



WRITERS'
GUILD
of ALBERTA

Annual Report

2024/2025



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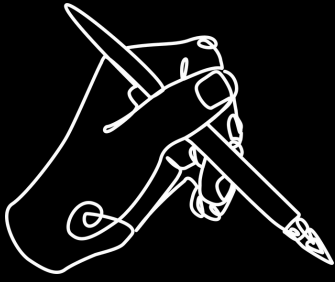
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ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA



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

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

MISSION

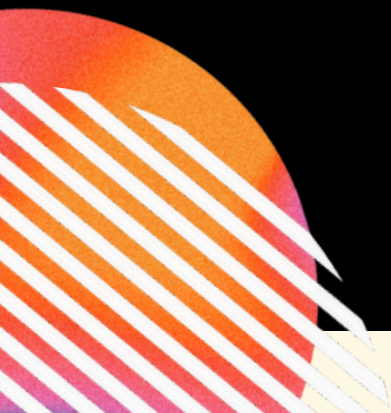
We support and advocate for writers at all stages of their writing life, providing opportunities to connect and grow.

CORE VALUES

- Community
- Advocacy
- Relationship Building
- Growth & Development
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

GUIDING BELIEFS

- The literary arts are essential to the well-being of all individuals and communities and contribute to the economy and quality of life in Alberta.
- Networking and collaboration are beneficial to innovation and the creative process.
- A safe and welcoming environment, one that respects and invites diversity and inclusion, is essential for writers to pursue their craft.
- Knowledge and ongoing development are fundamental to creative growth.



President's Report



Over the past year, we have seen a number of activities and initiatives as well as indications of a changing landscape in Alberta for groups such as ours dedicated to enabling platforms for Albertan arts and stories to be told. In October, 2024, the Board met for its annual retreat, and over two and a half days, revisited the strategic plan and evaluated our progress in achieving key priorities. We also put together a plan for making progress to meet key priorities in the 2024-25 year two of the plan.

On our EDIA Strategic Priority to “invite, encourage, and embrace the value of equity, diversity and inclusion,” we identified that while much of our programming has made progress in better representing the diversity of Alberta’s writers, we have work to do in promoting that same diversity in our membership, a conclusion supported by the Member Survey that included demographic questions. The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) Committee made significant recommendations regarding the survey that helped clarify and confirm this conclusion. The EDIA Committee also created a new set of Terms of Reference to aid it in its work moving forward.

For the Membership Engagement Strategic Priority to “build and strengthen our diverse community through ongoing engagement, ensuring our programs and services respond to member needs,” we focussed on the development of the Member Survey, which – overly long to be sure – gave us much information to use in developing programming, particularly in areas outside of Calgary and Edmonton, to engage with members and create a greater awareness of the WGA and what it can do for them.

The Effective Governance Strategic Priority, to “ensure the Board is continuously growing and holding ourselves accountable to effective governance,” gave us the impetus to completely review our Board and committee structure. We conducted an audit of our committees to see which still had purpose and what gaps we needed committees to address.

Key outcomes from this work include updated Terms of Reference for all remaining committees, a more robust role for the Governance Committee in doing this work and maintaining it for the future, and a greater level of Board and staff support for the important work being done by the Youth Committee. We also further clarified roles and for all members of the Board and have begun spelling out what Board advocacy can look like in the coming days as we see a greater willingness by the Alberta Government to use policy to dictate how Albertan stories get told, by whom, and where.

Board accountability has been an increased focus as well this past year, and a review of our structures and processes yielded a number of revisions to how we ensure that Directors on the Board commit to the work being done, engage more effectively with one another and with staff as appropriate, and how we can better meet deadlines and outcomes, while also improving recruitment for the Board. This work remains ongoing and I have no doubt will be ably managed by our incoming President and Board for the 2025-26 year.

In effect, all of this work meant a busy year for the Board, and that work could not have been done without the dedication and hard work of its Directors. With gratitude, I draw particular attention and thanks to the committee chairs: Anne Bailey, Vice-President and Chair of the Governance Committee; Jenna Butler, Director at Large and Chair of the EDIA Committee; and Kendall Bistretzan Youth Director and Chair of the Youth Committee. I look forward to the coming year with great anticipation.

Colin Martin
President

Executive Director's Report



It was wonderful to witness how enthusiastic, resilient, and encouraging the literary community was this year. I'm happy to report our membership reached a record high of 1127 members, which is an overall 9% increase in our membership from last year. We saw increases in Edmonton, Calgary, and rural and remote locations, and across all categories of membership, with the exception of a very small decrease in low income memberships.

Since we were sitting on a surplus of approximately \$44,000, we are investing it into increasing our staff resources to six full-time year-round staff starting in November 2024. In just seven months, we are already seeing results. In addition to the record high membership, the increased staff time has resulted in increased sponsorship and diversified revenue. Our overall sponsorship for 2024/2025 is 77% higher than 2023/2024. We will see a further overall increase in 2025/2026, since after years of running the Alberta Literary Awards with few sponsors, we now have sponsors for almost every award.

We also continue to see increasing attendance at our events and programs. Our new writing retreat at Sanctum Retreat Centre in Caroline and the Calgary Stroll of Poets Festival were each popular and well-received. Having a consistent schedule and venue for our monthly Edmonton pub nights has made them consistently well-attended, which we have also seen for our Calgary pub nights and Poetry Parlour.

Funding for ongoing programs continues to be a challenge. One result of the lack of ongoing funding is we scaled back Controversy @ Noon online panels to a quarterly schedule, although they remain popular. Horizons Writers Circle is also running on a reduced scale, providing bi-monthly gatherings and events for emerging BIPOC writers in Edmonton. We are working toward the mentorship component of the program returning, but in the meantime, we are able to provide continuing support for BIPOC writers through group meetings and public events.

A piece of great news for the upcoming year is we received an Alberta Foundation for the Arts Organizational Project Grant for rural and remote programming. In the fall, we will be hosting a writer in residence program that combines online consultations with in-person workshops at rural and remote locations. While online programming is still valuable for reaching writers who have limited in-person programming available, there is online fatigue across the literary community, and we hope establishing in-person presence in rural and remote communities will help to better include them in the WGA community.

