Writers'

2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT



TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA	3
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	5
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	6
YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT	8
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES	9
WGA EVENTS	17
WGA LITERARY AWARDS	21
IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	23
DONORS	24
WGA STAFF & VOLUNTEERS	25
TREASURER'S REPORT	26
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	27

ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA) was formed in October 1980 on 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 expand each other's knowlwedge 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 writers, 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 2021, we have the following number of members:

- 278 Regular
- 3 WestWord Library Subscriptions
- 312 Senior

91 Low Income

245 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 email newsletter (*WriteClick*) providing up-to-date information on writers' markets, news, and events

AS OF 2021,

we have 946 members from 95 Alberta communities (plus 23 communities outside of Alberta¹).

1 past members who leave the province sometimes continue their membership to keep in contact with the community

REPORT FROM The president

For those of you that have lost loved ones during this pandemic, please accept my deepest sympathies. It has been a difficult year.

The 2020/2021 year was a challenging year for the WGA Board. We have had many changes in our Board membership due to personal circumstances. I, Carol Parchewsky, was appointed President at an emergent Board Meeting in December, 2020.

- I would like to thank Kevin Thornton (Secretary), Therese Greenwood (Member at Large) for their work on the WGA Board of Directors in 2019 and 2020.
- I would like to thank Janet Gurtler (Secretary) for her work on the WGA Board of Directors in 2021.
- I would like to thank Leslie Chivers for his work as WGA President in 2019 and 2020; and on the board in 2017 and 2018.
- I would like to thank Susan Carpenter for her work as Treasurer in 2019, through 2021.
- I would like to thank Alison Clarke for her work as Member at Large in 2017 through 2021.
- I would like to thank Lori Hahnel who returned to the Board as Member at Large and then Secretary for the balance of the 2020/2021 term.
- I would like to thank Teresa Wouters who returned to the Board as Member at Large for the balance of the 2020/2021 term.
- I would like to thank Nicolas Brown who joined the board as Treasurer for the balance of the 2020/2021 term.

It has continued to be an uncertain time with COVID and changing conditions. Our WGA staff and my fellow board members have been doing an excellent job working virtually and continuing virtual program offerings. I am fortunate to have enthusiastic, energetic board members that work with me to support our members.



In January, the board held its yearly retreat meeting virtually. We reviewed the key areas for the board: board roles and responsibilities, strategic plan, fund development, equity and diversity, and bylaws. We reviewed how the WGA is doing in this uncertain time of COVID and discussed how we can position ourselves through the remainder of the pandemic. We are concerned about future funding uncertainties during the pandemic and in the post-pandemic landscape. We need to strengthen our fund development action plan going forward.

We received input on our bylaws with regard board transition from the Executive Director at the Muttart Foundation. The Board led by Dr. Kimberly Fraser and Sophie Pinkoski reviewed the input and updated our bylaws to provide clarity. This and other proposed changes made by the board will be presented at our 2021 Annual General Meeting for approval.

The Youth Committee, led by Sophie Pinkoski and supported by Theresa Uchechi Ezeuko, has continued to develop and find new ways to increase the engagement and involvement of our under 35 Alberta writers.

Thanks to Carol Holmes and the rest of the WGA staff for their continued support, hard work, persistence, and skills that keep the WGA being the amazing organization that builds a supportive community for Alberta writers. Thanks to my fellow members of the Board of Directors, you have worked tirelessly this past year and your efforts were appreciated as we continued to navigate the unsettled arts economy.

One of the WGA's best kept secrets is the wealth of information and supportive community that is beneficial to people interested in learning more about writing, and those who are starting to write. The WGA is for all writers, all levels, all genres, and all forms. The WGA community is active and engaged and continued to celebrate and offer support to the Alberta writing community.

Congratulations to the WGA on celebrating its 40th anniversary at our annual conference this year. I look forward to the next forty years!

It's been an absolute privilege and honour to return to serve as the president this year, and I look forward to serving the membership as Past President for the next year.

I wish you success with all of your writing. Please update me on your achievements.

Carol Parchewsky President

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to this year's Annual Report.

I hope you all have enjoyed a good summer and extended warm days of fall.

I am happy to provide an update on WGA activities since the last report in September 2020 and a financial update for our last fiscal year. We didn't know then that a year later, we would still be working remotely with Zoom or online meetings as our primary form of social contact. While working from our living rooms and through the screen has had its challenges, we adapted, learned a lot about potential hybrid and online formats, and I am proud of the digital programming that has been offered.

All regular programs and publications, including the conference, awards gala, mentorship program, manuscript review service, winter and summer youth



camps took place online, along with a full offering of webinars, workshops, readings, and retreats, and regular posting of *WestWord* and *WriteClick*. We were also pleased to partner with the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society to launch the newly designed Own Voices program and, in Edmonton, the Horizons Writers Circle. Formerly named Borderlines, these programs expanded this year from a focus on immigrant writers to include writers within the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) community, ESL, and underrepresented writers. We are pleased with the programs' success in adding to the richness of voices and membership in the writing community.

Thanks also to everyone who has been part of our digital reading series. It was great to see you and hear your work. The series, as well as past WGA webinars, are accessible under the "Online Resources" tab on our website and I encourage you to look. There are great resources to tap into in the upcoming winter months.

To all WGA staff, contractors and individuals who made programming happen this year, a big round of applause is due. For a full schedule and details on events activities, please see later in this report. This year has seen several changes to the WGA board as Carol Parchewsky highlights in her president's report, and I thank them all for their dedication and the governance work done for the organization. Special thanks to Leslie Chivers for his time as president on the board and to Nicolas Brown for stepping in as interim treasurer between board elections. If you are interested in being involved as a board member or a sponsor, do be in touch. Support for our programs and, in particular, our literary awards is needed.

The year has also been a time of staff changes. We welcomed Dorothy (Dee) Bentley as the new Calgary-based program coordinator in October 2020 as we said farewell to long-term staff member Samantha Warwick. Valmai Goggin, Sadie MacGillivray and Catherine Little stepped in at various times and in various roles while program coordinator/operations manager Giorgia Severini was away on maternity leave. Jason Norman moved to full-time and Mike Maguire to part-time, and Ellen Kartz remained a steady presence. It has been busy but productive time and I thank the staff for being a strong, fun team to work with.

On the financial front, we are doing well. While we were down in revenue from events, we also had lower operational costs. Onetime emergency COVID funds received from the Canada Council and the federal wage subsidy program helped restore our reserve, put money in the bank for projects to be completed, and will tide us through the current year as we build a fund development plan to sustain programming and growth in the future.

