmy Beach's Editing Your Own Prose (e-course)

AS OF 2020,
we have **1101**
members from
across Alberta.

**DURING OUR
2019/2020
SEASON,**

we presented
37 events and
programs in
10 Alberta
communities and
22 events
and programs
that were available
through an
online format.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unprecedented times. Have you heard that phrase recently? To say that 2020 was unique would be an understatement; Government's priorities are shifting, funding is uncertain, the main resource that funds most of the province's activities and services dropped into a negative value, and the global pandemic changed the way everything works. Everything.

Thank you to our Executive Director – Carol Holmes and on behalf of the Board we would also like to express our appreciation to Carol's team. For adapting, engaging, continuing to move the organization forward as the majority of our programs were transitioned to an on-line format, and shining in doing so successfully. Each staff member was faced with the reality of having to run programs and services in a new way.

Thank you to my fellow Board members. For many on the Board, this has been a time filled with heartbreak and uncertainty. But each member, while faced with those challenges and obstacles, continued to contribute to great discussion and kept moving the WGA forward. Each of you have my personal thanks.

The Board remained focused on a few areas of work including the new Writers' Guild of Alberta 2020 ~ 2024 Strategic Plan. The conversation was started with the previous Board and was finalized with the current Board.

The new Strategic Plan includes four areas of focus for AWG:

Governance: Establish effective and efficient leadership through clarity and consistency in policy, procedures, communication, and succession planning.

Finance: Investigate alternative funding opportunities that result in diversified resources and sustainable budgets.

Advocacy: Create powerful connections that build authentic relationships with members, non- members, staff, stakeholders, and funders who will advocate and support the WGA's mandate.

Membership: Increase the number of new and renewing WGA members resulting in growth of demographic diversity such as age, gender identification, place, ethnicity, skills, and income.

The Board believes that if we can prioritize the strategies over the next four years that the organization will be diverse, valued, and celebrated. And there is more to come. Much conversation has been had regarding the development of a fund development plan and how we as a Board can best help support the suitability of the organization.

The future, while different looking than in the past, still presents opportunities for Alberta writers. For the upcoming year, I wish each of you all the success with your writing. It's been a privilege to serve as the President this year. Thank you.

Leslie Chivers
President

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to this year's Annual Report. I am happy to provide an update on WGA activities since the last report in May 2019 and on new directions ahead. Programming and activities for our last fiscal year are outlined in the reports that follow. I encourage you to review the reports to see where new program and advocacy initiatives have been undertaken and to recognize our sponsors and give them thanks for their continued support.

In mid-March with the announcement of COVID restrictions, the WGA closed its office doors and ended the 2020 fiscal year. I thank the staff who quickly put things on hold or online with programs, operations, and the audit. Our time since has been busy hosting webinars and online workshops, applying for funds, changing budget calculations as one-time COVID-19 emergency funds are received, filing reports, scheduling staff holidays, preparing for the annual general meeting, managing staff transitions, liaising on undertaking advocacy initiatives, and planning for the future.

Thanks to members who took part in the WGA Virtual Town Hall meeting in August. With Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer recent announcement of a potential two-to-three-year period of social distancing and health guidelines we will continue to explore online programming and in-person options as we move forward. A membership-wide survey will be sent in the fall to help us further determine possible digital and distant programs and services.

Thanks also to those who have been part of our digital reading series. I encourage you to watch and promote their work, it is an im-

pressive collection of talent and ideas. The series, as well of past WGA webinars, are accessible under the "Online Resources" tab on our website. The pandemic has impacted writer's income as printers, warehouses, and distribution centres closed, and libraries, book stores, and post-secondary institutions shut their doors. This is an issue on our radar and your ideas for action are welcome.

Looking ahead, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity cannot host our retreat in February. We are checking hotel options and welcome hearing from you if this is of interest. Looking further ahead, we are monitoring digital and in-person formats for our conference with the Alexandra Writers' Centre in May 2021. We will apply to the Calgary Arts Development Resiliency grant for digital leadership and support for the conference.

In the fall, we will move our Calgary office to the CommunityWise Resource Centre housed in the historic Old YWCA building. We were a resident in the building over ten years ago and, with its current membership of 90 organizations and a commitment to development work with a focus on anti-racism and equity, we think it is a perfect fit.

In closing, I want to thank Leslie Greentree for designing a template for our online workshops and to participants who took part in the test run. Thanks also to Vivian Hansen, Dorothy Bentley, Sue Farrell Holler, and Michelle Greysen for bringing programs and WGA presence to Grande Prairie, Fort McMurray, Lethbridge, and Airdrie locals and turning their effort online during the pandemic for all to enjoy. And finally, a shout out to the organizers of the "WordBridge: We Write, Despite

Frostbite” conference we sponsored for a second year in Lethbridge.

I also want to thank members Susan Calder, for representing the WGA on the When Words Collide committee, and Barb Howard, the WGA representative on the steering committee of the Calgary Distinguished Writers Program. Thanks also to Sadie MacGillivray, our summer assistant. She will return to studies in communications at MacEwan University in September, but will remain with us on a part-time basis during the fall semester.

Thanks, and goodbye for now to Giorgia Severni, program coordinator/operations manager, who has left for a one-year maternity leave. Giorgia has been with the WGA for

12 years in several capacities and we wish her the best in new times ahead.

Finally, a very big thank you to Samantha Warwick, Southern Alberta Program Director, who will leave in October after 15 ½ years with the WGA. Sam has been a wonderful colleague; I will miss her dedication, energy, and ideas, and wish her well as she takes time now to focus on her own writing. I look forward to seeing her next work in publication.

I wish you all the best in your writing in the year ahead.

Carol Holmes
Executive Director

REPORT FROM THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

This year, as for everyone, has been a bit of a shakeup for the Youth Committee. 2020 comes at a time of transition for many of our committee members, who have started new jobs, published debut books, and been accepted into graduate programs. Thus, our numbers have dwindled down from five to two and though we’re sad to see Amy LeBlanc, Tyler Gajda, and Akosua Adasi go, we’re thrilled for their next adventures.

The good news is, this is an invigorating opportunity for the committee to re-evaluate the type of programming we wish to offer going forward, and with that comes a fresh recruitment scheme. In an effort to give more opportunities to young writers and professionals, we have relaxed our committee age restrictions from 18 to 30, to 18 to 35 in our hope of expanding our recruitment pool. We are also keen to encourage more rural en-

gagement outside of the main cities of Calgary and Edmonton and look forward to potentially welcoming rural members into our fold. With this, we hope to garner a closer networking relationship with Alberta universities to give students the opportunities, programming, and knowledge they need to move forward in their writing careers.

As further evidence of the WGA Conference’s impressiveness in bringing the writing community together, the 2019 conference brought us Renee Meloche, who joined the committee not long afterward. She has since lent her professional program coordination skills well to our programming and has been an excellent addition to the committee.

Before COVID-19 hit, the committee was working closely with the Edmonton Public Library to run their weekly Monday Night Write

Nights. With the rotating library locations, and the committee members hosting, we were seeing an uptick in regular youth engagement at these events. The Write Nights have been a perfect opportunity to network with other young writers' initiatives in the city, including NaNoWriMo Edmonton and YEG Writes. There is potential here for collaborations on future events.

Over the past year, I have gotten more involved with the CHEW Project, which offers programming and medical assistance to under-privileged and at-risk LGBT youth in Edmonton. As many of these youths are writers, I'm eager to bridge the gap between the WGA and CHEW by offering writing workshops on a volunteer basis. Should we build an ad hoc group beyond the committee itself, this would undoubtedly be a welcome project for more volunteer involvement. From my experience, we have no lack of Edmontonians interested in getting involved with the WGA, and this would be a great place to start for more specific local initiatives.

The rise of Black Lives Matter into the forefront of the news these past few months has also challenged the publishing industry to rethink the way minority authors are treated and how their stories are being told. The remaining committee members (Renee and I) have been working diligently to learn from these important conversations and

intend on applying this awareness to the work we do with the Youth Committee. We hope to use our social media pages, the Writers Hub for Youth (WHY) to uplift BIPOC authors through regular Ask an Author sessions to help promote their work and share their professional experiences with our young audience. We will be advertising both this and our recruitment initiative through WriteClick for anyone seeking further information, or who wants to get involved.