Establishing new programs and consistently maintaining popular ongoing programs has helped raise public awareness of the WGA and attract members. The literary arts are continuing to face challenges from many sources, including AI and lack of copyright protection for writers, rising censorship efforts, and tariffs on books produced in the USA, which affects booksellers and writers published in the USA. Judging from the increased membership and participation, the WGA's activities seem to have sent the message that we are listening to writers' concerns and that we are here to support and advocate for them.

Unfortunately, despite our successes and efforts this past year, AFA has not increased our operating funding, which has remained stagnant for over 15 years. This is especially disappointing given the overall increase in government funding to AFA, and the implication that some of the increase would go to organizations. Provincial arts service organizations like the WGA were not included in the organizations that received increases.

In light of this, our board voted to raise membership fees, beginning in July. Regular and Senior membership fees will be raised by \$15 each, \$95 and \$65 respectively, while Low Income memberships will be raised by \$5, to \$45. This is our first membership fee increase in eight years, and our membership survey indicated most respondents support a fee increase. We feel the increase is appropriate at this time, and will support keeping our programs and services accessible.

While we have seen success in diversifying our revenue streams this year, we do still need increases in grant funding to keep pace with rising costs. Many of our programs, such as the Mentorship Program and Horizons Writers Circle, need to be free in order to be accessible. Charging registration fees for these programs is detrimental to our goals of removing barriers and supporting all writers. The WGA is a member of the Alberta Partners for Arts and Culture, a coalition of arts service organizations, and we will continue to work with them to advocate for increased funding for both individual writers and support organizations. I hope the continued success of the WGA and our writers in the next year will finally result in increased public support.

Giorgia Severini
Executive Director



Report on Activities



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 Writers Program, Calgary's When Words Collide, the Canadian Writers' Foundation, and the Canadian Copyright Institute. We work collaboratively with the Edmonton Stroll of Poets, LitFest (Edmonton's Nonfiction festival), and the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (AWCS) in Calgary, as well as other writing organizations, such as The Writers' Union of Canada, across the country.

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

Alberta Literary Awards and Gala

The WGA Alberta Literary Awards presented \$12,600 in prizes for the following awards in 2024:

- 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)
- Memoir Award
- Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story (published short story)
- Short Story Collection Award (presented every second year)
- James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction (published short nonfiction)
- Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award (unpublished essay)
- Golden Pen Award (lifetime achievement)

The WGA was grateful to hold the 2024 gala in person at Coast Edmonton Plaza on June 8, 2024, during our annual conference. The keynote speaker was Juleus Ghunta, a Chevening Scholar, poet and children's writer. The Golden Pen Award was presented to Marty Chan. Readings with the 2023 finalists were held at Audreys Books in Edmonton on May 5, 2024, and at Residence Inn by Marriott in Calgary on May 3, 2024.

The 2025 gala will be held in person at Festival Hall in Calgary on June 6, 2025.

See page 18 for this year's finalists.



Annual Conference

The theme of the 2024 WGA Conference was: No Place Like Home, and it took place from June 7-9 at Coast Edmonton Plaza. The event explored the meaning of literary citizenship: What is literary citizenship, what makes us active literary citizens, and how can all of us writers continue to contribute – in our own way – to the very special literary scene here in our province. We fostered opportunities for attendees to network over the course of the weekend. The conference offered online, in-person, and hybrid events, including keynotes, panels, and workshops on a variety of topics and genres.

The conference had 159 participants in total and all registrants received access to recorded sessions through YouTube for a limited time following the event.

Some of the special guests included:

- Jessica Johns (*Bad Cree*)
- Deborah Willis (*Girlfriend on Mars*)
- Premee Mohamed (*No One Will Come Back For Us*)
- paulo da costa (*Trust the Bluer Skies*)
- Bertrand Bickersteth (*The Response of Weeds*)
- Kate A. Boorman (*The Heathens and the Dragon: A 13th-Century Adventure*)
- Rowan Jette Knox (*One Sunny Afternoon*)
- Cobra Collins, spoken word artist

The theme for the WGA's 2025 conference is: Genre and Form Through Time. The upcoming conference will explore major influences on genre and form through time. We will look at how writers continue to be inspired and influenced by those before them, and how we shape the landscape for those who come after us.

Proposed pathways will guide participants – novice, intermediate, and established – on ideal offerings according to where they feel they are on their literary journeys. Participants will enjoy workshops, masterclasses, and panels in person and six pre-conference online sessions.

Canadian Literacy Centre (CLC)

This year, the WGA partnered with the CLC on a masterclass in line with the theme of their programming theme of Polyphonies: highlighting the multiplicity and diversity of voices, languages, genres, and forms in Canadian literatures. The masterclass was led by dub poet and spoken word artist Lillian Allen, who is also the current Toronto Poet Laureate. 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 Centre aims to lead cutting-edge literary and interdisciplinary research.

Controversy @ Noon Series

Funding from the Rozsa Foundation allowed the WGA to offer a Controversy @ Noon panel every month in 2024. Some of the panels included:

- Rejection: Frame or Re-frame? (May 29, 2024): 31 attendees
- Saying NO to AI (June 26, 2024): 22 attendees
- Genre & Style Bias (July 24, 2024): 21 attendees
- Separating the Writer from the Work (August 28, 2024): 34 attendees
- Traditional Publishing vs Self-Publishing (September 25, 2024): 54 attendees
- Who is the Greatest Horror Writer of All Time? (October 30, 2024): 14 attendees
- Do Diasporic Writers Face More Pressure to Write About Current Affairs Than Other Writers? (November 28, 2024): 15 attendees

Controversy @ Noon aims to address the interests and concerns of the WGA membership and the Alberta writing community, while fostering a fresh collaboration dynamic and providing stimulating discussion, straightforward facts, and clear calls for action – without having to wait for the WGA's next annual conference or festival panel.

