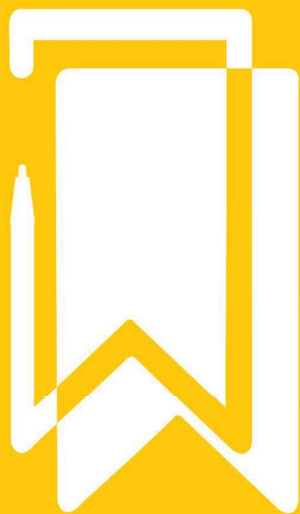


# Annual Report



WRITERS'  
GUILD  
of ALBERTA

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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.

**The WGA is guided by the beliefs that:**

- 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.

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# What is our vision?

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

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# What is our mission?

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

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# What are our core values?

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

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# WGA Board of Directors 2025/2026

## **PRESIDENT**

Anne Bailey

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Anna Wagner

## **TREASURER**

Judith Clark

## **SECRETARY**

Kendall Bistretzan

## **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

T.F. Pruden

## **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Natalie Simpson

## **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Jenna Butler

## **YOUTH MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

Aubrianna Snow

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

Colin Martin

---

# WGA Committees

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Anne Bailey (Chair)  
Anna Wagner  
Judith Clark  
Kendall Bistretzan  
Giorgia Severini

## **YOUTH COMMITTEE**

Aubrianna Snow (Chair)  
Kendall Bistretzan  
Mattias Apse  
Elisabeth Shenher  
Nisha Patel

## **EDIA COMMITTEE**

Natalie Simpson (Interim Chair)  
Jenna Butler  
Kendall Bistretzan  
T.F. Pruden  
Aubrianna Snow  
Ashley Mann  
Giorgia Severini

## **GOLDEN PEN AWARD COMMITTEE**

Anne Bailey (Chair)  
Kendall Bistretzan  
Colin Martin  
T.F. Pruden

---

# WGA Staff

## **STAFF**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Giorgia Severini

PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR  
Ashley Mann

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COORDINATOR  
Jason Norman

PROGRAM AND FUND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR  
Ashley Frerichs