If you're interested in getting involved with the Youth Committee, you can get in touch with us at:

Twitter: @WGA_Youth_Hub

Facebook: Writers Hub for Youth - WHY

Sophie Pinkoski
Youth Representative

"There was a good variety of sessions. The people were warm and friendly I enjoyed meeting and talking to other writers. I am new in this field but now feel like I am part of the community."

- 2019 Conference Participant

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

ADVOCACY

The WGA is a member of the Edmonton Arts Council, the Professional Arts Coalition of Edmonton (PACE), PEN Canada, and Access Copyright.

We are represented on the Alberta Partners for Arts and Culture (APAC) Coalition, the Calgary Distinguished Authors Program, Edmonton's nonfiction festival LitFest, Calgary's When Words Collide, and the Cultural Human Resources Council. We work collaboratively with Calgary's Wordfest and the Edmonton Poetry Festival, as well as writing organizations across the country.

News and articles of interest are posted regularly in *WestWord* and *WriteClick* and through social media channels.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The WGA Annual Conference 2019: Writing Across Worlds, was held June 7 – 9, 2019 at the Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel. There were a total of 139 Alberta writers in attendance and 22 presenters.

Three spotlight presenters were:

- Griffin-nominated poet and novelist Ian Williams, author of *Reproduction*
- Larissa Lai, author of *The Tiger Flu*
- Carolyn Forde, Senior Agent with the Transatlantic Agency

Highlights of the conference programming included:

- Keynote lecture with spotlight presenter Larissa Lai that focussed on why she writes speculative fiction as opposed to realistic fiction and the importance of embracing your own writerly agency.
- A discussion on digital strategies for writers lead by Dana DiTomaso and Dr. Patrick Finn that focused on copyright, social media, and internet access for rural and remote areas.
- A panel discussion with Larissa Lai, Wayne Arthurson, Janice MacDonald, and Candace Jane Dorsey that focussed on challenging the distinctions between literary and genre writing.
- A panel discussion with Alice Major, Kelly Shepherd, Jenna Butler, and Iman Mersal that focussed on writing both poetry and nonfiction, and how the two work together.
- A presentation by literary agent Carolyn Forde that highlighted the benefits an agent can bring an author, what a literary agent does on behalf of their authors, how to write an effective and targeted query, and how to increase your chances of success in the process of searching for representation.
- A keynote lecture with Ian Williams that focussed on how writing, and our writing process, intersects with our daily lives by bringing in unique challenges and rewards.
- The Ask a Publisher Q&A with Claire Kelly (NeWest Press), Netta Johnson (Stonehouse Publishing), literary agent Carolyn Forde (TransAtlantic Agency), and author S.G. Wong, moderated by Sophie Pinkoski (WGA Youth Committee).

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Annual Conference had to be cancelled.

ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS AND GALA

Our Alberta Literary Awards currently presents \$9,600 in prizes for the following awards:

- Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction (fiction book)
- Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction (nonfiction book)
- Stephan G. Stephannson Award for Poetry (poetry book)
- Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama (published or produced play)
- R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature (alternates between picture book and chapter book)
- Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story (published short story)
- James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction (published short nonfiction)
- Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award (unpublished essay)
- Golden Pen Award (lifetime achievement)

The 2019 awards were presented at the Alberta Literary Awards Gala on June 8, 2019, in conjunction with our conference at Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel. There were 120 people in attendance. Finalists for the awards were also recognized at annual reading events in Edmonton and Calgary Prior to the gala.

Four of our awards are in need of sponsors, and we are happy to discuss opportunities with interested sponsors.

The 2020 Alberta Literary Awards received a total of 285 submissions. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the in-person 2020 Alberta Literary Awards Gala was cancelled and moved to an online format.

See page 23 for this year's winners and finalists.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

BORDERLINES WRITERS CIRCLE

The WGA, partnered with the Alexandra Writers' Centre, launched the Borderlines Writers Circle in February 2019. The goal of the program was to connect with writers from a variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds, who live in Calgary, who were not part of their local writing community. Programming included mentorship, workshops, discussions, networking, public reading opportunities, and more.

The program opened with a panel discussion during Freedom to Read Week in February and wrapped up in June at Loft 112 with "Seen & Heard," a celebratory reading and discussion that featured the talented and inspiring group of writers who were part of the program.

Thank to the participants in this inaugural year of the program for making it a success: Cecillia Alcaraz, Moni Brar, Kelly Kaur, Precious de Leon, and Sherry Wong, and to mentors, Olyn Ozbick, Vivian Hansen, Aritha van Herk, Pamela Clark, and Sandra McIntyre.

KEMOSA SCHOLARSHIP

First established in 2017 by Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies in partnership with Tlicho Dene author Richard Van Camp, the Kemosa Scholarship offers an opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Mothers to obtain resources to help them complete the work on their writing – whether that be a novel, a collection of stories, poems, or whatever form their writing might take.

Tlicho Dene author Richard Van Camp and Dr. Jenny Kay Dupuis, a proud member of the Nipissing First Nation, were the 2020 judges. They selected the three finalists (Shelley Williams, Trish Noelle McOrmond, and Teresa Calli-

hoo) as well as the four honourable mentions (Felice Gladue, Katie-Jo Rabbit, Alycia Two Bears, and Amber Weasel Head).

Due to COVID-19, the reading event that was originally scheduled for April 4th, 2020 was postponed.

BOOK WOMEN PODCAST

The Book Women Podcast is “by and for Indigenous peoples who have an interest in editing, publishing, and writing Indigenous stories. The hope is to inspire Indigenous peoples to share their stories in whatever medium that they enjoy” (<https://bookwomenpodcast.ca/>).

The podcast is co-hosted by Tanya Ball, Sheila Laroque, and Kayla Lar-son. Their first season consists of 13 episodes on a variety of topics that can be found on the WGA website as well as their very own website created for the podcast series.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

The WGA hosts monthly events in both Edmonton and Calgary, which are generally free to members and available to non-members for a small fee. Our events often include professional development presentations by literary professionals, as well as a chance for writers to socialize and network with other writers. We also offered events with a stronger social focus such as pub nights and open mics. Periodically, we offer workshops to develop writing skills open to all, with discounted rates for members.

Due to COVID-19, we moved many events into an online format as well as created new ones.

For a complete list of our past year’s events, see page 17.

MANUSCRIPT READING SERVICE

Our Manuscript Reading Service had 24 manuscripts submitted in 2019/2020. This service is extremely valuable to members since it allows writers from anywhere in the province to easily receive professional feedback on their writing. Writers send their manuscripts to the WGA head office, and we match it with a professional writer from our roster. The WGA subsidizes 50% of the service fee to keep it affordable to members.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

We received funding from the RBC Emerging Artists Fund in 2019, which allowed us to expand the program from 5 to 6 mentor/apprentice pairings. The program, which has been running since 2012, matches emerging writers with established professional writers for a four-month mentorship in which the apprentice works on a writing project under the guidance of their mentor.

The 2019 apprentices and mentors were:

- Jeremy Bibaud and Myrl Coulter
- Kim Mannix and Susie Moloney
- Erin Vance and Kimmy Beach
- Ethan Collister and Richard Kemick
- Kate Rittner Werkman and Rosemary Nixon
- Angela Waldie and Betty Jane Hegerat

"I am so grateful for this opportunity. The amount of growth that I have experienced in the past four months is astonishing and I know it will propel me forward as I continue my budding writing career. This mentorship came at such a wonderful turning point in my life and I will always look back on it as the inciting incident for so many more opportunities."

– 2019 Mentorship Program Participant

PARTNERSHIPS

The WGA continued the following major ongoing partnerships in 2019/2020: The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize, and administration for the Edmonton Stroll of Poets.