Events and Workshops

The WGA hosts monthly events in both Edmonton and Calgary which are generally free for members and available to non-members for a small fee. The WGA continues to host professional development presentations, workshops, intensives, and panels both in-person and online. The online format has helped engage more members and communities, and has helped with making WGA programming more accessible. The WGA continues to navigate its way forward and adjust programming to fit the needs of its members and the public.

For a complete list of the past year's events and workshops, see page 16.

Horizons Writers Circle

Horizons Writers Circle is a program that provides support and mentorship for writers within the Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC) community, ESL writers, and other underrepresented writers who live in Edmonton and are at the beginning of their literary journey.

Usually, this program provides mentorship for five months, January to May each year. However, due to lack of funding, the 2025 Horizons Writers Circle did not have any mentorship portion. Instead, the program provided a variety of activities, still targeted at underrepresented writers from various communities, in the form of Write Nights, online and in-person workshops, as well as open mics at various locations in the city.

The 2025 program was also expanded to cover January to November 2025, and to encourage re-connections between mentors and mentees who previously participated in the Horizons/Borderlines mentorship programs.

The 2025 program opened with an online Memoir Writing event provided by Giselle General, then an open mic titled "Kambiyo/Shift" both of which occurred in January. This was followed by two Write Nights at different library locations, and the Olive Reading Series open mic as part of the Edmonton Poetry Festival.

An interactive improv and writing workshop titled "No More Fear of Failure" was also provided.

Other workshops planned are: Yoga and Journalling, Letter-Writing, and Working with the Abyss: Writing about Taboo with Style.

A final open mic is planned – either at the Paper Birch Bookstore or at The Rooster.

To all the events, we invite all the previous Horizons participants, as well as those who applied to the program and those who attended events and have provided consent to be informed of future activities. The aim is to keep new and emerging writers inspired to write and perform at open mics and to be engaged with WGA and the general writing community in Edmonton.

Intensives

Creative Planning Micro-Intensive

The WGA also offered a Creative Planning Micro-Intensive on March 31. Led by Robyn Braun, participants considered behavioural, artisanal, social and emotional habits that both support and hinder writing practices. There was also a nuts-and-bolts discussion of the writing process, time management, and writing software.

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 other form their writing might take.

Richard Van Camp, Jacqueline Guest, Jeananne K Kirwin, and Nicole Harrish were the 2024 judges. They selected the three recipients: Lareina Abbott, Alycia Two Bears, and Samantha Gibbon.

Manuscript Reading Service

The Manuscript Reading Service is a valuable opportunity for writers to have their manuscript read by a professional writer who will then provide them with a detailed evaluation of their work and suggestions for improvement. Writers send their manuscripts to the WGA head office, and they are matched with a professional writer whose experience most closely suits the manuscript submitted. The WGA subsidizes the services for members to keep it affordable. There were 22 participants in the 2024/2025 fiscal year.

Mentorship Program

2025 marks the fourteenth year for the Mentorship program, which pairs emerging writers with established Alberta authors for four months to develop the emerging writer's literary work and to provide support and encouragement. Sponsored by the RBC Foundation, this program has seen many of its participants grow and succeed as published authors.

- Iheoma Joakin-Uzomba, matched with Derek Beaulieu
- Timiro Mohamed, matched with Amy LeBlanc
- Jessalyn LeBlanc (supported by the Sharon L. Henderson Fund for Young and Emerging Writers), matched with Katie Bickell
- Natasha Chiam (supported by the Mary Bell Scholarship), matched with Julie Sedivy
- Cheryl Nekolaichuk, matched with Marcello Di Cintio
- Shana Ross, matched with Kat Cameron
- Fran Plante, matched with paulo da costa

Partnerships

The WGA continued the following major ongoing partnerships in 2024/2025: 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. The WGA has also successfully partnered on events and programs with the Canadian Literature Centre, Wordfest, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, Calgary's Single Onion Reading Series, Calgary Spoken Word Festival, the Literary Translators Association of Canada, and the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society.

City Book Prizes

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 over 60 entries and the Edmonton prize received over 35.

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, Clem Martini for *Cantata and The Extinction Therapist*, was announced with the other primary winners of the Edmonton Arts Prizes on May 1, 2024. The winner of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, Jennifer Bowering Delisle for *Micrographia* was announced during The Calgary Awards on June 18, 2024.

Edmonton Stroll of Poets

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, releases a weekly newsletter, and also publishes a yearly anthology. This year, the Stroll of Poets also held Fresh Verse to engage young poets, Binks for the Edmonton Poetry Festival, and Kinspeak. They also released a second anthology: *Poets Re-Imagine Canada: A Primer for a Land beyond Acknowledgements*

Podcasts

The WGA podcast channel aims to encourage more readers to explore Alberta authors by making the audio recording of the WGA events and programs available to the virtual community. Ongoing events and discussions about the Canadian literary field, such as the Controversy @ Noon series, can be accessed at any time through our podcast channels. The channels will continue to be updated to give members the chance to revisit or explore any of our former events or programs. Our podcast recordings are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, SoundCloud, YouTube and More!

Retreats

The WGA hosted an in-person weekend retreat at Sanctum from September 20-22 in Caroline, Alberta. There were 24 participants. C.L. Polk and Leah Horlick were our facilitators. Participants enjoyed two interactive workshops, a group discussion, a Q&A session, as well as welcome and farewell addresses.

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 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. We also offer recordings of select webinars for purchase.

See WGA Events on page 15 for the webinars we hosted over the past year.

WestWord

WestWord Magazine is distributed quarterly to over 1000 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 over 600 members by post and over 550 by email.

WriteClick

WriteClick, our email newsletter, continues to be distributed to members who opt-in to receive it. The newsletter is distributed to over 1000 members each week. 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 so members receive information in a timely fashion. *WriteClick* continues to have a higher-than-average open rate and click rate for our industry.