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR  
Nisha Patel

MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR  
Mike Maguire

SUMMER PROGRAM AND DIGITAL MEDIA ASSISTANT  
Kim Gomez

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## **CONTRACTORS**

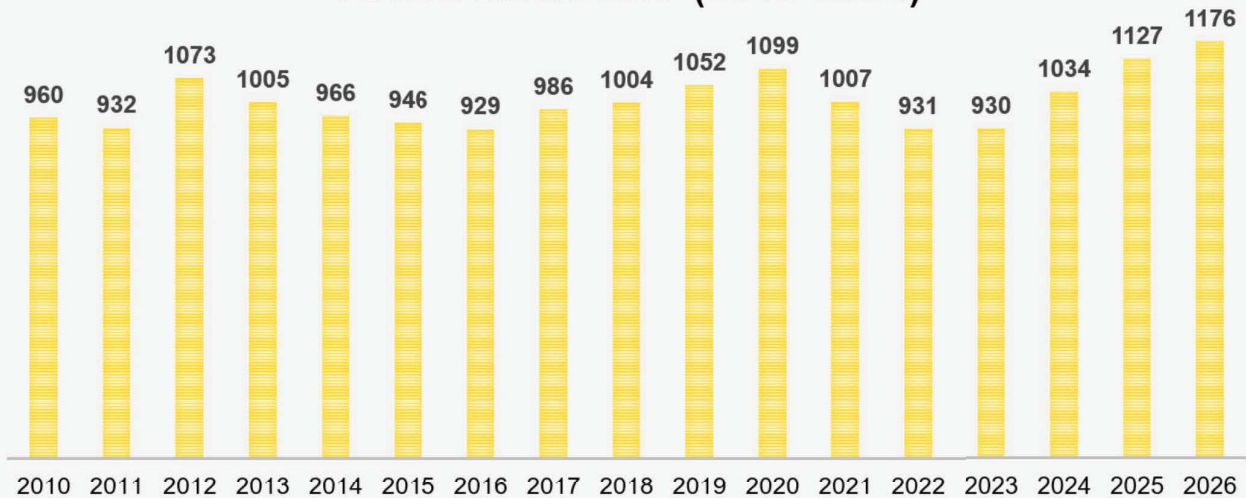
WESTWORD EDITOR  
Raymond Gariépy

WORDSWORTH DIRECTOR  
Ugochi Okoli

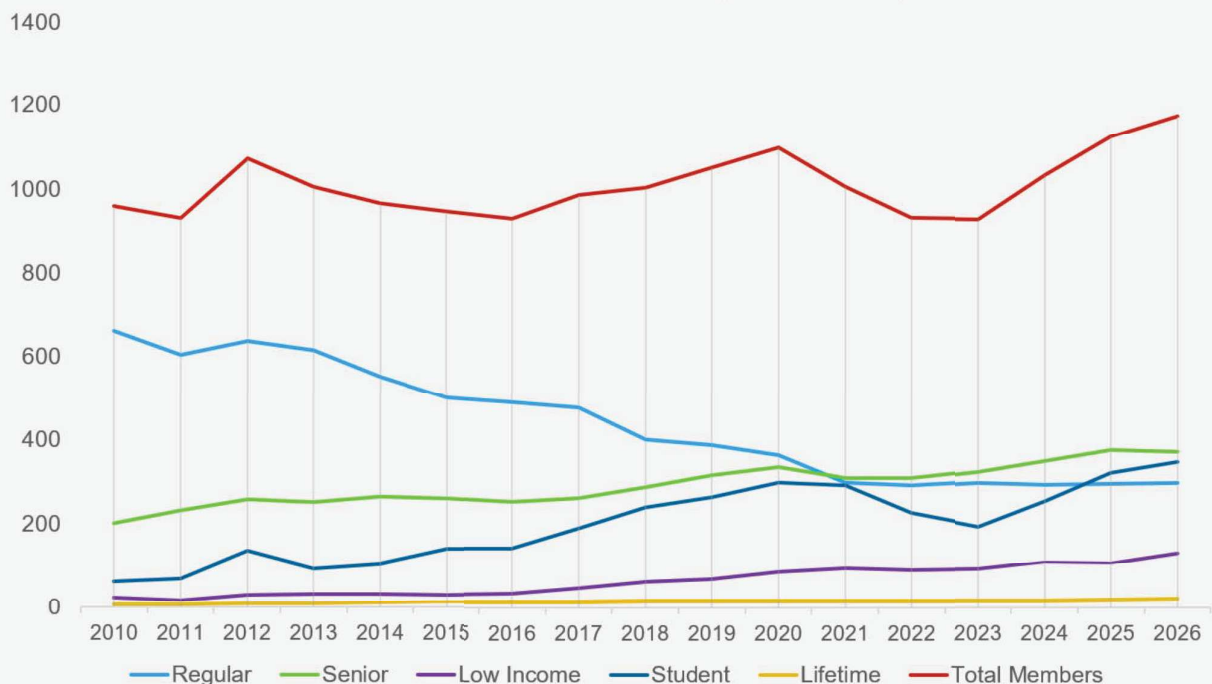
HORIZONS WRITERS CIRCLE COORDINATOR  
Mila Bongco-Philipzig

# WGA Membership at a Glance

TOTAL MEMBERS (2010-2026)



MEMBERSHIP TRENDS (2010-2026)



# President's Report

Welcome to the 2025/2026 Annual Report of the Writers' Guild of Alberta! This has been a remarkable year for writers in Alberta and for the WGA. Our community is active and vibrant, with membership numbers reaching record levels, our core services in constant demand, new events enthusiastically embraced, and philanthropic support stronger than ever.

After the difficult years of the pandemic, WGA members are eager to come together. In our recent membership survey, we learned that community building and networking are now the top reasons for joining and belonging to the WGA. In the past 12 months, we continued to see membership growth, particularly among students. Attendance at WGA events is strong and consistent. This year, thanks to a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the WGA hired a team of six rural writers in residence, all of them extending the WGA's reach and strengthening connections across the province. Two new "Meet Me in the Middle" events held in Lacombe were both great successes, showcasing work from established and new writers in the bright and welcoming space of Blindman Brewing. WGA services—such as our Manuscript Reading Service and our Mentorship Program—both continue to be in high demand, and both spring and fall retreats continue to fill to capacity.