Both the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize and The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize continue to be successful. The Calgary prize received a record number of 48 submissions, nearly double its previous record, while the Edmonton prize received 38 submissions. The WGA hired three successful and prominent jurors for each prize, oversaw the jury's group deliberations, and collected the final jury results and declarations. Close communication and collaboration with the two cities were very successful in the execution of both cities' respective prizes. The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize was announced during our Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation on June 4, 2020. The winner of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, Marina Endicott for *The Difference*, was announced online at a special town council meeting on June 15, 2020.

The Edmonton Stroll of Poets Society has been in partnership with the WGA for many years. The WGA continues to provide administrative support to run a very successful organization. The Edmonton Stroll of Poets has over 100 active members, holds over 20 readings in a year, and also publishes a yearly anthology.

The WGA has successfully partnered on events and programs with the Canadian Literature Centre, Edmonton Public Library's Capital City Press, Loft 112, Wordfest, Calgary Memorial Public Library, Shelf Life Books, Freehand Books, Audreys Books, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, and with community friends including: Metrovino Fine Wines, the Alberta Small Brewers Association, and Yoga Santosha. The WGA has also been partnering with LitFest, Edmonton's Nonfiction Festival, on an annual event for over a decade.

The WGA continues its annual partnership with Frontier College to present the Scotiabank Giller Light Bash in Calgary. The WGA Calgary office takes a leadership role on the planning and execution of this large-scale event of over 200 guests, creating an opportunity for book lovers and writers to gather and celebrate Canadian literature, Alberta authors, and raise funds for literacy. The Giller Light Bash is a well-known national cultural event and highlight of the Canadian literary scene that started in Toronto 18 years ago, and has grown to include satellite events in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Regina, Thunder Bay, and Halifax.

READ ALBERTA BOOKS

The Read Alberta Books travelling library display aims to raise the profile of Alberta-made content throughout the province. Books short-listed for the Alberta Literary Awards and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta Book Awards are sent to regional libraries for distribution to their participating member libraries. The program started in 2013 as a joint project between the WGA, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, and the Parkland Regional Library System.

Promotional material is also sent for display at the High Plains Best Festival in Billings, Montana.

RETREATS

The May 2019 Spring Strawberry Creek Retreat was the last one held at the Strawberry Creek Lodge. We coordinated a donation of a commemorative bench and would like to thank Tena and Rudy Wiebe for hosting the Strawberry Creek Retreat for many years. Our ten-day Banff Retreat was sold out with 28 participants and held February 14–13, 2020. There were two writers in residence onsite, Calgary novelist and non-fiction writer Ali Bryan and poet Louise Bernice Halfe.

WESTWORD

WestWord magazine is distributed quarterly to over 1200 members and stakeholders, with Raymond Gariépy as editor. The magazine continues to include articles on the craft, business, and life of writing, regular features such as a column on legal matters for writers, as well as community and member news. *WestWord* is available in both print and electronic editions, and is currently distributed to 638 members by post, and 471 by email.

WRITECLICK

WriteClick, our email newsletter, continues to be distributed to members who opt in to receive it—over 94% of members. It includes current WGA news, event listings, member book launches and readings, upcoming workshops and classes, employment and volunteer opportunities for writers, and up-to-date market and contest listings. *WriteClick* is distributed weekly (with the exception of a slightly reduced frequency during the summer months) so members receive information in a timely fashion. WGA special bulletins are also distributed via *WriteClick* when required.

ONLINE PROGRAMMING

DIGITAL STRATEGIES

In continuance with the social media webinar series initiative created last year, this year we developed the webinar "Social Media for Writers," which was held on January 24, 2020. Much like last year's webinar, "Social Media—Just the Basics," "Social Media for Writers" was free for, and exclusive to, members.

WEBINARS

The Get Publishing Webinar Series was launched in 2016 after the Get Publishing Communications Society dissolved and gifted its brand to the WGA. The webinars allow more accessibility to presentations about the writing craft and business for members who are unable to attend our regular events in Edmonton and Calgary. They also allow us to more easily bring in presenters from outside Alberta, thus increasing the diversity of voices in our programs. There were three webinars of note: "Non-fiction Book Proposals," "Strategies for Publicizing Your Book," and "Ask an Agent."

Most of the other webinars that the WGA did were part of our Regional Events Project. See page 16 for project details.

ONLINE AWARDS GALA

Due to COVID-19, we had to transfer the Alberta Literary Awards Gala to an online format. The WGA, with the help of Reel Story Communications, created the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation in order to celebrate this year's finalists and announce the winners of the Alberta Literary Awards, Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize, and the Golden Pen Award. The video premiered on the WGA Facebook page on June 4, 2020 at 8pm MST and now has 1.2K views. Following the premier on Facebook, the video was posted to the WGA YouTube page where it now has over 200 views.

VIRTUAL READINGS WITH THE FINALISTS SERIES

As another response to COVID-19, and as a lead up to the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation, the WGA put on several virtual readings with some of the finalists of the Alberta Literary Awards and the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize. Each event consisted of each of the finalists participating reading from their work and discussing it with the event host. This reading series was created to promote the work of the finalists as well as promote the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation.

ONLINE READING SERIES

Due to COVID-19, many of the book launches that were scheduled for 2020 were cancelled. Thanks to the generosity of the Rozsa Foundation, we received funding to host a series of online readings and author interviews. This Online Reading Series gives WGA members who had their events cancelled, or who has a 2020 book release, the opportunity to present their work.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

As a response to COVID-19, the WGA hosted three online workshops in 2020. These workshops covered a range of topics: Creating Visceral Scenes with Leslie Greentree was a 2-week long course about building and rebuilding the same scene from various perspectives and focussing on different storytelling tools; Small Words with Muscle with Vivian Hansen was a 6-week long course that focussed on working closely with sound, structure, imagery, meaning, and prose poems to expose the elements of how poetry works; and Picture Book Camp with Carolyn Fisher consisted of two Saturday classes that focussed on techniques to go about, as well as the business surrounding, writing, and illustrating children's books.

"WordsWorth is a safe, creative place to inspire and be inspired. I write because it's a way to translate the world and if you can write well people will listen – which is a powerful tool to affect change."

– 2019 WordsWorth Participant

"I wanted to go to a place to improve my writing and I loved my experiences at Wordsworth so much I just had to come back in any way possible."

– 2020 Circuit Tree Participant

WORDSWORTH, DRINK THE WILD AIR, AND CIRCUIT TREE

WordsWorth Summer Youth Writing Residency, held at Kamp Kiwanis in Bragg Creek, continues to be immensely popular and an invaluable experience for teen writers. Young participants experience not only improvement in their writing, but also personal growth, connections with like-minded young writers, and mentorship from experienced and enthusiastic artists. The first week (July 14 – 19, 2019) was for participants ages 11 – 14, the second (July 21 – 26, 2019) for ages 15 – 19, and the third (July 28 – August 2, 2019) for ages 14 – 19. We also offered a two-week program option in which participants could attend both week two and three at a discount. WordsWorth attracted a total of 92 participants in 2019. Participants eagerly return to WordsWorth, but it continues to be a challenge to attract new participants, particularly in the younger age group.

Colin Matty continues to serve as the WordsWorth Director. Course topics for WordsWorth 2019: Legends of Note included learning from literary liars and learning the importance of bringing honesty to your work, writing about human rights and social justice, creating a radio play, world-building in genre fiction, stand-up comedy, creating a musical, and more. Activities also included outdoor activities, free writing time, jam sessions, evening activities, campfire, and bedtime story. The outdoor activities this year included Death Polo in the pool; LARPing (Live Action Role Play), which is essentially Capture the Flag with a fantasy element, cardboard swords, and rice filled balloon spells; the Animal Game, which combines elements of Capture the Flag and a scavenger hunt with participants being assigned roles in the ecological food chain; and the Button Festival where participants took part in field games to earn buttons, which they then used to vote for a WordsWorth staff member to be pried in

the face at the end of the festival. Due to limited funding, the 2019 camp did not offer Blue Pencil Café writing feedback sessions or guest performers as in past years.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Drink the Wild Air program was cancelled. As well, we had to change the 2020 WordsWorth program from an in-person residency to an online residency. Circuit Tree, the online version of WordsWorth 2020, was held July 19 – 24, 2020 and attracted 19 participants.