Youth Writing Residencies

The WGA's youth writing programs and residencies for 11 - 19 year-olds continue to be popular as well as an invaluable experience for young writers. 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. WordsWorth was once again held in person at Red Deer Polytechnic, Drink the Wild Air was held in-person at Sylvan Lake March 14-16 with 12 participants. Colin Matty once again served as Camp Director for WordsWorth, while Sadie Macgillivray was coordinator for Drink the Wild Air.

WordsWorth is a week-long sleep-over creative writing residency for young writers and artists who enjoy storytelling and believe in the power of words. Guided by established and respected artist-instructors, participants experience writing and storytelling through a variety of forms. But the experiences don't begin and end with the classes; young writers come together to celebrate writing through friendships, campfires, concerts, open mic sessions, hikes, free-writing time, and semi-competitive games.

As we are continuing to regain momentum for our youth programming, and to promote the chaotic liveliness that WordsWorth participants keep coming back for, we once again only offered two weeks of programming. The first week ran from July 14-19th and was for ages 11-14. The second week ran from July 21st-26th and was for ages 15-19. WordsWorth 2024: DRAGONSONG attracted a total of 44 participants: 21 participants for week one and 23 participants for week two.

The 2024 staff consisted of Colin Matty as the Camp Director; Sadie MacGillivray, Sohpie Torro, Ainsley Hillyard, Miranda Krogstad, Johnny MacRae, Marin Periette, Louise Casemore, David Wilson, Richard Kemick, Lindsey Walker, Henry Greyson, Kaja Pedersen, Jess Tollestrup, Kim Firmston

Examples of the workshops offered include:

- Quickfire Creativity
- Shakespeare Soliloquies
- Places, Spaces, and Settings
- Getting to the Emotional Underbelly in Songwriting
- The Writer's Voice
- The Exciting World of Self-Publishing
- Illustrating for Poetry & Prose



Youth Committee Report



The 2024/2025 year saw significant and deliberate turnover in the Youth Committee. The purpose of these changes was to build a team interested and dedicated to understanding and meeting the needs of writers under 30 in Alberta. Three new members joined the team, alongside the remaining member and social media coordinator Kate Gough. This restructuring was done on the advice and encouragement of the WGA board and was completed in November 2024.

On November 26, 2024, the Youth Committee collaborated with the Mount Royal University Write Club to host a Young Writers' Showcase at Shelf Life Books in Calgary, where fifteen pre-selected writers were allotted five-minute timeslots to read some of their work. The event brought in a full-house audience, with a few people choosing to stand.

In January 2025, we introduced an Under 30 Write Night series in Calgary and Edmonton. The idea was for young writers to gather at a coffee shop, mingle, and work on projects together. Calgary had a turnout of nine people, and Edmonton had a turnout of five people. Consequent write nights were held in February and April, but had lower turnouts due to poor weather and proximity to a long weekend. In March 2025, we hosted Book Swaps in Calgary and Edmonton, which were attended by four and five participants, respectively.

A problem the Youth Committee often runs into is that of attendance and participation. In April 2025, we opened an online anonymous critique pool that was accessible province-wide, but no one submitted anything. Likewise, we posted a series of poetry prompts throughout April that saw very little engagement. We currently reach an audience through our Instagram presence, postings in *WriteClick*, and word of mouth. We hope to increase our presence by becoming involved with Discord communication.

Our other goals going forward are to increase youth WGA membership registration and foster consistent youth attendance at regular WGA events.

As I complete my first two-year term as Youth Director for the Writers' Guild of Alberta Board of Directors, I am pleased with the progress the committee has made and aware of how far we have to go. I encourage all young writers in Alberta to keep up-to-date with the WGA programs and services throughout the year, thus contributing to a community where young writers feel they belong.

Kendall Bistretzan
Youth Committee Chair

EDIA Committee Report



Items Covered in 2024-25

Newsletter Wording: The EDIA Committee responded to member concerns about wording used in the *WriteClick* e-newsletter detailing the 2024 summer retreat: several members perceived a slight toward writers of Speculative Fiction (noting that it is a genre with a high percentage of BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and diversely abled writers). The EDIA Committee facilitated member communication and assisted with drafting an apology and correction by way of response, which was then circulated to the Board and published in the following newsletter. This was a complex and difficult undertaking, but rewarding in the discussion that occurred among committee members, Board members, and staff.

EDIA Terms of Reference and Definitions: The Governance Committee requested that the EDIA Committee provide definitions for its focal terms (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, BIPOC, and Equity-Seeking). After weeks of collaboration and the review of several websites from other arts and educational institutions to understand how they formed their own inclusive definitions, we came up with a set of definitions for the EDIA Committee and forwarded the completed TOR document to Governance.

Advocacy: Funding for Horizon Writers Circle: The EDIA Committee continued to advocate strongly for ongoing sustainable funding for the Horizon Writers Circle and the funding of a longterm BIPOC administrator for the program.

Membership Survey: The EDIA Committee was engaged by the Board and staff to review the 2024/2025 Membership Survey and look for items of concern from an EDIA perspective. We provided detailed feedback about the survey length and format, the placement of EDIA questions (at the end of the survey instead of more focally), and the wording of survey questions in general, and advocated strongly for the resulting data to be tied to the Guild's mandate to support and increase diversity in the organization. We requested that the data be used to inform Guild policy, event planning, and community outreach, and be tied to measurable outcomes. We also requested a presence in the creation of the next iteration of the membership survey so that concerns regarding EDIA in the format and structure of the survey could be addressed at the planning level.

Land Acknowledgement Workshop: The EDIA Committee advocated for Board members to take part in a workshop on meaningful Land Acknowledgements, facilitated by Naomi McIlwraith. In this workshop, Board members learned about the vital need to build personal connection to place and to craft meaningful and accountable Land Acknowledgements. The EDIA Committee further advocated for ongoing diversity training for all Board members and staff to support the Guild's mandate of increasing and supporting diversity.