Before I close, I would like to thank a man of many talents, David A. Poulsen, writer, broadcaster, teacher, football coach, rodeo competitor, stage and film actor (and rock singer?) for stepping in after Susan Calder as the representative for the WGA on the When Words Collide (WWC) committee. Thank you, David, for your generous support and congratulations to the organizers of WWC for a successful 11th year of operation and a 10th anniversary celebration.

Over a year and a half into the pandemic, it is indeed a strange time. I have not met the board face-toface, some staff members I only know through my computer screen, and my window to WGA members has been through online readings or breakout rooms at our Christmas party. It is a story of distance we all share. While the pandemic has meant physical isolation, we have maintained connection, and I thank you all. As we move into the next phase of the pandemic, one that hopefully allows us again to safely meet in person, I wish you all the best for a good writing year ahead.

Carol Holmes Executive Director

REPORT FROM THE YOUTH COMMITTEE

The past two years have been a challenge for the WGA, as the pandemic has made us think outside the box while we get used to building and maintaining our literary community in a hybrid world. Fortunately, the youth committee has always thrived in a digital environment, and we have been hard at work to create a supportive online space where young writers feel comfortable enough to be themselves, make friends, and share and explore their writing talents with one another. We saw the first glimpse of potential for what that could be in the form of the WGA's first major Discord server during the conference this year, where we saw a return to networking and engagement, albeit not yet in person, but in a new way. Seeing the activity on the conference Discord gave the youth committee the confidence to build their own server specifically for young writers. The committee has worked hard in the past few months to create a space for young writers from all over Alberta who will be able to engage with fellow writers their age. This is the first time we have been able to specifically engage with rural writers, thanks to our new rural representative, Mikey Lewis, who has spearheaded much of our online engagement.

The youth committee Discord is just the start of the many plans the youth committee has, and the Discord intends to be a hub where we can empower young writers within the online community space so that they can feel confident enough to express their needs and interests in terms of the programs and resources they want to see. Once we have the Discord up and running, we hope it will garner enough activity for it to become self-sustaining with the help of moderators whenever needed.

This past year, the committee has seen an almost entirely new roster of recruits, including two teen members, Sophie Toro and Kaja Pedersen. It's so important to have this latest generation of youths represented



within the committee, as they will bring in a fresh new perspective on where the literary community is going. We're excited to see them flourish and bring their best ideas to the table with hope that we can continue to appeal to student members and encourage them to find a long-term network in the Guild.

Coming into a new board year always means a shakeup, and the youth committee is no exception. We recently said goodbye to Rene Meloche, whose dedication to the WGA and youth committee has seen us through more than three years now. We're extremely grateful to the administrative support she's offered us over the years and we look forward to the amazing things she does next. With my second term on the WGA board now halfway through, the committee will be carefully considering our next recruitment approach as we find our next Youth Committee Chair for fall 2022. Alongside this, we will be eager to bring in new members with a specialization in community engagement, program coordination, and Discord moderation who can collaborate with staff to deliver youth programming in the future.

If you or someone you know are a young writer, you can find us at:

Instagram: @wga_youth_hub Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wgayouthhub Twitter: @WGA_Youth_Hub

Sophie Pinkoski Chair

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

The majority of the following WGA activities took place between September 2020 to August 2021.

ADVOCACY

The WGA is a member of the Edmonton Arts Council, PEN Canada, and Access Copyright.

We are represented on the Alberta Partners for Arts and Culture (APAC) Coalition, the Calgary Distinguished Authors Program, Calgary's When Words Collide, the Canadian Writers' Foundation, and the Cultural Human Resources Council. We work collaboratively with Calgary's Wordfest, the Edmonton Stroll of Poets, Edmonton's NonFiction festival (LitFest), 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 2021 Conference Re/Orientation, held May 28-30, 2021, marked the 40th anniversary of the Writers' Guild of Alberta. Due to provincial health guidelines related to COVID-19, the conference was transitioned to an entirely online event. In order to provide extended opportunities for early-career writers and accomplished authors to connect, the conference experience began one week early to allow for Blue Pencil meetings. In addition, the conferences professional development and connection components were extended for two weeks following the conference by creating access to session recordings on the WGA YouTube channel, as well as continued connections and discourse on the conference Discord server.

There were a total of 141 writers registered and 89 presenters.

Some of the special guests and keynote speakers included:

- Canadian authors Souvankham Thammavongsa (*How to Pronounce Knife*), Eden Robinson (The Trickster series), PJ Vernon (*Bath Haus*), Joshua Whitehead (*Love After the End*), Danny Ramadan (*Salma the Syrian Chef*), Natalie Jenner (*The Jane Austen Society*), Gil Admason (*Ridgerunner*), Jen Sookfong Lee (Finding Home), and Marty Chan (*Haunted Hospital*).
- Canadian publishers attended to shed light on publishing in Canada: Netta Johnson of Stonehouse Press, Kelsy Attard of Freehand Books, and Sarah L. Johnston of Seventh Terrace Books, Along with agent Rob Firing of Transatlantic Agency.

"This was the first writer's conference that I attended and overall I thought it was very good, especially given that you had to organize it all online. Most of the sessions had really good speakers and thoughtful moderation."

- 2021 Conference Participant

"The parts of your conference that I was able to attend were great as well. And being able to catch a couple sessions that I missed, given that they were recorded, was an added bonus."

- 2021 Conference Participant

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 Award¹ (lifetime achievement)

The 2021 awards were presented in an online format.

See page 21 for this year's winners and finalists.

1 award was not presented in 2021

OWN VOICES ALBERTA (FORMERLY BORDERLINES WRITERS CIRCLE)

In partnership with the WGA and with the support from the Calgary Foundation, the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (AWCS) designed Own Voices Alberta to yield new literary works, explore the BIPOC experience, and initiate dialogue that celebrates our diversity and contributes to a deeper understanding of one another. The program offered mentorship, workshops, discussions, networking, public reading opportunities, industry events, and more. Own Voices Alberta ran from March to July 2021 and was set entirely online, unless otherwise specified for events and activities. The program reflected AWCS's advocacy of writing as a form of expression through meaningful engagement of emerging writers within the local BIPOC community. Opportunities were created for underserved writers, empowering them by supporting their self-determined journey to becoming established members of the literary community.

Mentorship was a significant part of the program. Participants were carefully matched with well-established members of the literary community who were able to address their specific creative and technical writing goals. Thanks to the participants in this year of the program for making it a success: Allan B. Rosales, Kirti Bhadresa, Monda Mahmoud, Nicole M'carthy, Sandro Silva, and Vina Nguyen, and to mentors, Wakefield Brewster, Barb Howard, Pam Clark, Sam Jones, Wendy McGrath, and Lee Kvern.