Thanks to Director Colin Matty, tech lead and instructor Kim Firmston, Creative Team Members Sadie MacGillivray and Henry Greyson, and the instructors David Wilson, Emily Ursuliak, Louise Casemore, Marcello DiCintio, and Marin Perlette for making Circuit Tree a fun event.

WRITE NIGHTS

The Write Nights are free drop-in sessions held Monday evenings that rotate through EPL branches. The initiative was inspired by similar drop-in programs in the performing arts and visual arts communities in Edmonton. Writers come to meet other writers, discuss their projects, and give each other tips, as well as take time to work on their writing. It ran from April 2019 until COVID-19 forced cancellation, so we only held 36 sessions. The October 7, 2019 session featured 2 mini-workshops, The Images Inside with Wendy McGrath and Your First Thirty Pages: What Agents and Publishers Look For with Rayanne Haines. We also had Write Nights in Fort McMurray as part of our Regional Events Project, which is part of our rural and remote outreach.

RURAL AND REMOTE OUTREACH

The purpose of this outreach program is to bring programs to areas outside Edmonton and Calgary that don't have regular writing programs and events.

WORDBRIDGE: LETHBRIDGE WRITING CONFERENCE

The WGA partnered with the Lethbridge Public Library to create Wordbridge: Lethbridge Writing Conference. The event was held on February 7-8, 2020 and consisted of a pre-conference at the Good Times Comedy Club in Lethbridge on the 7th and the main conference at the Lethbridge Public Library on the 8th. Between the pre-conference and the main conference, there were 12 events plus a Keynote Speakers Snack and Chat with Robert J. Sawyer and Thorsten Nesch. The events covered information from memoir writing to a live action slush pile, to collaborative writing to self-publishing. There were a total of 93 participants across the two separate days.

ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

Alberta Culture Days is an opportunity for communities across Alberta to celebrate arts and culture through local events and activities, both in person and online. It takes place at the end of September every year. In 2019, the WGA received funding through the Alberta Culture Grant and was able to put on seven separate events in six separate communities over the span of three days.

REGIONAL EVENTS PROJECT

The Regional Events Project was created in 2020, with the help of the Rozsa Foundation, in order to give authors from across Alberta the opportunity to both improve aspects of their writing in a multitude of different areas as well as strengthen their connection with other writers in their community. Examples of writing topics included structuring the novel, documentary poetry, breaking into traditional publishing, and writing thrillers.

An example of community building was the weekly Fort McMurray Write Nights at the Wood Buffalo Library.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to change some of our planned events, the platform transfer from physical to online allowed participants to build digital skills. Since these webinars were accessible to anyone in the province, they gave the regional workshop instructors a wider audience than they would have had for a local in-person workshop. As well, participants from small communities expressed appreciation that these workshops were accessible online, since they lived in areas where similar workshops are not available in-person.

Due to the success of the online programming, we are increasing our efforts to make our future events accessible, such as looking into making our 2021 conference a hybrid of in-person and online livestream components.

#YEGWORDS COFFEE SLEEVES

Two years ago, the WGA partnered with #yegwords to sponsor the coffee sleeve program. The first year that the sleeves went out, they featured work from previous apprentices from our Mentorship program. This most recent year, an open call was put out to WGA members to submit poetry and short fiction. Of the works submitted, 5 were chosen to be featured on the coffee sleeves. Each year, about 70,000 coffee sleeves are distributed across the Edmonton and Okotoks areas. All of these sleeves feature writing from members as well as the WGA logo and website info. All writers are paid for their work. There are currently 6-8 stores in Edmonton and one café in Okotoks that carry the #yegwords coffee sleeves.

We are always looking for new patrons across Alberta that want to carry the coffee sleeves. There are still many logistical challenges, but the program has been very well-received in Edmonton.

WGA EVENTS

The following events were presented by the WGA from July 2019 to August 2020.

CALGARY

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA Q&A AT WHEN WORDS COLLIDE

Delta Hotels by Marriott Calgary South, August 11, 2019

Join writers Susan Calder, Carol Parchewsky, Lori Hahnel, and Writers' Guild of Alberta staff members Samantha Warwick and Carol Holmes for questions about the WGA, writing, or the industry in general.

WGA CALGARY FALL KICK-OFF & PUB NIGHT: COMMUNITY & OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS

Rose & Crown Pub, September 18, 2019

Featuring Kyle Flemmer (Events Coordinator for Shelf Life Books, Flywheel Reading Series & Managing Editor of filling Station magazine), Ali Bryan (Program Coordinator, Alexandra Writers' Centre Society), Lisa Murphy-Lamb (Director, Loft 112), Sharanpal Ruprai (Calgary Distinguished Writer-in-Residence [2019-2020]), Shelley Youngblut and/or Rita Sirignano (Wordfest), Sheri-D Wilson (Calgary's Poet Laureate YYC & Legacy Project), and Jaspreet Singh (New Calgary Public Library Writer-in-Residence).

THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA AND GREAT PLAINS PUBLISHING PRESENT: THE AUTHOR-EDITOR EXPERIENCE: LEE KVERN IN CONVERSATION

WITH JASON PATRICK ROTHERY

Wurst Restaurant, October 30, 2019

THE WRITERS'S GUILD OF ALBERTA AND ALBERTA MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS: HOW TO PITCH TO MAGAZINES

cSPACE King Edward, November 4, 2019

Seminar with veteran magazine editor Anicka Quin and award-winning freelance writer Tim Querengesser.

THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA, FREEHAND & SHELF LIFE BOOKS PRESENT: CALGARY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY GILLER LIGHT BASH IN SUPPORT OF FRONTIER COLLEGE

Wurst Restaurant, November 18, 2019

Our 2019 MC is Russell Bowers, Host of CBC Radio's Daybreak Alberta—and our Book Defenders include Cobra Collins (defending *Dual Citizens* by Alix Ohlin); Shaun Hunter (defending *Lampedusa* by Steven Price); Taylor Lambert (defending *The Innocents* by Michael Crummey); Naomi K. Lewis (defending *Immigrant City* by David Bezmozgis); Anne Logan (defending *Small Game Hunting* at the Local Coward Gun Club by Megan Gail Coles) and Malcolm Mooney (defending *Reproduction* by Ian Williams).

**THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA AND ALBERTA
MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS: PITCHFEST**

cSPACE King Edward, November 23, 2019

Featuring Käthe Lemon (Avenue Calgary), Nicole Bross (Birthing), Linda Garson (Culinaire), Brenda Drew (IMPACT), and Meredith Bailey (Leap, Dementia Connections, HEROES).

WGA HOLIDAY PARTY & READINGS

Rose & Crown Pub, December 11, 2019

**WGA WRITE NIGHT IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH FOR WRITERS**

Rose & Crown Pub, January 22, 2020

With WGA's Samantha Warwick.

EDMONTON

WGA EDMONTON FALL KICK-OFF

The Almanac on Whyte, September 4, 2019

Featuring Fawnda Mithrush (Litfest Alberta), Alicia Chantal and Jessica Coles (Editors Edmonton), Mary Pinkoski (Regional Writer-in-Residence), Katherine Gibson (Edmonton Public Library/Capital City Press), Lisa Mulrooney (Parkland Poets), Amy St. Amand (Bolo Tie Collective), Wendy McGrath (The Olive Reading Series), and John Leppard (Stroll of Poets Society).

ALISON CLARKE – AN AUTHOR'S JOURNEY

St. Andrew's Centre, September 27, 2019

**FLASH WRITING CONTEST – ANNOUNCING THE
WINNERS!**

Calgary Central Library, February 5, 2020

**SAM WARWICK IN CONVERSATION WITH MAR-
CELLO DI CINTIO & CHRISTINA FRANGOU ON
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & NEGOTIATING VARI-
OUS FORMS OF CENSORSHIP**

Rose & Crown Pub, February 27, 2020

**ALISON CLARKE – TRAVELLING DIFFERENT
WORLDS: THE IMPORTANCE OF SETTING**

St. Andrew's Centre, September 28, 2019

**MULTICULTURAL WRITING FORUM SERIES:
BUILDING A THRIVING WRITERS' COMMUNITY:
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE & 10TH ANNIVER-
SARY CELEBRATION OF ECWC**

*Edmonton Public Library Capilano Branch, Sep-
tember 29, 2019*

Panel discussion featuring Dr. Yanyu Zhou (President, Edmonton Chinese Writing Club), Amy Chiu (Former President, Edmonton Chinese Writing Club), Lisa Mulrooney (Member at Large, WGA Board of Directors), and Ashley Bilodeau (Bolo Tie Collective), moderated by Dr. Leilei Chen.