EDIA Good News: As a committee, we advocated for celebration of, and ongoing support for, underrepresented writers who are members of the Guild and have experienced success in our programs. This success could take the form of completing their first manuscript, teaching their first workshop, attending their first conference, or winning an award/being published. We encouraged the Guild to support all writers in its Alumni notifications, not just majority-identity writers, and to consider other measures of success instead of simply awards and publications. Writers in diverse communities face multiple barriers to success, and our measures of success as an organization need to change to reflect this fact.

Concerns About Longevity: As a committee, we discussed the ongoing necessity of an EDIA Committee at the Guild, especially as conservative politics taking aim at diverse communities (BIPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, and diversely abled) come into play. We advocate for a strong ongoing EDIA presence at the Writers' Guild of Alberta, with the Guild committing to measurable outcomes supporting increased diversity in its membership, in alignment with its own mandate. This practice of accountability on the part of the Guild as a whole will support increased diversity in membership for both the WGA community and Board, and will continue to build the Guild's identity as a welcoming and supportive community for all Alberta writers.

Jenna Butler
Committee Chair

Governance Committee Report



Welcome to the first annual report from the WGA Governance Committee. At our annual Board retreat in early fall 2024, the Board struck a committee to undertake a number of activities needed to improve and strengthen governance practices and policies. The new committee began working immediately, with a focus on developing terms of reference for new committees and reviewing those of current committees. At the December 2, 2025 meeting, the Board formally approved the establishment and terms of reference for a permanent (standing) Governance Committee “to ensure the Board has the committees, policies, and procedures in place to continuously hold itself accountable to effective governance.”

The core responsibilities of the committee will be to provide regular review of all committees; regularly review and update Board roles and responsibilities, bylaws, and policies; develop terms of reference for new committees; maintain a governance calendar; and ensure the proper orientation of new Board members and exit interviews of departing members. With the establishment of this new committee, the former Bylaws Committee, which had been inactive, was formally retired.

Over this year, the Governance Committee has completed a number of the goals outlined at the fall retreat. These include:

- Finalizing terms of reference for the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Committee.
- Reviewing and revision of TOR for the Youth Committee.
- Reviewing and updating all current (active and inactive) WGA committees.
- Updating WGA Board agenda format and agenda-building process to increase Board effectiveness.
- Reviewing and revising the roles and responsibilities section of the WGA Board Manual.
- Developing and implementing updated Board orientation materials and process.
- Developing and implementing updated exit interview process.

Anne Bailey,
Committee Chair

WGA Events



AWCS & WGA Connections Brewing Pub Night (Various locations, Calgary)

*April 8, May 6, June 3, July 15, September 9, October 4,
November 4, December 2, 2024, July 6, February 10,
March 18, 2024*

Calgary Coffee & Chat (Various Locations, Calgary)

April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 17, February 15, 2025

Edmonton Pub Night (Rooster Kitchen & Bar, Edmonton)

*September 18, November 20, January 15, February 19,
March 19, 2025*

Poetry Parlour (Pachamama Soul Café, Calgary)

*April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20,
September 17, October 15, November 19, 2024,
January 21, February 18, March 18, 2025*

Single Onion Poetry Reading Series (Shelf Life Books, Calgary)

April 18, May 16, June 27, 2024

The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Shortlist Readings (Shelf Life Books, Calgary)

April 10, 2024

Page to Stage Workshop (Online)

April 20, 2024

Controversy @ Noon April Panel - Ageism in the Industry (Online)

April 24, 2024

Writing with Humour (Rooster Kitchen & Bar, Edmonton)

April 24, 2024

Spring Reset Yoga & Writing (Yoga Santosha, Calgary)

April 28, 2024

Alberta Literary Awards Finalists Reading (Residence Inn by Marriott, Calgary)

May 3rd, 2024

Alberta Literary Awards Finalists Readings (Audreys Books, Edmonton)

May 5, 2024

Kemosa Reading Event: A Celebration of Métis, Inuit, and First Nations Mothers Who Write (Yorath House, Edmonton)

May 10, 2024

Mentorship Program Reading (Coast Edmonton Plaza Hotel, Edmonton)

May 11, 2024

Alice Major Sound Writing (AWCS, Calgary)

May 11, 2024

Making of Theatre Panel (Shelf Life Books, Calgary)

May 14, 2024

Controversy @ Noon May Panel - "Frame" or Reframe? (Online)

May 29, 2024

WGA Annual Conference: : No Place Like Home (Coast Edmonton Plaza, Edmonton)

June 7-9, 2024

Alberta Literary Awards Gala (Coast Edmonton Plaza, Edmonton)

June 8, 2024



Controversy @ Noon June Panel - Saying No to AI (Online)

June 26, 2024

The Literary Resume with Katie Bickell (Online)

July 6, 2024

WordsWorth - DRAGONSONG (Red Deer Polytechnic, Red Deer)

July 14-19, 2024 (Week 1), July 21-26, 2024 (Week 2)

Controversy @ Noon July Panel - Genre & Style Bias (Online)

July 24, 2024

AFA Grant Writing Webinar (Online)

August 1, 2024

Fringe Fest Mini Poetry Slam (Festival Hall)

August 4, 2024

Stroll of Poets Calgary Festival (Various locations, Calgary)

August 8, 2024

Controversy @ Noon August Panel - Separating the Writer from the Work (Online)

August 28, 2024

Imposter Syndrome and Finding Your Place With Harrison Mooney (Online)

September 14, 2024

Fall Writers' Retreat (Sanctum Retreat Centre, Caroline)

September 20-22, 2024

Controversy @ Noon September Panel - Traditional Publishing vs Self-Publishing (Online)

September 25, 2024

Online Fall Kickoff (Online)

September 25, 2024

Controversy @ Noon October Panel - Greatest Writer of All Time: Halloween Edition (Online)

October 30, 2024

Controversy @ Noon November Panel - Do Diasporic Writers Face More Pressure to Write About Current (Online)

November 28, 2024

Controversy @ Noon December Panel - Traditional Publishing vs Self-Publishing (Online)

December 23, 2024

Calgary Holiday Party (Joyce on 4th, Calgary)

December 11, 2024

Pub Night Holiday Party (Rooster Kitchen & Bar, Edmonton)

December 18, 2024

Blue Monday Virtual Workshop (Online)

January 20, 2025

Freedom to Read Discussion (Online)

March 1, 2025

Controversy @ Noon February Panel - Writers Against AI (Online)

February 26, 2025

Sunday Writing Retreat (Workshop West Theatre, Edmonton)

March 23, 2025

Creative Planning Micro-Intensive with Robyn Braun (Online)

March 31, 2025



WGA Literary Awards



Our juries deliberated on an overwhelming number of submissions to select the following 31 finalists in ten categories. Finalists represent excellence in literary work written by Alberta authors and published or created in the past year. We encourage you to check out these fantastic titles. Congratulations to the finalists of the 2025 WGA Literary Awards!