The WGA remains in healthy financial position. While the largest proportion of the WGA's funding comes through government grants, the tremendous support of our members, donors, and sponsors has also been essential over the past year. As 2025 came to close, the WGA launched an end-of-the-year fundraising campaign which drew a historic high in donations. Many core programs and endowment funds received a critical boost, thanks in large part to Scott Saxberg's generous decision to double and sometime triple match other incoming gifts. This end-of-year philanthropic support continued into 2026. A particular thank you to the many people who support the Alberta Literary Awards—your continued generosity makes these awards possible. Thank you!

This year has also been marked by increasing threats to Albertans' right to freedom of expression and freedom to read. Over the course of the year, on behalf of our membership, the Board has posted three statements condemning government overreach in school and public libraries, which in effect has led to a new era of book banning in our province. We also worked with The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC) to host a joint Freedom to Read event in Calgary, which was forced to change locations after the unexpected and unjustified booking cancellation by the Calgary Legion. Our joint statement with TWUC about this cancellation received significant media attention, drawing critical attention to the issue of censorship and noting the increased vigilance now required to protect our freedom to read in this province.

Along with these advocacy efforts, the Board has focused on a number of priorities, in addition to our core governance oversight and fiduciary responsibilities. Let me highlight a few key initiatives:

At our first meeting of 2026, after research and consideration, the WGA Board approved moving the AGM fully online. Starting this month, the AGM will no longer be held in conjunction with the WGA's Annual Conference; instead, we will meet online only on June 22 at 7 pm. Our goal in making this change is to ensure that the AGM is as open and accessible to as many members as possible, regardless of location or personal circumstances.

This spring marked the completion of in-depth analysis of the 2024 WGA Membership Survey. Due to its length and complexity, we worked with statistics professor, Dr. Wanhua Su, and her students at MacEwan University to conduct a comparative review of both the 2014 and 2024 membership surveys to understand how the landscape has changed over time. From there, the Board developed recommendations based on what we learned. I report on this work in detail in the summer issue of *WestWord*.

One of the pleasures of being president of the Board is chairing the Golden Pen Selection Committee. The Golden Pen Award celebrates the career achievements of Alberta's most exceptional writers and reviewing nominations for this award is a privilege. While the chief mandate of the committee is to select the recipient, the committee is also charged with reviewing, and when needed, updating procedures and processes for nomination and selection. This year, after review, the committee updated submission guidelines for future nominations to give nominators clearer direction and to ensure the committee receives the depth of information needed to guide its decision-making. You will see these updates in the awards guidelines for 2027.

In addition to the Golden Pen Selection Committee, the Board has three other standing committees: the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, Youth Committee, and Governance Committee. In the following pages, the chairs of each committee provide updates on their activities over the past year. My thanks to committee chairs for their leadership and committee members for their hard work over this year.

Finally, a word of thanks to Executive Director Giorgia Severini and every member of the WGA's fantastic staff. It is a small but mighty team! Through their efforts, the WGA is thriving, providing much need support and creative programming to Alberta's diverse community of writers.

Next year, the Board will be embarking on the development of the WGA's next strategic plan. We see challenges ahead for writers and tremendous change as we navigate the impacts of artificial intelligence, predatory publishing, shrinking cultural funding, and threats of censorship. But we also see opportunities in the growth of the writing community, the re-emergence of independent bookstores, and the passion of readers evident in BookTok, podcasts, and other social media. We want to hear your thoughts on the future for writers as we set the priorities of the next five years. Stay tuned!

Anne Bailey  
President

# Executive Director's Report

The WGA continued to shatter expectations in the 2025/2026 fiscal year. We saw another year of record-high membership. Attendance at our programs and events continues to grow, and reached record-high participation in some cases, such as the Manuscript Reading Service. Our fundraising efforts exceeded our goal for the year by over 90%. Our community is strongly engaged and supportive while writers continue to face threats to their livelihoods, including AI and book banning.

However, we are noticing the economic effects of these challenges on our membership. Low Income memberships increased by 20% in 2025/2026, the highest rate of increase of the membership categories. There has also been a significant increase in the number of bursary applications for our conference and youth programs, as well as requests for financial support not currently offered, such as bursaries for retreats. While we were able to accommodate all requests for bursaries in 2025/2026, we have already received more than twice the requests for both the conference and WordsWorth at the time of reporting.