OCTOBER MEMBER NIGHT – WRITING GROUPS*The Almanac on Whyte, October 10, 2019*

Featuring Jennifer Eagle (The Inkblot), Brad Glenn (The Inkhorn Society), Cynthia Scott Wandler (Morinville Word Docs), and Howard Gibbins (Edmonton Writers' Group).

LITFEST AUTHORPODS – INDIGIPOD: RICK HARP & THE BOOK WOMEN PODCAST*Yellowhead Brewery, October 3, 2019***LITFEST – JESSE THISTLE: FROM THE ASHES***Amiskwaciy Theatre, Royal Alberta Museum, October 18, 2019***THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS: HOW TO PITCH TO MAGAZINES***Percy Page Centre, November 2, 2019*

Seminar with veteran magazine editor Anicka Quin and award-winning freelance writer Tim Querengesser.

NOVEMBER EVENT – NANOWRIMO TAKEOVER*The Almanac on Whyte, November 6, 2019***CLC MASTERCLASS WITH SINA QUEYRAS***University of Alberta, November 20, 2019***THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA AND ALBERTA MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS: PITCHFEST***Percy Page Centre, November 23, 2019*

Featuring Steven Sandor (Avenue Edmonton), Cory Hare (ATA Magazine), Mary Bailey (The Tomato Food & Drink), Carmen Hrynchuk (Where Edmonton), and Meredith Bailey (Leap, Dementia Connections, HEROES).

WGA HOLIDAY PARTY: IT'S A WONDERFUL QUIZ!*9910, December 11, 2019***BLUE MONDAY***Glass Bookshop, January 20, 2020*

With guest speakers Rayanne Haines and Shawn Hamm.

WGA MONTHLY EVENT: WRITING AND ALCOHOL*Audrey's Books, March 4, 2020*

Guests included Katie Bickell and Corinne "Been" Simpson.

OTHER ALBERTA LOCATIONS

WRITING HABITAT: A DAY OF WRITING AND REFLECTION

University of Alberta Botanic Gardens (Parkland County) September 14, 2019

Featuring Lisa Martin.

SCHOOL VISIT WITH POET LEIF GREGERSEN

Our Lady of The Angels Catholic School (Fort Saskatchewan), September 27, 2019

HOW TO PUBLISH INDIGENOUS BOOKS

Maskwacis Cultural College, September 27, 2019

Featuring Dianne Meili, publisher of Eschia Books.

POETRY SHARING CIRCLE

Kilograms Restaurant & Café (Fort Saskatchewan), September 27, 2019

With guest speaker Anna Marie Sewell, Poet Laureate of Edmonton (2011 – 2013).

FINDING THE WORDS: WRITING ABOUT THE FORT MCMURRAY WILDFIRE

Wood Buffalo Regional Library, September 28, 2019

Presented by Therese Greenwood.

SPRUCE GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS WITH JENNA BUTLER

Spruce Grove Public Library, September 29, 2019

THE CALMAR PRAIRIE PLAYERS PRESENT: PLAY-WRIGHT AFTERNOON WITH LOCAL PLAYWRIGHT CHRIS MCKERRACHER

Calmar Curling Club, September 29, 2019

LETHBRIDGE WRITERS' GROUP MONTHLY MEET-UP/WRITE-IN

Lethbridge Public Library Crossings Branch, January 28 – February 25, 2020

FORT MCMURRAY WRITE NIGHTS

Wood Buffalo Regional Library, February 4 – March 10, 2020

Hosted by WGA Regional Events Facilitator Dorothy Bentley.

WORDBRIDGE: LETHBRIDGE WRITING CONFERENCE

Lethbridge Public Library Crossings Branch, February 7 – 8, 2020

With keynote speakers Robert J. Sawyer and Thornten Nesch.

SHORT STORY GLOW UP WRITING WORKSHOP

Grande Prairie Public Library, February 8, 2020

Lead by local author and 2019 Governor General's Literary Awards finalist Sue Farrell Holler.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN WRITERS GROUP BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENING WITH SPECIAL GUEST ALISON CLARKE

Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, February 25, 2020

GRANDE PRAIRIE SOCIAL

Private home, March 11, 2020

ONLINE EVENTS

NON-FICTION BOOK PROPOSALS WITH MICHAEL HINGSTON

October 19, 2019

STRATEGIES FOR PUBLICIZING YOUR BOOK WITH ANNE LOGAN

November 16, 2019

SOCIAL MEDIA FOR WRITERS

January 24, 2020

Presented by Haley Overland

VIRTUAL WRITER MEETUP

March 25, 2020

VIRTUAL WRITE-IN

March 30, 2020

WRITING THRILLERS AND OTHER DANGEROUS NOVELS WITH JULIE ROWE

April 18, 2020

EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT SHORT STORIES WITH LEE KVERN

April 23, 2020

A VIRTUAL READING WITH THE FINALISTS – HOWARD O'HAGAN AWARDS FOR SHORT STORY

April 27, 2020

Featuring Ali Bryan, Tyler Hein, and Joelle Tymchuk.

ASK AN AUTHOR WITH SUE FARRELL HOLLER

April 29, 2020

A VIRTUAL READING WITH THE FINALISTS – WILFRID EGGLESTON AWARDS FOR NONFICTION

April 30, 2020

Featuring Sharon Wood, Richard Kelly Kemick, and Naomi K. Lewis.

A VIRTUAL READING WITH THE FINALISTS – R. ROSS ANNETT AWARDS FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

May 4, 2020

Featuring Natasha Deen, Sue Ferrell Holler, and Danielle L. Jensen.

A VIRTUAL READING WITH THE FINALISTS – GUESS WHO'S COMING TO READ?

May 7, 2020

Featuring Monica Kidd, Elena Belyea, Jennifer Bowering Delisle, and Omar Mouallem.

WRITING PLACE, WRITING SELF, WRITING HISTORY: THE DOCUMENTARY POEM WITH DR. RYAN COX

May 9, 2020

BREAKING INTO TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING WITH P.J. VERNON

May 23, 2020

ASK AN AGENT WITH SAM HIYATE

May 24, 2020

2020 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS VIDEO PRESENTATION

June 4, 2020

STRUCTURING THE NOVEL WITH LORI HAHNEL

June 13, 2020

WRITERS' LAXATIVE: ONLINE MINI-WORKSHOP WITH SUE FERRELL HOLLER

June 16, 2020

PLOTTING FOR PANTSERS, INTUITS AND THE TOTALLY LOST WITH ALI BRYAN

June 20, 2020

ROCK YOUR ONLINE READING WITH JOAN MARIE GALAT

June 25, 2020

SNAPSHOTS – WRITING MEMOIR 101 WITH DOROTHY BENTLEY

June 27, 2020

WGA VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

July 9, 2020

WGA LITERARY AWARDS

Congratulations to all of the winners and finalists!