The awards will be presented in Calgary at the Alberta Literary Awards Gala on Friday, June 6th at Festival Hall.

R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature (Illustrated)

(Sponsored by Under the Arch Youth Foundation at The Calgary Foundation)

- *What to Bring* (Owl Kids) – Lorna Shultz Nicholson
- *The Only Way to Make Bread* (Tundra Books) – Cristina Quintero
- *This Land is a Lullaby* (Orca Books) – Tonya Simpson

James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction

(Supported by Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy)

- "In the Footsteps of Migrants Who Never Made It" (The Walrus) – Marcello Di Cintio
- "Green Rivers Louching" (The Prairie Journal) – Myrna Garanis
- "War For Drugs" (Maclean's) – Omar Mouallem

Howard O'Hagan Short Story Award

(Supported by the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society)

- "Rat King" (The Dalhousie Review) – Nicole Boyce
- "Gusher" (Hexagon) – E.C. Dorgan
- "The Triller" (Grain) – Ben Lof

Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Book of Poetry

(Sponsored by The Benediktson Family)

- *What Kind of Daughter?* (Frontenac House) – Rayanne Haines
- *Attic Rain* (NeWest Press) – Samantha Jones
- *Invisible Lives* (University of Calgary Press) – Cristalle Smith

Jon Whyte Memorial Unpublished Essay Award

(Supported by the Haynes Family – In Memory of Dr. Sterling Haynes)

- "Grapeful" – Katherine Abbass
- "Laid Bear" – Lareina Abbott
- "Threads of The Night Watch" – Diana Davidson

Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama

- *Ministry of Grace* (Scirocco Drama) – Tara Beagan
- *Eden* – Fran Kimmel
- *The Resurrection of Dottie Reed* – Nicole Moeller



Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

(Sponsored by Scott Saxberg)

- *To See What He Saw* (Figure1 Publishing) – Patricia Cucman and Stanley Munn
- *Here After: A Memoir* (Zibby Books) – Amy Lin
- *All Our Ordinary Stories* (Arsenal Pulp Press) – Teresa Wong

Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction

(Sponsored by the University of Calgary's Calgary Distinguished Writers Program)

- *An Astonishment of Stars* (ECW Press) – Kirti Bhadresa
- *The Game of Giants* (Freehand Books) – Marion Douglas
- *I Hope This Finds You Well* (HarperCollins) – Natalie Sue

Memoir Award

(Supported by Vivian Hansen, Toby Roch, and Arnold Hansen)

- *Here After* (Zibby Books) – Amy Lin
- *Linguaphile* (Farrar Strauss, & Giroux) – Julie Sedivy
- *All Our Ordinary Stories* (Arsenal Pulp Press) – Teresa Wong

Golden Pen Award

- Richard Harrison



Important Acknowledgements



The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals during the 2024/2025 fiscal year:

Grantors & Foundations

- Access Copyright Foundation (Conference)
- Alberta Culture
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Calgary Arts Development
- Canada Council for the Arts
- The City of Calgary
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- RBC Foundation (Mentorship Program)
- Rozsa Foundation (Controversy @ Noon)
- Under the Arch Youth Foundation at The Calgary Foundation (R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature)

Supporters

- Jeananne Kathol Kirwin, LLP (Kemosa Scholarship)
- Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy (James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction 2024)
- Aritha van Herk (Golden Pen Award 2024)
- The Haynes Family – In Memory of Dr. Sterling Haynes (Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize 2024)
- Rona Altrows (Horizons Writers Circle)
- Vivian Hansen (Memoir Award 2024)
- Nhung Tran-Davies (Kemosa Scholarship)

Sponsors

- Alberta Playwrights' Network (Making of Theatre Panel)
- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (Calgary Stroll of Poets, Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story & Conference 2024)
- Audreys Books (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize 2024)
- The Benediktson Family (Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry 2024)
- Book Publishers Association of Alberta (Conference 2024)
- Calgary Spoken Word Society (Calgary Stroll of Poets)
- 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)
- The Confluence (Calgary Stroll of Poets)
- Daisy Chain Book Co. (Conference 2024)
- ENT Oilfied (WordsWorth 2024)
- Frontenac House (Poetry Parlour)
- Scott Saxberg (Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction 2024)



Thank you to all of our donors.

Access Copyright	Carol Holmes
Adriana and Stephan Benediktson	Carol Parchewsky
Alberta Magazine Publishers Association	Catalina Morales
Alberta Playwrights' Network	Catherine Simmons
Alberta Views Magazine	Chris (CB) Forrest
Alexandra Writers' Centre Society	Corinne Brewster
Ali Bryan	Daisy Chain Book Co.
Alice Major	Darlene Quaife
Allison Kydd	Dave & Lorna Carley
Amber Boyd	David M. Reid
Amber Hayward	David Peyto
Amber Webb-Bowerman Foundation	Dennis Lee
Ann Goldblatt	Diane Armstrong
Anna Burwash	Diane Robitelle
Anne Logan	Dolly Dennis
Aritha van Herk	Dorothy Bentley
Arts Council Wood Buffalo	EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing
ArtsVest	Edmonton Community Foundation
Asma Faizi	Eleanor Byers
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Calgary Fringe Festival	Herb Hartshorne
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 The John Patrick Gillese Fund at Edmonton
 Community Foundation
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 Under the Arch Youth Foundation
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 WGA Board of Directors
 Young Alberta Book Society