HORIZONS WRITERS CIRCLE



With similar aims and structure as Own Voices, the Horizons Writers Circle was launched in June, 2021 under the leadership of **Luciana Erregue-Sacchi**. Six participants and mentors will take part in the program that will run September 2021 through March 2022. The program began in 2012 under the name Borderlines. After a break for a year we are pleased to offer the program again and are grateful to the Edmonton Arts Council for the support provided.

This year's participants are:

- Meghan Eaker will work with Rayanne Haines on poetry
- Hala Hussain will work with Janice Williamson on nonfiction
- Poushali Mitra will work with Jana Pruden on nonfiction
- Diana Gaviria will work with Jumoke Verissimo on fiction
- GianMarco Visconti will work with Uche Umezurike on poetry
- Candice Joy Oliva will work with Adriana Oniță on poetry



Luciana is an art historian, publisher (Laberinto Press), writer, and translator. Her work has appeared in Canadian anthologies, and international publications, she has also presented at literary festivals and conferences (Edmonton LitFest, the FOLD, Edmonton Poetry Festival, FIL

Canada, WGA Conference). She maintains her blog, Spectator Curator, is a WGA Borderlines Writers Circle alumni, a Banff Centre Literary Arts Alumni, a former Edmonton Arts Council Artist in Residence, an academic, and an advocate for diversity in Canadian publishing. Luciana loves going for walks throughout the beautiful Edmonton River Valley alongside friends and family.

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 Jacqueline Guest, were the 2021 judges. They selected the three finalists (Sierra Roberts, Teresa Jane Wouters, and Holly Gerlach) as well as honourable mention (Melissa Caillou).

LISTEN 2 ME PODCAST



Listen 2 Me is a podcast for creatives, by creatives. Your hosts, Gio and Renée, two lifelong friends and queer creatives, talk about the very real highs and lows of making art while staying grounded. They bring you the best in unsolicited, unqualified advice with the odd qualified creative guest thrown in!

We worked together to promote the work of Alberta writers. When they interviewed an Alberta writer, they shared their podcast

Jessica Renwick David G. See Liselle Sambury redenates the factor fields episodes with us that we then shared on our WGA podcast channels.

CANADIAN LITERATURE CENTRE (CLC)

The mission of the CLC is to foster knowledge, reading, and appreciation of Canadian literatures, in English and in French, with a special focus on Indigenous, minoritized, and marginalized writing. The CLC aims to lead cutting-edge literary and interdisciplinary research.

We partnered with the CLC on two free masterclasses featuring JR Carpenter and Shannon Webb-Campbell.

In additon, they turned their regular Brown Bag Lunch series of author readings into podcast episodes and then shared them with us to share on the WGA podcast channels.

EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Typically, the WGA hosts monthly events which are generally free to members and available to non-members for a small fee in both Edmonton and Calgary. Due to the continued presence of COVID-19, the WGA has continued to host events, such as professional development presentations and workshops, online.

The online format has helped engage more members and communities.

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

MANUSCRIPT READING SERVICE

For the 2020/2021 fiscal year, 15 people used the service and we hired 10 different readers (some did two or more manuscripts).

This service is extremely valuable to members since it allows writers from anywhere in the province to "I would recommend this program to emerging writers without a doubt. It is a luxury, and a gift. It goes far beyond an education, for it is based on relationship, and community, which is a brilliant way to foster artistic development. The impact of this program on my writing, and my ability to help others with their work as well, will be long lasting."

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 support from the RBC Foundation, which allowed us to continue the program with six 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 2020 pairings were:

- Gunnilla Nilsson worked with mentor Jacqueline Guest in middle-grade fiction
- Lisa Mulrooney worked with mentor Dymphny Dronyk in poetry
- Brandon Wint worked with mentor Erina Harris in poetry
- Danica Klewchuk worked with mentor Michael Hingston in fiction
- Audrey Jamieson worked with mentor Margaret Macpherson in dystopian science fiction
- Krissi Stocks worked with mentor Ted Bishop in creative nonfiction

The 2021 pairings were:

- Josephine Boxwell worked with mentor Kate A. Boorman on fantasy fiction
- Bret Crowle worked with mentor Peter Midgley on short noir fiction
- Berend McKenzie worked with mentor Julie Sedivy on nonfiction memoir

 Barbara Parker worked with mentor Sheri-D Wilson on poetry

- 2020 Mentorship Program Participant

- Sharmila Pokharel worked with mentor Marcello Di Cintio on nonfiction
- Lauren Seal worked with mentor Rayanne Haines on a YA novel in verse

PARTNERSHIPS



The WGA continued the following major ongoing partnerships in 2020/2021: 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. Both the Calgary and Edmonton prizes received 31 submissions each. 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 city's respective prizes. The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize winner (Tyler Enfield - Like Rum-Drunk Angels, Goose Lane Editions) was announced during our Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation on June 9, 2021. The winner of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, Alexandra Latos for Under Shifting Stars, was announced online at a special town council meeting on June 21, 2021.

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. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Stroll's reading series moved online and ran biweekly through the 2020/2021 season.

The WGA has successfully partnered on events and programs with the Canadian Literature Centre, Wordfest, Calgary Memorial Public Library, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, WordBridge: Lethbridge Writing Conference, Spruce Grove Public Library, and the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society. 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. Each year, Giller Light Bash events are held across Canada on the evening of the Scotiabank Giller Prize Gala, but like most events in 2020, the Giller Light Bash took place virtually. It was still a great opportunity to connect with fellow book lovers while watching the Scotiabank Giller Prize broadcast and raising funds for this worthwhile cause.

READ ALBERTA BOOKS

The Read Alberta Books travelling library display aims to raise the profile of Alberta-made content throughout the province. Books shortlisted 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.

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.

WESTWORD

WestWord magazine is distributed quarterly to over 1100 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 620 members by post, and 477 by email.



RETREATS

Due to COVID-19, there were no in-person retreats planned. However, an online retreat, Welcoming Your Muse, was organized.

The WGA Online Retreat, Welcoming Your Muse, was held February 19th - 21st. The twelve participants were encouraged to pursue their writing goals with the assistance of two mentors, Betty Jane Hagerat and Bob Stallworthy. The mentors provided morning inspirational talks via video and helpful insights during the virtual fireside chats. The Writer-in-Residence, Annette Lapointe, assessed writing samples and followed-up with one-on-one appointments to offer suggestions for writing project development. Further perks were swag items mailed to participants' mailboxes, self-directed writing time, and access to the WGA Webinar library.

ONLINE Programming



DIGITAL STRATEGIES

Due to COVID-19, all of our events since March 2020 have been online. This transition to online has allowed a greater number and variety of WGA members and prospective members to interact with one another. We have also been able to have a larger variety of hosts and instructors. We are continuing to find better ways of connecting our community.

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.