R. ROSS ANNETT AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Winner:

- Sue Farrell Holler (Grande Prairie) – *Cold White Sun*, Groundwood Books

Finalists:

- Natasha Deen (Edmonton) – *In the Key of Nira Ghani*, Running Press Kids
- Danielle L. Jensen (Calgary) – *Dark Shores*, Tor Teen

GEORGES BUGNET AWARD FOR FICTION

Winner:

- Richard Van Camp (Edmonton) – *Moccasin Square Gardens*, Douglas & McIntyre

Finalists:

- Sharon Butala (Calgary) – *Season of Fury and Wonder*, Coteau Books
- Marina Endicott (Edmonton) – *The Difference*, Knopf Canada/Penguin Random House

WILFRID EGGLESTON AWARD FOR NONFICTION

Winner:

- Naomi K. Lewis (Calgary) – *Tiny Lights for Travellers*, University of Alberta Press

Finalists:

- Sharon Wood (Canmore) – *Rising*, Douglas & McIntyre
- Richard Kelly Kemick (Calgary) – *I Am Herod*, Goose Lane Editions

GWEN PHARIS RINGWOOD AWARD FOR DRAMA

Winner:

- Tara Beagan (Calgary) – *Honour Beat*

Finalists:

- Elena Belyea (Edmonton) – *Smoke*
- Christopher Duthie (Calgary) – *A Dinner Party*

STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON AWARD FOR POETRY

Winner:

- Billy-Ray Belcourt (Edmonton) – *NDN Coping Mechanisms*, House of Anansi

Finalists:

- Monica Kidd (Calgary) – *Chance Encounters with Wild Animals*, Gaspereau Press
- Peter Midgley (Edmonton) – *Let Us Not Think of Them as Barbarians*, NeWest Press

JAMES H. GRAY AWARD FOR SHORT NONFICTION

Winner:

- Paulo da Costa (Calgary) – “Learning To Shave, Learning To Leave,” *The Fiddlehead*

Finalists:

- Jennifer Bowering Delisle (Edmonton) – “Abracadabra,” *The Forge*
- Omar Mouallem (Edmonton) – “Billionaires, Bombers, and Bellydancers,” *The Ringer*

HOWARD O'HAGAN AWARD FOR SHORT STORY

Winner:

- Ali Bryan (Calgary) – "The Big Man in Cargo Shorts," Alberta Views

Finalists:

- Tyler Hein (Edmonton) – "Don't Finish," Funicular Magazine
- Joelle Tymchuk (Sherwood Park) – "Last Born," The Fiddlehead

JON WHYTE MEMORIAL ESSAY AWARD

Winner:

- Julie Sedivy (Calgary) – "Telescoping"

Finalists:

- Jennifer Bowering Delisle (Edmonton) – "Premature Burial"
- Rayanne Haines (Edmonton) – "This Is Normal"

THE ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE

Winner:

- Marina Endicott – *The Difference*, Knopf Canada/Penguin Random House

Finalists:

- Audrey J. Whitson – *The Death of Annie the Water Witcher by Lightning*, NeWest Press
- Billy-Ray Belcourt – *NDN Coping Mechanisms: Notes From the Field*, House of Anansi Press

THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE

Winner:

- Sharon Butala – *Season of Fury and Wonder*, Coteau Books (2019) + Freehand Books (2020 edition)

Finalists:

- Naomi K. Lewis – *Tiny Lights for Travellers*, University of Alberta Press
- Teresa Wong – *Dear Scarlet: The Story of my Postpartum Depression*, Arsenal Pulp Press

GOLDEN PEN AWARD

Winner:

- Vivian Hansen

KEMOSA SCHOLARSHIP FOR FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS AND INUIT MOTHERS WHO WRITE

First Place:

- Shelley Willier

Second Place:

- Trish Noelle McOrmond

Third Place:

- Teresa Callihoo

Honourable Mentions:

- Felice Gladue
- Katie-Jo Rabbit
- Alycia Two Bears
- Amber Weasel Head

IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals in 2019/2020:

GRANTORS

- Access Copyright Foundation
- Alberta Culture
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Calgary Arts Development
- Canada Council for the Arts
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Edmonton Community Foundation

FOUNDATIONS

- ArtsVest (Mentorship Program)
- Amber Webb-Bowerman Memorial Foundation (WordsWorth)
- The Calgary Foundation (Borderlines Writers Circle Calgary)
- RBC Foundation (Mentorship Program)
- Under the Arch Youth Foundation at The Calgary Foundation (R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature)

SUPPORTERS

- Jeananne Kathol Kirwin, LLP (Kemosasa Scholarship)
- Guy Tessier (Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story in Memory of Vanna Tessier)
- Aritha van Herk (Golden Pen Award)
- The WGA Board of Directors (Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award)

SPONSORS

- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (WordsWorth & Borderlines Writers Circle Calgary)
- Alberta Views (Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama)
- Audreys Books (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- Avenue Magazine Edmonton (Conference)
- Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity (Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction)
- Stephan V. Benediktson (Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry)
- Canadian Authors Association (Conference)
- The City of Calgary (The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize)
- The City of Edmonton (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing (Conference)
- Priority Printing (WordsWorth and Conference)
- Reality is Optional Kids' Writing Club (WordsWorth)
- Nhung Tran-Davies (Kemosasa Scholarship)
- Young Alberta Book Society (Conference)

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The Writers' Guild of Alberta is grateful to our 2019/2020 donors:

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REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

This is my first year on the board and, despite only being able to meet once in person before the Pandemic, I have enjoyed getting to know my fellow board members and the WGA staff through monthly conference calls. I look forward to meeting more members as we crawl out of our holes and soak in the sunshine.

With ongoing ambiguity around grants and the current COVID-19 situation, kudos go to the WGA staff for steering us to less than the budgeted deficit. We're down about the same amount for this current year that we were up last year, which, in light of so many variables in expenses and income, is commendable. Any difference from budget to actual can be explained by the sunk costs of expenses already paid such as the conference and gala that have had to be deferred to 2021-2022. Many activities are on hold while we wait to see how/when Alberta is open again for business. Our children's summer camp had to be adapted online with sunk costs of the in-person camp plus the web development. The generous support of the Amber Bowerman-Webb Foundation and an anonymous donor made our virtual Circuit Tree camp a success. If the cost of the conference and the camp had been deferred to next year, we'd be doing that much better this year.

Executive Director, Carol Holmes and her staff have done a stellar job at holding off on spending until funding materializes, so many programs were under budget as some had to be cancelled or postponed, or had to be adapted to online. As usual the WGA staff applied for as many grants as they could.

Canada Council operating funds have been confirmed for four years beginning 2020/21. The AFA operating grant for 2020/21 has been confirmed, with the first quarterly payment received, and the balance contingent on no reduction in AFA funding from the provincial government. One-time funding includes the Canada Council emergency grant, Federal wage subsidy, and the Canada Summer Job's Program (can be applied for yearly).

Carol has also been busy looking for other funding through government programs and has applied for the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA). This interest free loan offers loan forgiveness of 25% if 75% is repaid by the end of 2022. This gives us some wiggle room going forward but will only be used if absolutely necessary, and it will be paid by 2022.

Our Endowment Fund is healthy and growing, and we continue to receive the income generated. With our many partnerships, scholarships, and bursaries, we appreciate what we've received while always striving to shore up our income streams. Thank you to everyone who has donated, attended events, paid their membership dues, and any fundraising, as these are the top avenues for income for the WGA, after grants.

We are lucky to have the Rosza Foundation's support for many programs including the Online Reading Series that still brought authors together with their audience, virtually. And thanks to RBC for its continued Emerging Artists Grant for our Mentorship Program. Please join us in thanking the supporters of Alberta Literary Awards, The City of Calgary

Book Prize and City of Edmonton Book Prize for helping us recognize our home-grown authors. Check out the full list of donors and sponsors, as well as grants, in this Annual Report.

I'm sure we're all tired of hearing that these are unprecedented times, but it certainly applies to our situation. "You guys are killing it" (member quote) sums up how the WGA has still engaged with the writing community, managing to take events online. The quality and variety is astounding. So, we're still making a difference to writers in Alberta. That said, we do need to focus on fundraising as a board and members, as governments and corporations struggle in this new reality. We appreciate all your ideas on events you would like to run or think we should that would feather our nest, so we can continue providing a home for writers of all spots and stripes. We are here for you, and because of you.

I look forward to another year as Treasurer, and all the adventures to come as we learn new ways to connect and keep creating. Stay safe and write on!