Writers have been facing overall income decline for years, and rise of AI has accelerated this trend. Besides lower incomes, writers are also feeling the effects of continuous inflation. The WGA as an organization is feeling the effects of inflation itself this past year. Our costs for programs and operations have risen sharply, and we have the crucial need to raise fees for writers we hire for our events and programs, ensuring we are pay fair fees while inflation raises the costs of living. Since our Alberta Foundation for the Arts operating grant funding, as well as our operating grants from Edmonton Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts, continue to be stagnant, our new fundraising is going toward maintaining current programs and services. It is essential for the WGA's mission that our programs remain accessible to all writers no matter their financial situation.

Time is another resource in decline for writers, hand in hand with the decline in income. We saw in our 2024 membership survey that it is a struggle for many of our members to find time to write, especially since the majority earn a living from work outside creative writing. The increasing time crunch makes it challenging to recruit volunteers for help with key programs and events, particularly for the Youth Committee. We have several programs aimed at helping writers find the time to work on their craft, such as our retreats and occasional write nights, but time to attend events is an increasing challenge for both our members and the general public. Yet it is encouraging to see the rise in participation at our programs and events, which shows that the many different formats we are offering are meeting a diversity of scheduling needs.

We at the WGA are grateful for all members who are able to donate time or money to support other members in need, and to help the WGA as we serve a growing membership. I want to acknowledge two major supporters who passed away in the last year: Stephan V. Benediktson, longtime sponsor of the Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry, and Nhung Tran-Davies, co-founder and donor of the Kemosha Scholarship for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Mothers who Write. As we go into the next year, we will honour their spirit of generosity and commitment to supporting Alberta's writers, as we work to maximize accessibility to our programs and ensure all Alberta writers have what they need to feel supported.

Giorgia Severini  
Executive Director

# Youth Committee Report

The 2025/2026 year was a period of refocusing for the Youth Committee. Several members left the Committee due to health reasons and other personal commitments, and recruitment will take place in the second half of 2026 to rebuild capacity and bring new youth perspectives to the group.

Despite these challenges, the Committee has remained active and continued delivering programming and advocating for young and emerging writers across Alberta. In September 2025, the Youth Committee hosted another in-person Under 30 Write Night, which saw three attendees in Edmonton and two in Calgary. With the ongoing trend of modest in-person attendance, the Committee decided to transition these events to a virtual format to reach a broader audience across the province.

This change proved to be an important step forward. The first virtual Write Night, held in November 2025, drew six participants from across Alberta. This increase suggests that virtual formats may better serve young writers outside of Edmonton and Calgary. A second virtual session took place in March 2026, with four attendees.

Looking ahead, the Committee has chosen to concentrate its energy on a more sustainable programming model: quarterly virtual Write Nights, supplemented by one or two larger events per year. This approach allows us to maintain consistent contact with the community while investing effort into higher-impact programming that will appeal to broader audiences. The first of these larger events is scheduled for June 25, 2026, developed in collaboration with *filling Station* magazine. We are excited about this partnership and the opportunity to deepen our connection with Alberta's wider literary community. We also continue to discuss how best to engage diverse youth audiences and increase youth turnout at regular WGA events.

As I reach the midpoint of my two-year term as Chair of the Youth Committee, my priorities for the year ahead are centered on sustainability and accessibility. During the upcoming recruitment process, I will be conducting outreach with post-secondary student communities and seeking to ensure that younger writers feel supported in their engagement with the WGA. I am committed to collaborating on programming that reflects the diversity of young and emerging writers in this province and ensures that the Committee's work remains inclusive and relevant to the needs of the community.

Aubrianna Snow  
Youth Committee Chair

# EDIA Committee Report

In 2025/26, the EDIA Committee championed the ongoing process of integrating the values of inclusivity, equity, diversity, and accessibility into all aspects of WGA's governance and operations.

The committee encouraged challenging and illuminating discussions about barriers to full participation in WGA activities and services that confront underrepresented populations. In particular, the committee outlined the goal of thoroughly analyzing the outcomes of the recent membership survey to identify underrepresented communities within our membership. In the coming year, the committee will work to formulate strategies to reach out to diverse communities, understand specific barriers to participation, and increase the WGA's accessibility. The committee will also consider how best to encode the WGA's current informal practices of encouraging diversity and confronting implicit bias in hiring and board recruitment into formal policies, to ensure that these practices continue in the future.

One challenge the committee identified this year was the decreasing number of applicants for the Kemosa Scholarship for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Mothers Who Write, an important initiative in its ninth year of providing financial support to a population historically marginalized by the publishing industry. The committee worked with WGA staff to identify contacts for Indigenous communities throughout the province and media outlets, such as APTN and CFWE, that have broad reach within Indigenous communities to ensure that as many eligible applicants as possible learn about the scholarship going forward.