The webinar program featured:

- Writing Who You Don't Know with Sharon Bala
- Plotting Conspiracy with Hugh A. Gordon
- Ask an Agent with Carolyn Forde
- It's About Time: 10 E-Z Steps to Writing That Novel with Susie Moloney
- Everything You Never Wanted to Know About Taxes with Joel Fishbane
- Publishing From A Printer's Perspective with Donovan Bergman.

ONLINE AWARDS GALA

Due to COVID-19, we once again had to transfer the Alberta Literary Awards Gala to an online format. The WGA, with the help of Reel Story Communications, created the 2021 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation in order to celebrate this year's finalists and announce the winners of the Alberta Literary Awards and the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize. The Golden Pen Award was not presented this year. The video premiered on the WGA YouTube page and currently has 300 views.

VIRTUAL READINGS WITH THE FINALISTS SERIES

As a continued response to COVID-19, and as a lead up to the 2021 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation, the WGA once again put on several virtual readings with some of the finalists of the Alberta Literary Awards, the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize, as well as the City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. Each event consisted of awards finalists reading from their work and discussing it with the event host. This reading series was originally created in 2020 to promote the work of the finalists as well as promote the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards Video Presentation.

ONLINE READING SERIES

Many book launches have continued to be cancelled due to COVID-19, so we decided to once again host a series of online readings and author interviews. This Online Reading Series gives WGA members who had their events cancelled, or who had a 2020 or 2021 book release, the opportunity to present their work through a reading and interview/discussion period. Episodes were live streamed and shared on the WGA YouTube channel and then later on WGA podcast channels.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Initially as a response to COVID-19, the WGA hosted three online workshops in 2020. Due to the continuance of COVID-19, as well as the success of the workshops in 2020, the WGA hosted multiple workshops. The workshops were:

• Poetry as Listening with Shazia Hafiz Ramji: This was a self-guided asynchronous writing workshop that participants could take on their own time. The WGA used Google Classroom to help Shazia send the participants prompts each day.

- Script Writing Workshop with Meg Braem: This was a two-part workshop held over Zoom.
- Novel Intent with Ali Bryan: This was an eightweek workshop held over Zoom.
- September 2021 Alberta Culture Days Workshops: These were three free writing workshops held over Zoom:
- Short Fiction with John O'Neil
- The Starting Point and Beyond with Joan Crate
- Writing Humour with Dina Del Bucchia

YOUTH WRITING Residencies

The WGA's youth writing residencies continue 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. Due to COVID-19, the in-person residencies were once again cancelled. We did, however, host an online version of Drink the Wild Air as well as Circuit Tree (the online version of WordsWorth).

Colin Matty continues to serve as Camp Director for Drink the Wild Air and WordsWorth/Circuit Tree.

DRINK THE WILD AIR



Drink the Wild Air is a whirl-

wind weekend of creativity unleashed for youth aged 11-19. Typically nestled in the gateway to the Rocky Mountains in Kananaskis country, participants came together online to take workshops with working professionals, play games, share stories, songs, poems, and art. Drink the Wild Air had 15 registrants and took place March 19th, for orientation, and March 20th, for a full day of creative fun. The 2021 Team consisted of Colin Matty, Erin Emily Ann Vance, and Nisha Patel.

CIRCUIT TREE

Circuit Tree is a week-long series of workshops with professional authors and artists, socialization, performance opportunities, story telling, games, and even more digital adventures for youth aged 11-19. Rather than have a combined camp like Circuit Tree 2020 or Drink the Wild Air, Circuit Tree 2021 consisted of two camps, one for ages 11-13 and one for ages 14-19, that ran simultaniously from July 11th-16th. Circuit Tree attracted 47 participants. The simulatanious nature allowed mingling between the age groups as well as greater numbers during camp-wide events. Campwide events included a staff talent show, movie night, game night, spotlight cafe open mic, digital LARP (Live Action Role Play) Quest, and more.

The 2021 staff consisted of Colin Matty as the Camp Director; Henry Greyson, Sadie MacGillivray, Liam Coady, and Jess Tollestrup as the Creative Team; as well as Kim Firmston, Sue-Shane Tsomondo, Marc Herman Lynch, Wakefield Brewster, David Wilson, and Marin Perlette as the instructors. The following were the workshops:

- Beyond the Chosen One: Developing Characters for Genre Fiction with Kim Firmston
- Reimagining the Past with Sue-Shane Tsomondo
- Writing the Macbre: Exploring the Horrific in our Everyday World with Marc Herman Lynch
- From Pen to Performance with Da PitBull (Wake-field Brewster)
- The Writer's Voice with David Wilson
- Sequestial Art: Telling Stories with Marin Perlette

Due to fundraising that Sue-Shane was able to do, we were also able to provide bursury funding for 11 BIPOC youth to attend Circuit Tree. This allowed for a greater diversity of participants, which in turn sparked a greater variety in opinions and discussions relating to workshop material.



WRITE NIGHTS

Due to the continuation of COVID-19, we decided to hold four virtual Write Nights. Write Nights are free dropin sessions for writers of all levels of experience. 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. The sessions took place throughout November 2020.

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 again with the Lethbridge Public Library for the third annual WordBridge: Lethbridge Writing Conference. The event was held on February 12 & 13, 2021 and consisted of online presentations, panels, workshops. Over both days, there were 15 events plus a closing Wine & Cheese social. The events covered information from writing for youth to preparing for publication, to tips and tricks for freelancing and self publishing. This year's WordBridge was a sold out weekend that connected writers, editors, publicists, and agents together.

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. Due to COVID-19, we did not participate in 2020.

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 in 2020, the platform transfer from physical to online allowed participants to continue to build digital skills in 2021. 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 continued to express 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 2022 conference a hybrid of in-person and online livestream components.

#YEGWORDS COFFEE SLEEVES



In 2018, 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. 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 six to eight 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

WGA **EVENTS**

The following events were presented by the WGA from September 2020 to August 2021.