Susan Carpenter
Treasurer

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	32
WGA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	35
WGA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	36
WGA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	37
WGA CASH FLOW STATEMENT	38
WGA NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	39

REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

To the Members of Writers' Guild of Alberta



QUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Writers' Guild of Alberta, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2020, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Writers' Guild of Alberta as at March 31, 2020, and the results of its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

BASIS FOR QUALIFIED OPINION

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Writers' Guild of Alberta derives revenue from programming and fundraising, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Guild. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to programming and fundraising, excess of revenues over expenses, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2020 and 2019, current assets as at March 31, 2020 and 2019, and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both 2020 and 2019. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2019 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

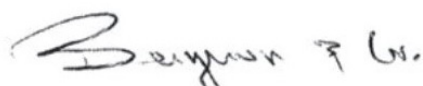
AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Bergeron & Co. Chartered Professional Accountants

*May 13, 2020
Edmonton, AB*

WGA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Revenues		
<i>Grants (Note 10)</i>	\$ 411,659	\$ 395,868
<i>Programming</i>	141,860	149,747
<i>Membership fees</i>	42,663	43,500
<i>Casino</i>	47,891	66,354
<i>Fundraising</i>	17,859	17,216
<i>Donations</i>	13,021	11,482
<i>Sponsorships</i>	9,350	12,250
<i>Interest</i>	1,331	864
<i>Advertising</i>	1,995	2,030
<u>Total:</u>	<u>687,629</u>	<u>699,311</u>
Expenses		
<i>Wages and benefits</i>	272,695	258,201
<i>Program</i>	227,831	179,593
<i>Contract fees</i>	126,386	147,034
<i>Travel</i>	22,754	28,833
<i>Professional fees</i>	14,964	6,153
<i>Office and administration</i>	14,062	17,935
<i>Rent</i>	6,275	6,275
<i>Bank charges (Note 7)</i>	5,961	5,652
<i>Contributions to other organizations</i>	5,775	11,440
<i>Insurance</i>	6,521	4,939
<i>Telephone and utilities</i>	4,892	5,919
<i>Amortization of tangible capital assets</i>	1,809	2,562
<i>Advertising and promotion</i>	1,184	1,925
<i>Bad debts</i>	269	-
<u>Total:</u>	<u>711,378</u>	<u>676,461</u>
(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	\$ (23,749)	\$ 22,850

WGA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended March 31, 2020

Net Assets	Restricted (Note 11)	Invested in Capital Assets	Unrestricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
<i>Balance, beginning of year</i>	\$ 61,000	\$ 6,237	\$ 76,638	\$ 143,875	\$ 121,025
<i>Excess of revenues over expenses</i>	-	(1,809)	(21,940)	(23,749)	(22,850)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 61,000</u>	<u>\$ 4,428</u>	<u>\$ 54,698</u>	<u>\$ 120,126</u>	<u>\$ 143,875</u>

WGA

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2020

Assets

Current	2020	2019
<i>Cash (Note 3)</i>	\$ 190,163	\$ 69,730
<i>Accounts receivable (Note 4)</i>	3,597	7,122
<i>Goods and Services Tax recoverable</i>	5,534	7,122
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	10,961	23,263
<i>Investments (Note 5)</i>	70,129	110,364
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	<u>280,384</u>	<u>218,068</u>
Tangible Capital Assets (Note 6)	4,428	6,237
Total Assets	\$ 284,812	\$ 224,305

Liabilities

Current		
<i>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)</i>	\$ 52,170	\$ 6,697
<i>Deferred revenue (Note 8)</i>	8,710	30,625
<i>Deferred contributions (Note 9)</i>	103,806	43,110
<u>Total Liabilities</u>	<u>164,686</u>	<u>80,430</u>

Net Assets

<i>Net assets invested in capital assets</i>	4,428	6,237
<i>Deferred revenue (Note 8)</i>	61,000	61,000
<i>Unrestricted net assets</i>	54,698	76,638
<u>Total Net Assets</u>	<u>120,126</u>	<u>143,875</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 284,812	\$ 224,305

Approved by the Directors:

Director

Director

WGA CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended March 31, 2020

	2020	2019
Operating Activities		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	\$ (23,749)	\$ 22,850
Add (deduct):		
Charges to income not involving cash		
<i>Amortization of tangible capital assets</i>	1,809	2,562
<i>Interest reinvested directly to investments</i>	-	(195)
<u>Total:</u>	<u>(21,940)</u>	<u>25,217</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
<i>Trade receivables</i>	3,851	(3,818)
<i>Interest receivable</i>	(649)	(86)
<i>Grants receivable</i>	323	(323)
<i>Good and Services Tax recoverable</i>	2,054	(4,294)
<i>Prepaid expenses</i>	12,302	10,271
<i>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</i>	45,476	(2,198)
<i>Deferred revenue</i>	(21,915)	(10,899)
<i>Deferred contributions</i>	60,696	(39,023)
<u>Total:</u>	<u>80,198</u>	<u>(25,153)</u>
Investing Activities		
<i>Purchase of investments</i>	(70,129)	(91,450)
<i>Receipt of investments</i>	110,364	91,210
<u>Total:</u>	<u>40,235</u>	<u>(240)</u>
Increase (Decrease) In Cash	120,433	(25,393)
Cash, beginning of year	69,730	95,123
<u>Cash, end of year</u>	<u>\$ 190,163</u>	<u>\$ 69,730</u>

WGA

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2020

1. PURPOSE OF THE NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (the "Guild") was incorporated in 1981 under the Societies Act of the province of Alberta. The Guild is engaged in the operation of a Provincial Arts Service Organization (PASO) dedicated to writers. The Writers' Guild of Alberta is a registered charitable organization therefore it is exempt from income taxes.

The Writers' Guild of Alberta receives 36% of its revenue from one grantor (2019 - 37%).

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO) and include the following significant accounting policies:

MANAGEMENT'S USE OF ESTIMATES

a) The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and

expenses during the current year. These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to income as appropriate in the year they become known.

Revenue recognition

b) The Guild uses the deferral method of accounting for contributions (i.e. grants, casino, and donations). Under this method, contributions restricted to expenses of future periods are deferred and recognized as revenue in the period when the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when they are received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Programming fees, fundraising, sponsorships, and advertising are recognized as revenue upon the completion of the event to which they relate.

Membership fees are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year to which they relate. Investment transactions are recognized on the transaction date and resulting revenue is recognized on an accrual basis. Specifically, interest income is recognized on a time proportion basis.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

c) Financial assets and liabilities are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement is at amortized cost. Financial assets measured at amortized cost consist of cash, trade receivables, grants receivable, interest receivable, and non-redeemable

guaranteed investment certificates. Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost consist of accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

Transaction costs related to financial assets and financial liabilities subsequently measured at amortized cost are included or deducted in the initial measurement of the asset or liability.

IMPAIRMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

d) Financial assets measured at cost or amortized cost are tested for impairment if there are indications of possible impairment. The amount of the write-down is recognized in income. A previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, either directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment loss not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in income.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

e) The Guild's policy is to present bank balances and guaranteed investment certificates with a maturity period of three months or less from the date of acquisition under cash and cash equivalents.

TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS OF AN NPO

f) Purchased tangible capital assets are recorded at cost. Contributed tangible capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is recorded at the following rates, which have been established by estimates of useful lives. Additions during the current year are amortized at one-half their normal rates, and no amortization is taken in the year of disposition.

Computer hardware	30% declining balance
Furniture and fixtures	20% declining balance

Amortization expense is reported in the statement of operations.

When a tangible capital asset no longer has any long-term service potential for the Guild, the excess of its net carrying amount over any residual value is recognized as an expense in the statement of operations.

CONTRIBUTED MATERIALS AND SERVICES

g) Volunteers contribute many hours per year to assist the Guild in carrying out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements. Contributed materials are recognized at their fair value.