WGA Staff & Volunteers



WGA Staff

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Giorgia Severini

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Ashley Mann

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COORDINATOR

Jason Norman

PROGRAM AND FUND DEVELOPMENT

COORDINATOR (SOUTH ALBERTA

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Angie Elsinga (Feb 2025 –
June 2025)Moorea Gray (Oct 2024 –
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Anna Shannon

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Youth Committee

Kendall Bistretzan (Chair)

Kate Gough (Social Media)

Mattias Apse

Elisabeth Shenher

Aubrianna Snow

Anna Shannon

Golden Pen Committee*The WGA Board of Directors**selects the Golden Pen recipient
based on the recommendation of
this subcommittee.*

Jenna Butler

Marty Chan

Colin Martin

Anna Shannon

Volunteers

Sue Quon

Hitomi Suzuta

Elva Rice

Debbie Doyle

Barbara Primeau

Dan Doyle

Blaine Newton

Leslie Greentree

Nicolas Brown

Dini Couwenberg

William Spaderman

Patti McIntosh

Kelly Hallett

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Shirley Serviss

Christine Dober

Treasurer's Report



The WGA continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner (see Financial Statements: Independent Auditor's Report *Opinion*).

Key items of interest:

- AFA operations funding for WGA did not increase this year and in fact has been stagnant for some years; membership fees will go up in July to help compensate (see Executive Director's Report).
- The decrease in cash during the fiscal year is due to investments in GICs (see Financial Statements: page 6, Cash Flow Statement; page 9, Note 5 - Investments).
- Programming revenue increased; however, programming expenses also increased (see Financial Statements: page 3, Statement of Operations).

WGA continues to receive valuable support from sponsors and grant funding agencies (see Financial Statements: page 11, Note 9 – Grants).

WGA relies on member support, both through membership fees and member donations. Donations to the WGA through the WGA Endowment Fund contribute to more sustainable long-term funding for WGA programs.

The joint contributions of members, staff, the WGA Board, and volunteers underpin WGA's ability to fulfill its mission and vision for Alberta writers.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Clark
Treasurer

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

March 31, 2025

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Statement of Financial Position	5
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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, 2025, 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, 2025, 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 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

June 8, 2025
Edmonton, AB

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended March 31, 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
REVENUES		
Grants (Note 9)	\$ 504,197	\$ 499,704
Programming	107,621	75,329
Membership fees	42,423	42,193
Donations	22,476	24,248
Sponsorships	19,054	10,600
Interest	18,351	12,426
Fundraising	4,958	4,072
Advertising	1,545	600
Other	<u>97</u>	<u>32</u>
	<u>720,722</u>	<u>669,204</u>
EXPENSES		
Wages and benefits	356,358	319,594
Program	172,029	137,245
Contract fees	150,519	155,616
Professional fees	12,840	11,967
Office and administration	11,830	10,327
Travel	8,412	4,983
Insurance	7,331	6,579
Contributions Edmonton Community Foundation	4,816	4,599
Bank charges (Note 7)	3,354	3,565
Telephone and utilities	3,344	3,075
Rent	2,192	2,057
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,492	675
Advertising and promotion	<u>1,115</u>	<u>1,042</u>
	<u>735,632</u>	<u>661,324</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	<u>(14,910)</u>	<u>7,880</u>
OTHER		
Gain (loss) on disposition of assets	<u>(677)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(677)</u>	<u>-</u>
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (15,587)</u>	<u>\$ 7,880</u>

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the year ended March 31, 2025

NET ASSETS	Restricted (Note 10)	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 165,000	\$ 1,577	\$ 147,142	\$ 313,719	\$ 305,839
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	-	(2,169)	(13,418)	(15,587)	7,880
Investment in capital assets	-	6,875	(6,875)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 165,000	\$ 6,283	\$ 126,849	\$ 298,132	\$ 313,719

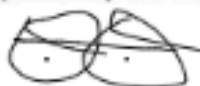
See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

4.

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
March 31, 2025**

ASSETS		<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
CURRENT			
Cash (Note 3)	\$	143,208	\$ 239,731
Accounts receivable (Note 4)		20,942	7,113
Goods and Services Tax recoverable		5,482	3,090
Prepaid expenses		9,101	3,801
Short-term investments (Note 5)		<u>166,684</u>	<u>222,266</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		345,417	476,001
INVESTMENTS (Note 5)		178,093	38,000
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)		<u>6,146</u>	<u>1,577</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>529,656</u>	<u>\$ 515,578</u>
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)	\$	9,826	\$ 26,298
Deferred contributions (Note 8)		<u>221,698</u>	<u>175,561</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>231,524</u>	<u>201,859</u>
NET ASSETS			
Net assets invested in capital assets		6,283	1,577
Restricted net assets (Note 10)		165,000	165,000
Unrestricted net assets		<u>126,849</u>	<u>147,142</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>298,132</u>	<u>313,719</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	<u>529,656</u>	<u>\$ 515,578</u>

Approved by the Directors:



_____, Director

Judith Clark

_____, Director

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
CASH FLOW STATEMENT
For the year ended March 31, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	\$ (15,587)	\$ 7,880
Add (deduct):		
Charges to income not involving cash		
<i>Amortization of tangible capital assets</i>	1,492	675
Gain on disposal of assets	677	-
Interest reinvested directly to investments	<u>139</u>	<u>1,100</u>
	(13,279)	9,655
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Trade receivables	(13,685)	13,863
Interest receivable	(146)	(3,667)
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	(2,392)	964
Prepaid expenses	(5,301)	15,690
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(16,470)	(14,017)
Deferred contributions	<u>46,137</u>	<u>29,774</u>
	<u>(5,136)</u>	<u>52,262</u>
FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayment of		
Canada Emergency Business Account loan	<u>-</u>	<u>(30,000)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(6,876)	-
Purchase of investments	(406,777)	(191,512)
Receipt of investments	<u>322,266</u>	<u>96,606</u>
	<u>(91,387)</u>	<u>(94,906)</u>
DECREASE IN CASH	(96,523)	(72,644)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>239,731</u>	<u>312,375</u>
CASH, end of year	\$ <u>143,208</u>	\$ <u>239,731</u>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2025**

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 33.70% of its revenue from one grantor (2024 - 38%).