ONLINE EVENTS

DOLLY DENNIS: THE COMPLEX ARMS (ONLINE **READING SERIES**)

September 3, 2020

ALEXIS KIENLEN: MAD COW (ONLINE READING SERIES)

September 10, 2020

PLOTTING FOR PANTSERS, INTUITS AND THE TOTALLY LOST, PART 2 WITH ALI BRYAN

September 12, 2020

NANCY M. BELL: DEAD DOGS TALK (ONLINE **READING SERIES)**

September 16, 2020

CARLEEN MARIE: ORCHID OF FATE (ONLINE **READING SERIES**)

September 22, 2020

WGA 2020 FALL KICK-OFF

September 23, 2020

READING SERIES)

September 28, 2020

DIANNE PALOVCIK: IN TROUBLE (ONLINE READING SERIES)

September 30, 2020

ALISON CLARKE: PHILLIS (ONLINE READING SERIES)

October 15, 2020

SHARON BALA WEBINAR: WRITING WHO YOU KNOW

October 17, 2020

LORI HAHNEL: VERMIN (ONLINE READING SERIES)

October 27, 2020

JOAN MARIE GALAT: (ABSOLUTE EXPERT: SPACE, STARS, & THE STORY OF MALALA YOUSAFZAI (ON-LINE READING SERIES)

October 29, 2020

KATRINA ROSEN: WITH YOU BY BIKE (ONLINE



CANISA LUBRIN MASTERCLASS

November 6, 2020

ALBERTA WRITE NIGHTS – SETTING INTENTION

November 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2020

THE 2020 (VIRTUAL) GILLER LIGHT BASH IN SUP-PORT OF FRONTIER COLLEGE LITERACY PRO-GRAMS

November 9, 2020

WGA GAME NIGHT: TEAM TRIVIA

November 23, 2020

WGA GAME NIGHT: CODENAMES

November 25, 2020

WGA GAME NIGHT: EX LIBRIS

November 26, 2020

PLOTTING CONSPIRACY: HOW TO WRITE YOUR OWN CONSPIRACY NOVEL

December 5, 2020

WGA HOLIDAY PARTY

December 17, 2020

IT'S ABOUT TIME! 10 E-Z STEPS TO WRITING THAT NOVEL IN 2021, WITH SUSIE MOLONEY

January 9, 2021

THE GARDENER AND THE ARCHITECT: WORKING FROM IMPULSE TO STRUCTURE PLAYWRITING WITH MEG BRAEM

January 13, 2021

POETRY AS LISTENING: A GENERATIVE POETRY WORKSHOP WITH SHAZIA HAFIZ

January 22, 2021

WORDBRIDGE LETHBRIDGE WRITERS' CONFERENCE

February 12-13, 2021

EVERYTHING YOU NEVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT TAXES

February 13, 2021

WGA ONLINE RETREAT - WELCOMING YOUR MUSE

February 20, 2021

MASTERCLASS WITH SHANNON WEBB-CAMPBELL (WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA FACULTY OF ARTS)

February 24, 2021

OUR OWN VOICES (WITH THE CALGARY FOUNDATION AND THE AWCS)

March – July 2021

ASK AN AUTHOR WITH SUE FARRELL HOLLER April 29, 2020

WGA WEBINAR: ASK AN AGENT

March 19-20, 2021

March 29 - May 17, 2021

PERSPECTIVE W/ DONOVAN BERGMAN

April 10, 2021

April 21-22, 2021

WITH THE FINALISTS

WGA ONLINE WORKSHOP: NOVEL INTENT W/ IN-

WGA WEBINAR - PUBLISHING FROM A PRINTER'S

ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS - VIRTUAL READINGS

WGA PODCAST - PARTNERSHIP WITH LISTEN 2 ME

March 13, 2021

DRINK THE WILD AIR 2021

STRUCTOR ALI BRYAN

2021 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS GALA VIDEO PRE-SENTATION

June 9, 2021

GLENN DIXON: BOOTLEG STARDUST (ONLINE READ-ING SERIES, PRE-RECORDED)

June 16, 2021

JOANNE MORCOM: BIG BLUE SKY: HAIKU AND RE-FLECTIONS (ONLINE READING SERIES)

June 23, 2021

ADRIANA DAVIES: FROM SOJOURNERS TO CITIZENS: ALBERTA'S ITALIAN HISTORY (ONLINE READING SERIES)

June 30, 2021

LEIF GREGERSEN: ALERT AND ORIENTED X3 (ONLINE READING SERIES)

July 7, 2021

WORDSWORTH PRESENTS: CIRCUIT TREE 2021

July 11-16, 2021

N. L. BLANDFORD: THE PERILOUS ROAD TO HER (ON-LINE READING SERIES)

July 14, 2021

SOPHIE STOCKING: WALKING LEONARD AND OTHER STORIES (ONLINE READING SERIES)

July 21, 2021

WGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021: RE/ORIENTATION

(INCLUDING YOUTH CONNECT; WITH AWCS)

May 12, 19, and 26, 2021

May 28-30, 2021

WGA PODCAST - PARTNERSHIP WITH LISTEN 2 ME

June 2, 9, 16, and 23, 2021

WENDY POTFORS: THROUGH MY EYES: 74 TRUE STORIES OF SURVIVAL, STRENGTH, AND BELIEVING (ONLINE READING SERIES)

July 28, 2021

CHARLOTTE CAMERON: LOVE AND COURAGE IN TROUBLE TIMES (ONLINE READING SERIES)

August 4, 2021

KAREN SPAFFORD-FITZ: PICKPOCKET (ONLINE READING SERIES)

August 11, 2021

WRITE-IN PARTNERSHIP KICK-OFF WITH SAVANNA HARVEY

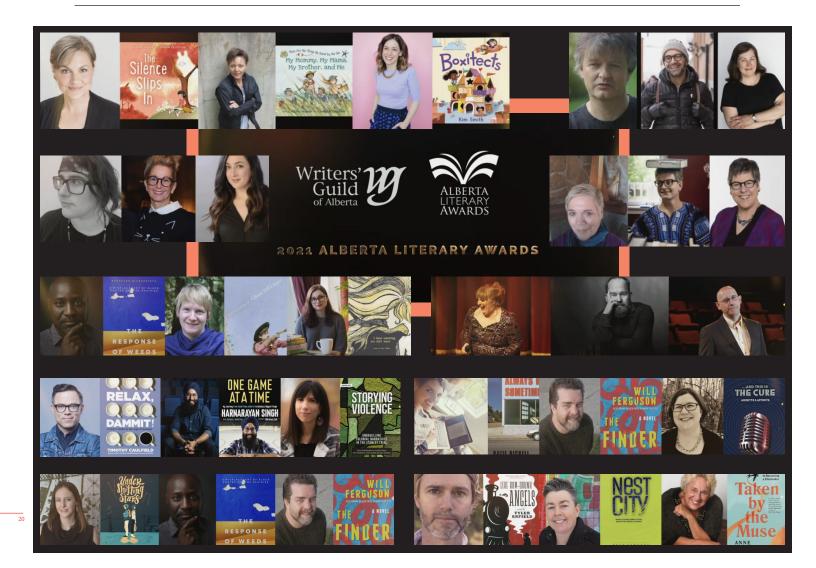
August 11, 2021

MASTERCLASSES AND SESSIONS WITH DOROTHY BENTLEY AT WHEN WORDS COLLIDE

August 12-15, 2021

NEIL SURKAN: UNBECOMING (ONLINE READING SERIES)

August 18, 2021



WGA LITERARY AWARDS

Congratualtions to all of the winners and finalists!