3. RESTRICTED CASH

	2020	2019
<i>Externally restricted cash</i>	\$ 29,373	\$ 212
– <i>Casino funds</i>		
<i>Externally restricted cash</i>	74,433	42,898
– <i>Deferred contributions</i>		
<i>Externally restricted cash</i>	8,710	30,625
– <i>Deferred revenue</i>		
<u>Externally restricted cash</u>	<u>112,516</u>	<u>73,735</u>
<u>Unrestricted cash</u>	<u>77,647</u>	<u>(4,005)</u>
Cash	\$ 190,163	\$ 69,730

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2020	2019
<i>Trade receivables</i>	\$ 2,568	\$ 6,419
<i>Grants receivable</i>	-	323
<i>Interest receivable</i>	1,029	380
Total	\$ 3,597	\$ 7,122

5. INVESTMENTS

	2020	2019
<i>Non-refundable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on April 8, 2020, bearing interest at a rate of 1.50% per annum</i>	\$ 70,129	\$ -
<i>Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on July 10, 2019, bearing interest at a rate of 0.75% per annum</i>	-	50,337
<i>Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on February 2, 2020, bearing interest at a rate of 0.75% per annum</i>	-	19,499
<i>Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on March 20, 2020, bearing interest at a rate of 1.50% per annum</i>	-	40,528
Total	\$ 70,129	\$ 110,364

6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value	
			2020	2019
<i>Computer hardware</i>	\$ 34,262	\$ 30,330	\$ 3,932	\$ 5,617
<i>Furniture and fixtures</i>	8,229	7,733	496	620
Total	\$ 42,491	\$ 38,063	\$ 4,428	\$ 6,237

7. CREDIT CARDS

The Guild holds a credit with an authorized credit limit of \$8,000 bearing interest at a rate of 19.99%. The amount payable on the credit card as at March 31, 2020, was \$670 (2019 - nil), this balance is included in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities amount. The amount of interest paid on the credit cards during the fiscal year was \$72 (2019 - \$192), these amounts are included in bank charges. The credit cards are guaranteed by the current and future assets of the Guild.

8. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2020	2019
<i>Registrations</i>	\$ 5,790	\$ 25,335
<i>Book prize management fees</i>	2,800	4,800
<i>Merchandise</i>	120	490
Total	\$ 8,710	\$ 30,625

9. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	Opening	Funds received	Funds used	Ending
<i>Casino Edmonton Arts Council</i>	\$ 212	\$ 77,052	\$ (47,891)	\$ 29,373
<i>Canada Council for the Arts</i>	-	56,500	(32,500)	24,000
<i>Donations</i>	11,386	56,500	(32,500)	24,000
<i>RBC – Emerging Artists</i>	9,637	14,066	(9,000)	14,703
<i>Rozsa Foundation</i>	6,500	15,000	(14,000)	7,500
<i>Calgary Arts Development Agency</i>	-	11,000	5,000	6,000
<i>Alberta Culture & Tourism</i>	-	11,000	(6,000)	5,000
<i>BPAA – Writing Stick</i>	10,000	3,000	(12,570)	430
Total	\$ 43,110	\$ 245,618	\$ (184,922)	\$ 103,806

10. GRANTS

	2020	2019
<i>Alberta Foundation for the Arts</i>	\$ 251,589	\$ 258,960
<i>Canada Council for the Arts</i>	52,586	60,614
<i>Edmonton Arts Council</i>	32,500	33,160
<i>Chawkers Foundation</i>	15,500	-
<i>RBC – Emerging Artists</i>	14,00	12,750
<i>Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women</i>	12,569	-
<i>Rozsa Foundation</i>	5,000	1,000
<i>Calgary Arts Development Agency</i>	6,000	6,000
<i>Edmonton Community Foundation</i>	6,390	5,000
<i>Book Publishers Association of Alberta</i>	5,375	7,125
<i>Summer employment grants</i>	4,690	3,264
<i>Amber Bowerman-Webb Foundation</i>	4,000	4,000
<i>City of Lethbridge</i>	1,460	645
<i>ArtsVest</i>	-	3,350
Total	\$ 411,659	\$ 395,868

11. INTERNALLY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's Board of Directors has restricted a sum of \$61,000 (2019 - \$61,000) as a sustainability fund which the funds are held in the non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates, see note 5.

12. WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA ENDOWMENT FUND

The Writers' Guild of Alberta is the beneficiary of the Writers' Guild of Alberta Endowment Fund held with the Edmonton Community Foundation. Assets of this fund are not the property of the Guild but the income generated from the fund is transferred to the Guild. As at December 31, 2019, the balance in the Foundation's Endowment Fund was \$35,494 (2018 - \$31,586).

13. FUND-RAISING EXPENSES AND OTHER

As required under Section 7(2) of the Regulations of the Charitable Fund-raising Act of Alberta, the Guild discloses that it incurred \$0 of expenses related to fundraising in 2020 (2019 - \$0) and it received \$30,880 of contributions in 2020 (2019 - \$28,698).

14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Guild is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis presents the Guild's exposures to significant risks at reporting date.

Liquidity risk:

The Guild is exposed to liquidity risk with respect to its accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Guild's estimates that its exposure to the above noted risks has not significantly changed from the previous period.

15. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Certain corresponding figures have been reclassified to conform with the current year classifications.

WGA

2020-2024 STRATEGIC PLAN

Developed October 6, 2019; Revised January 29, 2020



A. VISION

A thriving writing community that is diverse, valued, and celebrated.

B. MISSION

We support and advocate for all writers and provide opportunities to grow and connect while enriching Alberta's culture and economy.

C. VALUES

We believe that:

1. The literary arts are essential to the well-being of all individuals, communities and the economy of Alberta;
2. Working in partnership with other organizations contributes to the quality of life in Alberta;
3. Networking and collaboration are beneficial to innovation and the creative process;
4. A safe and welcoming environment is essential for writers to pursue their craft;
5. Knowledge and ongoing development are fundamental to creative growth.

D. STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Governance: Establish effective and efficient leadership through clarity and consistency in policy, procedures, communication, and succession planning.

Finance: Investigate alternative funding opportunities that result in diversified resources and sustainable budgets.

Advocacy: Create powerful connections that build authentic relationships with members, non-members, staff, stakeholders, and funders who will advocate and support the WGA's mandate.

Membership: Increase the number of new and renewing WGA members resulting in growth of demographic diversity such as age, gender identification, place, ethnicity, skills, and income.

E. EXPECTED RESULTS FOR 2024

- Successful Board that achieves its goals and objectives
- Access to sustainable funding with reduced reliance on grants
- Improved profile that results in public recognition and increased partnerships
- Increases to overall membership, rural membership, and digital literacy opportunities for all

F. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1.0 Effective and efficient Board leadership	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board improvement program with regular performance review in place and in use by April 2020 with the first review taking place in May 2020. 2. Conduct governance manual and policy review every four years with updates beginning in February 2020. 3. Succession plan for Executive Director completed by March 2020, and for board members review and approval by April 2020. 4. Board professional development to occur annually and reflected in the budget.
Strategic Direction 2: Fund Development	
Goal 2.0 Diversified and sustainable funding	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review current revenue and expense budgets annually by February, and identify new funding requirements by March, starting in 2020 2. Funding plan with budgets, timelines and targets completed on an annual basis and presented in April. 3. Sponsorship plan completed by April 2020 and enacted on May 2020. 4. Board expertise identified by March 2020 and mentorship/training program beginning in 2020.
Strategic Direction 3: Advocacy	
Goal 3.0 Powerful connections and authentic relationships	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocacy plan with Board expectations and core key messaging completed by May 2020 and enacted on June 2020. 2. Calculate Social Return on Investment of WGA by May 2020.
Strategic Direction 4: Membership	
Goal 4.0 Increased membership by 10% to 1200 writers	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand overall geographical reach by April 30, 2024. 2. Increased rural membership by April 30, 2024. 3. Promote membership diversity. 4. Identify membership's needs on an annual basis.
Strategic Direction 5: Operations	
Goal 5.0 The organization is valued and engaged	Objectives <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Professional development for organizational positions in the 2021 budget. 2. Measure digital readiness and identify digital gaps and possibilities by February 2021. 3. Identify partnerships for each year of the strategic plan. 4. Increase prominence and be recognized as a dynamic and relevant organization.

The WGA 2020-2024 Strategic Plan is a living document and changes may be made to fully realize the Vision, Mission, Values and Goals of the WGA.

Writers' Guild of Alberta

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WritersGuildofAlberta



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writersguildab

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The City of Calgary; the City of Edmonton; Canada Council for the Arts.