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.

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2025

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

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Externally restricted cash - Casino funds	\$ 42,434	\$ 10,216
Externally restricted cash - Deferred contributions	<u>179,264</u>	<u>165,345</u>
Externally restricted cash	221,698	175,561
Unrestricted cash	<u>(78,490)</u>	<u>64,170</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 143,208</u>	<u>\$ 239,731</u>

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2025

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Trade receivables	\$ 14,012	\$ 328
Interest receivable	<u>6,930</u>	<u>6,785</u>
	<u>\$ 20,942</u>	<u>\$ 7,113</u>

5. INVESTMENTS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on April 15, 2025, bearing interest at 4% per annum (2.5% previous year) (*)	\$ 68,754	\$ 68,754
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on June 8, 2024, bearing interest at 4.55% per annum	-	38,000
Redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on June 28, 2025, bearing interest at a rate of 5% per annum (4.50% previous year) (*)	51,426	51,426
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on August 19, 2024, bearing interest at 5.15% per annum	-	18,000
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on March 25, 2025, bearing interest at 4.00% per annum	-	46,086
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on June 8, 2025, bearing interest at a rate of 4.20% per annum (**)	39,596	38,000
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on March 25, 2026, bearing interest at 2.70% per annum	47,930	-
Redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on December 3, 2025 bearing interest at a rate of 2.85% per annum	50,000	-
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on June 2, 2025 bearing interest at a rate of 1.83%	<u>87,071</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 344,777</u>	<u>\$ 260,266</u>

(*) As mentioned in note 10, the guaranteed investment certificates are restricted to cover the internally imposed restriction.

(**) GICs for \$39,596 consists of contribution from the Edmonton Arts Council for 2024-2025 that has been deferred.

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2025

6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	
			<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Computer hardware	\$ 6,800	\$ 870	\$ 5,930	\$ 1,306
Furniture and fixtures	<u>9,293</u>	<u>9,077</u>	<u>216</u>	<u>271</u>
	<u>\$ 16,093</u>	<u>\$ 9,947</u>	<u>\$ 6,146</u>	<u>\$ 1,577</u>

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, 2025, was \$1,444 (2024 - \$2,739). 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 \$142 (2024 - \$35); these amounts are included in bank charges. The credit cards are guaranteed by the current and future assets of the Guild.

8. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	<u>Opening</u>	<u>Funds received</u>	<u>Funds used</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Edmonton Arts Council	\$ 87,194	\$ -	\$ (49,194)	\$ 38,000
Edmonton Community Foundation	28,000	10,000	(28,000)	10,000
Calgary Arts				
Development Agency	-	43,456	(43,456)	-
Casino	10,216	83,189	(50,972)	42,433
Donations, fees and other	22,475	166,880	(146,114)	43,241
Alberta				
Foundation for the Arts	-	323,423	(242,900)	80,523
Rozsa Foundation	5,050	1,000	(6,050)	-
RBC - Emerging Artists	7,500	15,000	(15,000)	7,500
Access Copyright Foundation	7,125	-	(7,125)	-
Alberta Culture & Tourism	<u>8,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 175,560</u>	<u>\$ 642,948</u>	<u>\$ (596,811)</u>	<u>\$ 221,697</u>

WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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9. GRANTS

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$ 242,900	\$ 252,134
Calgary Arts Development Agency	43,456	64,456
Edmonton Arts Council	49,194	51,806
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis	50,972	45,539
Canada Council for the Arts	42,000	42,000
Edmonton Community Foundation	28,000	25,069
Royal Bank of Canada Emerging Artists	15,000	15,000
Alberta Community Initiatives Program	8,000	-
Access Copyright Foundation	7,125	-
Rozsa Foundation	6,050	1,950
Cultural Human Resources Council	7,000	-
City of Calgary	4,500	-
LCM Foundation	-	1,000
Alberta Culture days	-	750
	<u>\$ 504,197</u>	<u>\$ 499,704</u>

10. RESTRICTED NET ASSET

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's Board of Directors has restricted a sum of \$61,000 (2023 - \$61,000) as a sustainability fund. The funds are held in the guaranteed investment certificates pursuant to the conditions imposed by grant contracts; see note 5.

The Writers' Guild of Alberta Board of Directors restricted a sum of \$104,000 (2023 - \$104,000) as a sustainability fund for future programming and operations. These funds are held in the guaranteed investment certificates; see note 5.

11. 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, 2024, the balance in the Foundation's Endowment Fund was \$63,113.94 (2023 - \$56,150).

12. FUND-RAISING EXPENSES AND OTHER

As required under Section 7(2) of the Regulations of the Charitable Fundraising Act of Alberta, the Guild discloses that it incurred \$765 of expenses related to fundraising in 2025 (2024 - \$0) and it received \$27,434 of contributions in 2025 (2024 - \$28,320).

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2025**

13. 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.

Credit risk:

The Guild is exposed to credit risk with respect to its trade receivables, interest receivable and grants receivable.

Interest rate risk:

The Guild is exposed to interest rate risk on its fixed-rate financial instruments, which consists solely of guaranteed investment certificates. These fixed-rate instruments subject the Guild to a risk of changes in fair value.

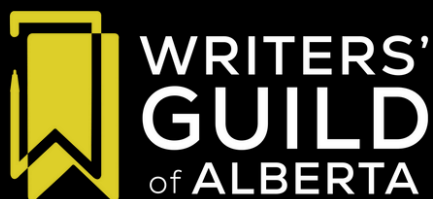
Liquidity risk:

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.

14. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

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



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