R. ROSS ANNETT AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Winner:

 Alison Hughes (Edmonton) – The Silence Slips In (Orca Book Publishers)

Finalists:

- Natalie Meisner (Calgary) My Mommy, My Mama, My Brother, and Me (Nimbus Publishing)
- Kim Smith (Calgary) Boxitects (Harper Collins)

GEORGES BUGNET AWARD FOR FICTION

Winner:

• Katie Bickell (Sherwood Park) – *Always Brave, Sometimes Kind* (Touchwood Editions)

Finalists:

- Will Ferguson (Calgary) *The Finder* (Simon & Schuster)
- Annette Lapointe (Grande Prairie) ... And This Is The Cure (Anvil Press)

WILFRID EGGLESTON AWARD FOR NONFICTION

Winner:

• Timothy Caulfield (Edmonton) – *Relax, Dammit!: A User's Guide to the Age of Anxiety* (Penguin Canada)

Finalists:

 Harnarayan Singh (Chestermere) with Michael Hingston (Edmonton) – One Game at a Time (McClelland and Stewart)



• Gina Starblanket (Calgary) with Dallas Hunt - Storying Violence: Unravelling Colonial Narratives in the Stanley Trial (ARP Books)

GWEN PHARIS RINGWOOD AWARD FOR DRAMA

Winner:

• Ellen Chorley (Edmonton) – *Everybody Loves Robbie*

Finalists:

- Matthew Mackenzie (Edmonton) Bears
- Clem Martini (Calgary) Cantata

STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON AWARD FOR POETRY

Winner:

• Bertrand Bickersteth (Calgary) – The Response of Weeds: A Misplacement of Black Poetry on the Prairies (NeWest Press)

Finalists:

- Kat Cameron (Edmonton) *Ghosts Still Linger* (University of Alberta Press)
- Amy LeBlanc (Calgary) *I know something you don't know* (Gordon Hill Press)

JAMES H. GRAY AWARD FOR SHORT NONFICTION

Winner:

• Tim Bowling (Edmonton) – "The Floating Library" (*Queen's Quarterly*)

Finalists:

- Omar Mouallem (Edmonton) "January 8, 2020" (*Edify* Magazine)
- Deborah Waldman (Edmonton) "The Boys of Summer" (*Tablet* Magazine)

HOWARD O'HAGAN AWARD FOR SHORT STORY

Winner:

• Lee Kvern (Calgary) – "Players" (Grain Magazine)

Finalists:

- Gabe Calderon (Edmonton) –
 "Andwànikàdjigan" (Aresenal Pulp Press)
- Stephanie Tamagi (Edmonton) "Fur Hat" (*Exile Quarterly*)

JON WHYTE MEMORIAL ESSAY AWARD

Winner:

• Barbara Scott (Calgary) – "Black Diamond"

Finalists:

- Jannie Edwards (Edmonton) "Meditations on Tenderness in a Time of Plague"
- Peter Midgley (Edmonton) "Bird"

THE ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE

Winner:

• Tyler Enfield – *Like Rum-Drunk Angels* (Goose Lane Editions)

Finalists:

- Beth Sanders *Nest City: How Citizens Serve Cities and Cities Serve Citizens* (POPULUS Community Planning Inc.)
- Anne Wheeler *Taken by the Muse: On the Path to Becoming a Filmmaker* (NeWest Press)

THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE

Winner:

• Alexandra Latos – *Under Shifting Stars* (Raincoast Books)

Finalists:

- Bertrand Bickersteth The Response of Weeds: *A Misplacement of Black Poetry on the Prairies* (NeWest Press)
- Will Ferguson *The Finder* (Simon & Schuster)

GOLDEN PEN AWARD

Winner:

• The Golden Pen was not given out in 2021

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

First Place:

Sierra Roberts

Second Place:

• Teresa Jane Wouters

Third Place:

• Holly Gerlach

Honourable Mentions:

Melissa Caillou

IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals in 2020/2021:

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 (Circuit Tree)
- 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)

SPONSORS

- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story & Borderlines Writers Circle Calgary)
- *Alberta Views* (Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama)
- Audreys Books (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- Stephan V. Benediktson (Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry)
- 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)
- Priority Printing (Circuit Tree and Conference)
- Reality is Optional Kids' Writing Club (Circuit Tree)
- Nhung Tran-Davies (Kemosa Scholarship)

SUPPORTERS

- Pandemic University (Kemosa Scholarship)
- Jeananne Kathol Kirwin, LLP (Kemosa Scholarship)
- Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy (James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction)
- Aritha van Herk (Golden Pen Award)
- Vivian Hansen (Wilfred Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

DONORS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta is grateful to our 2020/2021 donors:

Paula Abel Kerry Abel **Rona** Altrows **Diane** Armstrong Natasha Backs Mona Bacon **James Ballard** Stephan Benediktson **Bonny Beswick** Ted Bishop Shirley Black Kate Boorman Eric Bryer Jean Buchanan **Eleanor Byers** Ann Campbell Susan Carpenter Lorraine Cathro Judith Clark Pam Clark Katalin Condron Lisa Cook Joan Crate Jean Crozier Mary de Zwart **Dolly Dennis** Ruth DyckFehderau **Beth Everest** Cheryl Foggo Joan Marie Galat Raymond Gariepy Susan Glasier

Jamie Gould Nora Gould Mary Graham Leslie Greentree Trudy Grienauer Janelle Grue Jacqueline Guest Brenda Gunn Lori Hahnel **Richard Harrison** Amber Hayward Betty Jane Hegerat Randy Henderson Brian Hitchon Laurie Hodges Humble **Carol Holmes** Faye Holt Barb Howard Shaun Hunter Bruce Hunter Nancy Jackle Sandra Jarvie Ellen Kartz Jeananne Kathol Kirwin Garry Kelly Fran Kimmel Angela Kublik Allison Kydd Dennis Lee Marilyn Letts Mary Long-Schimanke Janice Lore

Jodi MacAulay Jock Mackenzie Margaret Macpherson Alice Major Francois Malan Roman Markevich Brenda-Ann Marks William Masuak Lise Mayne JoAnn McCaig Brent McConnell Janice McCrum Peter Midgley Marj Miller Elizabeth Millham Elaine Morin Shari Narine Blaine Newton Brian Newton Frank O'Keeffe David Orr David Peyto Darlene Quaife Holly Quan Lori D. Roadhouse Diane Robitelle Tom Schlodder Eileen Schuh Julie Sedivy Kathy Seifert Shirley Serviss Joan Shillington

Janet Smith Anne Sorbie Fred Stenson L Deborah Sword Darcy Tamayose Jane Trotter Philip Vernon Tom Wayman Linda White Audrey Whitson Chris Wiseman Vivian Wood Olive Yonge

WGA STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

WGA STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Carol Holmes

PROGRAM COORDINATOR/OPERATIONS MANAGER Giorgia Severini

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COORDINATOR Jason Norman

PROGRAM COORDINATOR (SOUTHERN ALBERTA OFFICE) Dorothy Bentley

COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR Ellen Kartz

MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR Mike Maguire

PROJECT ASSISTANT Sadie MacGillivray

WGA CONTRACTORS

WESTWORD EDITOR Raymond Gariépy

WORDSWORTH DIRECTOR Colin Matty

HORIZONS WRITERS CIRCLE COORDINATOR AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH FACILITATOR Luciana Erregue-Sacchi

BOOKKEEPER Catherine Little

2020/2021 EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT Carol Parchewsky

VICE PRESIDENT Theresa Uchechi Ezeuko

TREASURER Nicolas Brown

SECRETARY Lori Hahnel

PAST PRESIDENT

2020/2021 MEMBERS AT LARGE

Teresa Wouters Kim Fraser Sophie Pinkoski (Youth Member at Large)

YOUTH COMMITTEE

Akosua Adasi Tyler Gajda Amy LeBlanc Rene Meloche Sophie Pinkoski (Chair) Giorgia Severini (Ex Officio)

VOLUNTEERS

Alisa Caswell Sebastien Ringuette Susan Carpenter David Poulsen

REPORT FROM The Treasurer

Having joined the board towards the tail-end of the year, my report may not be as thorough as a Treasurer who served in the role all year. However, I will endeavour to do my best.

I'm sure at this time last year, no one expected COVID to still be an issue a year later or expected it to have such an impact on literary organizations like the WGA. Our Executive Director, Carol Holmes, and all the WGA staff have done amazing work keeping the organization running, minimizing the negative impact to operations, and supporting programs that have had to face sudden and rapid changes.

Key items of interest on the financial statements: Revenues have remained steady in great part due to government COVID support programs, along with an uptick in sponsorship revenue. The biggest impact over the past fiscal year has been to programming revenues, due to the cancellation of many in-person events.

Expenses have been greatly reduced primarily because of program cancellations, as well as the move to online programs.

Note that accounting standards have required the CEBA loan account be stated on the financial statements – however, the amounts shown on page 32 are the estimated benefit from the CEBA account, and do not represent an expense or debt for the WGA. Thanks to the financial results during the year, the board has maintained the reserve fund and added an additional sustainability fund to restricted cash reserves at the end of the year. The additional sustainability fund is intended to support programming in the event of future funding changes, given the uncertainty of funding from the provincial government over the coming years.



We have continued to receive valuable support from sponsors and grant funding agencies, which has been instrumental in supporting WGA programs. You can find a listing of the grant funders on Note 11 (page 38) of the Financial Statements. Donations also remain a vital source of revenue and I encourage our members and partners to continue donating and encouraging others to donate.

I am confident that the hard work of the wonderful WGA staff, board directors, and members in general will continue to support the WGA in the coming year.

Nicolas Brown, CPA Interim Treasurer

FINANCIAL **STATEMENTS**

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT	28
WGA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS	30
WGA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	31
WGA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	32
WGA CASH FLOW STATEMENT	33
WGA NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	34

REPORT FROM THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR



To the Members of Writers' Guild of Alberta

OPINION

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Writers' Guild of Alberta, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, 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, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Writers' Guild of Alberta as at March 31, 2021, 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 OPINION

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.

Berghan 7 (N.

Bergeron & Co. Chartered Professional Accountants

June 9, 2021 Edmonton, AB

WGA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended March 31, 2021

REVENUES	2021	2020
Grants (Note 11)	\$ 479,053	\$ 459,550
Programming	50,692	
Membership fees	40,543	141,860
Sponsorships	21,000	42,663 9,350
Donations	19,712	
Other	2,615	13,021
Fundraising	1,559	17,859
Advertising	1,065	1,995
Interest	468	1,331
interest	408	
	616,707	687,629
EXPENSES		
Wages and benefits	278,704	272,695
Contract fees	101,782	126,386
Program	57,948	227,831
Professional fees	8,392	14,964
Office and administration	6,970	14,117
Bank charges (Note 7)	5,234	5,961
Contributions to the Edmonton Community Foundation	4,900	5,775
Insurance	4,863	6,521
Telephone and utilities	4,013	4,892
Rent	3,591	6,275
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,279	1,809
Advertising and promotion	1,143	1,184
Travel	234	22,754
Bad debts		269
	479,053	711,433
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER		
EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	137,654	(23,804)
OTHER	10.000	
Government assistance - loan forgiveness (Note 10)	10,000	-
Government assistance - interest benefit (Note 10)	1,560	
	11,560	
EVERSE OPERATION OF DEVENUE		
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$149,214	\$(23,804)
OVER EATENSES	J 147,414	-(23,004)

WGA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended March 31, 2021

NET ASSETS	 estricted Note 12)		vested in ital assets	U	nrestricted		Total 2021	Total 2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 61,000	\$	4,428	\$	54,643	\$	120,071	\$ 143,875
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	1		(1,279)		150,493		149,214	(23,804)
Internally imposed restrictions	 104,000			_	(104,000)	_		 -
Balance, end of year	\$ 165,000	S	3,149	\$	101,136	\$	269,285	\$ 120,071

WGA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2021

ASSETS				
		2021		2020
CURRENT				
Cash (Note 3)	\$	341,864	\$	190,108
Accounts receivable (Note 4) Goods and Services Tax recoverable		39,802 1,356		3,597
Prepaid expenses		1,141		5,534 10,961
Investments (Note 5)		106,000		70,129
	_			
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		490,163		280,329
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)	_	3,149		4,428
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	493,312	<u>s</u>	284,757
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)	\$	13,763	\$	52,170
Deferred revenue (Note 8)		11,440		8,710
Deferred contributions (Note 9)		170,383		103,806
Loan issued under the		00.444		
Canada Emergency Business Account (Note 10)		28,441		-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	_	224,027	_	164,686
NET ASSETS				
Net assets invested in capital assets		3,149		4,428
Restricted net assets (Note 12)		165,000		61,000
Unrestricted net assets	_	101,136		54,643
TOTAL NET ASSETS	_	269,285		120,071
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	493,312	\$	284,757

Approved by the Directors:

Clady , Director

Nicolas Brown, Director

WGA CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended March 31, 2020

ODED A TINIC A CTIVITIES	2021			2020
OPERATING ACTIVITIES Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$	149,214	\$	(23,804)
Add (deduct):	φ	149,214	φ	(23,004)
Charges to income not involving cash				
Amortization of tangible capital assets		1,279		1,809
Government assistance - interest benefit		(1,560)		-
Loan forgiveness		(10,000)		_
zour rorg. oness		138,933		(21,995)
Net change in non-cash working capital		,		(=1,550)
balances related to operations				
Trade receivables		(4,791)		3,851
Interest receivable		584		(649)
Grants receivable		(31,999)		323
Goods and Services Tax recoverable		4,179		2,054
Prepaid expenses		9,820		12,302
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(38,407)		45,476
Deferred revenue		2,730		(21, 915)
Deferred contributions		66,578		60,696
	_	147,627		80,143
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Receipt of loan issued				
under Canada Emergency Business Account		40,000		-
		40,000		-
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of investments		(106,000)		(70,129)
Receipt of investments		70,129		110,364
		(35,871)		40,235
INCREASE IN CASH		151,756		120,378
CASH, beginning of year	_	190,108	-	69,730
CASH, end of year	\$	341,864	\$	190,108

WGA NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2021

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 30% of its revenue from one grantor (2020 - 30%).

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

Internally restricted cash - sustainability fund	\$ 59,000	\$	-
Externally restricted cash - Casino funds	16,092		29,373
Externally restricted cash - Deferred contributions	154,291		74,433
Externally restricted cash - Deferred revenue	 11,440		8,710
Externally restricted cash	240,823		112,516
Unrestricted cash	 101,041	_	77,592
Cash	\$ 341,864	\$	190,108

2021

2021

2020

2020

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Trade receivables Grants receivable Interest receivable	\$ 7,358 31,999 <u>445</u>	\$	2,568 - 1,029
	\$ 39,802	\$	3,597
5. INVESTMENTS	<u>2021</u>		<u>2020</u>
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on April 13, 2021, bearing interest at a rate fo 0.75% per annum	\$ 61,000	\$	-
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on March 24, 2022, bearing interest at 0.40% per annum	45,000		-
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on April 8, 2020, bearing interest at a rate of 1.50% per annum	 	_	70,129
	\$ 106,000	\$	70,129

As mentioned in Note 12, the guarunteed investment certificates is restricted to cover the internally imposed restriction.

6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	cumulated nortization		<u>Net Boo</u> 2021	<u>ok V</u>	<u>2020</u>
Computer hardware Furniture and fixtures	\$ 34,262 <u>8,229</u>	\$ 31,510 7,832	\$	2,752 <u>397</u>	\$	3,932 496
	\$ 42,491	\$ 39,342	\$_	3,149	\$	4,428

7. CREDIT CARDS

The Guild holds a credit card 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, 2021, was \$195 (2020 - \$670), this balance included in the accounts payable and accrued liabilities amount. The amount of interest paid on the credit cards during the fiscal year was \$36 (2020 - \$72), these amounts are included in bank charges. The credit cards are guarunteed by the current and future assets of the Guild.

8. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2021	<u>2020</u>
Registrations	\$ 8,440	\$ 5,790
Book prize management fees Merchandise	3,000	2,800 120
	\$ 11,440	\$ 8.710

9. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	Opening	Funds received	Funds used	Ending
Edmonton Arts Council \$	24,000	\$ 48,000	\$ (32,000)	\$ 40,000
Canada Council for the Arts	16,800	60,000	(34,595)	42,205
Calgary Arts				
Development Agency	5,000	55,300	(25, 300)	35,000
Casino	29,373	-	(13, 280)	16,093
Donations	702	13,200	(702)	13,200
Alberta				
Foundation for the Arts	-	209,098	(200,893)	8,205
Access Copyright Foundation	-	6,750	-	6,750
RBC - Emerging Artists	7,500	13,000	(14,000)	6,500
Amber Bowerman-				
Webb Foundation	4,000	-	(2,000)	2,000
Alberta Culture & Tourism	430	-	-	430
Rozsa Foundation	6,000	9,000	(15,000)	-
Edmonton				
Community Foundation	10,000		(10,000)	
\$_	103,805	\$414,348	\$(347,770)	\$170,383

10. LOAN GRANTED UNDER THE CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

2021

28,441

2020

Loan,	with an	unpaid	princip	bal of \$4	0,000,	guar	anteed by
the Ca	anadian	govern	ment,	interest-	free u	ntil	December
31, 20	22 (a)						

(a) During the year, the Guild obtained a \$40,000 loan under the Canada Emergency Business Account Program. If the Guild repays \$30,000 by December 31, 2022, the \$10,000 balance will be forgiven. Otherwise, an interest rate of 5% will apply to the balance which will be repayable in 36 monthly blended installments [December 31, 2025]. Since there us reasonable assurance that the Guild will repay \$30,000 by December 31, 2022, the organization recognized \$10,000 in net income when the loan was granted under Government assistance - loan forgiveness. The liability resulting from the \$30,000 balance was initially recognized at its fair value of \$26,881 using an interest rate of 5%. The organization deems that the \$1,560 difference is a contribution toward current financing expenses and recognized in net income as well, under Government assistance - interest benefit.

11. GRANTS

		2021		2020
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$	200,893	\$	251,589
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy		119,991		-
Canada Council for the Arts		34,595		52,586
Edmonton Arts Council		32,000		32,500
Calgary Arts Development Agency		22,800		6,000
Rozsa Foundation		15,000		5,000
Royal Bank of Canada Emerging Artists		14,000		14,000
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis		13,280		47,891
Edmonton Community Foundation		10,000		6,390
10% Temporary Emergency Wage Subsidy		6,253		-
Summer employment grants		4,782		4,690
Amber Bowerman-Webb Foundation		4,000		4,000
City of Lethbridge		1,460		1,460
Alberta Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women		-		12,569
Chawkers Foundation		-		15,500
Book Publishers Association of Alberta	_		_	5,375
	\$	479,054	\$	459,550

12. RESTRICTED NET ASSET

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's Board of Directors has restricted a sum of \$61,000 (2020 - \$61,000) as a sustainability fund which the funds are held in the non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates, see note 5.

The Writers' Guild of Alberta Board of Directors restricted a sum of \$104,000 (2020 - nil) as a sustainability fund for future programming and operations, these funds are held in the remained of the non-redeemable guarunteed investment certificates and cash, see note 3.

13. 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, 2020, the balance in the Foundation's Endowment Fund was \$38,256 (2019 - \$35,494).

14. 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 2021 (2020 - \$0) and it received \$30,880 of contributions in 2020 (2019 - \$28,698).

15. 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.

16. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

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



Percy Page Centre, 11759 Groat Road (780) 422-8174 mail@writersguild.ca Toll-free: 1-800-665-5354 Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6 writersguild.ca





0