The committee's immediate goal in 2026/2027 is to facilitate anti-racism and allyship training for the board of directors, acknowledging that education is the foundation for positive change. In the spirit of learning and adaptability, the committee welcomes input from WGA members about their observations of bias and exclusivity within writing communities and the publishing industry, as well as recommendations for steps WGA can take to better serve all writers and writing communities across Alberta. '

Natalie Simpson  
Interim Committee Chair

# Governance Committee Report

Established in the fall of 2024, the WGA Governance Committee purpose is “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 are 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 proper orientation of new Board members and exit interview of departing members.

Throughout 2025/2026, the Governance Committee continued the work begun in 2024 to improve the Board’s governance practices and procedures. This year, we paid particular attention to updating Board member roles and responsibilities, clarifying WGA election procedures, implementing new Board orientation and recruitment processes, and investigating the pros and cons of moving the AGM fully online.

Key outcomes of this work include:

- Reviewed and revised the roles and responsibilities section of the WGA Board Manual, including President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. Our goal was to provide revisions that better reflect current practice, and also improved clarity and conciseness.
- Implemented updated Board orientation materials and process.
- Developed and distributed updated Board recruitment materials.

- Developed and instated Board nomination and election procedures in alignment with nomination and election policies.
- Completed a Board skills matrix to catalogue current expertise among Board members and identify gaps which could help inform Board recruitment.
- Recommended that the WGA move its AGM fully online

My thanks to the dedicated members of the Governance Committee (Anna Wagner, Judith Clark, Kendall Bistretzan, and Giorgia Severini) for the skill, energy, and significant time they have devoted to this work.

Anne Bailey  
Governance Committee Chair

# 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:

- A fundraising campaign at the end of 2025 achieved a record level of donations.
- WGA staff continue to bring in grants that are critical for the success of the organization (see Financial Statements: Notes to Financial Statements, #9). Challenges for the 2026/2027 fiscal year include the loss of some Alberta government matching funds and the end of the Crowdfunding Alberta platform. WGA staff are currently trying a crowdfunding approach via our Canada Helps page to make up the loss of grant funds covering bursaries for the WordsWorth program.
- The WGA Endowment Fund continues to grow, increasing 26% from the previous fiscal year. Donations to the WGA through the WGA Endowment Fund contribute to more sustainable long-term funding for WGA programs. The grant from the fund we will receive in the 2026/2027 fiscal year is \$3489, a 39% increase from 2025/2026.
- Banking fees and service issues have been a concern. The auditors recommend that WGA switch to a credit union. Staff are investigating a change to a different bank or a credit union in the 2026/2027 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Clark  
Treasurer

# WGA

# Report on

# Activities

## In this Section:

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Advocacy

Alberta Literary Awards & Gala

Annual Conference

Controversy @ Noon Series

Drink the Wild Air Youth Writing Retreat

Horizons Writers Circle

Manuscript Reading Service

Mentorship Program

Partnerships

Queer Writers' Collective

Regional Writer-in-Residence Program

Stroll of Poets Festival

*WestWord*

WordsWorth Youth Writing Summer Camp

Retreats

Under 30 Write Nights

*WriteClick*



## Advocacy

The WGA Board of Directors issues statements in response to policies or events that affect writers. This year, statements were made regarding provincial government policies to restrict access to books in schools and public libraries, and the cancellation of a WGA event by the Royal Canadian Legion in Calgary. The WGA Board and Executive Director regularly respond to media requests regarding issues affecting writing, publishing, and arts funding.

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, Calgary Spoken Word 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.

## Alberta Literary Awards & Gala

The WGA Alberta Literary Awards presented \$15,000 in prizes for the following awards in 2025:

- Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction
- Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction
- Stephan G. Stephannson Award for Poetry
- Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama
- R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature
- Memoir Award
- Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story
- Short Story Collection Award
- James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction
- Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award
- Golden Pen Award

The WGA also helped facilitate the following awards:

- Kemosa Scholarship for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Mothers Who Write
- The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize
- The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize

The 2025 Awards Gala was held in Calgary on June 6, 2025 at Festival Hall. The 2026 Awards were held on June 5, 2026 in Edmonton at the Wyndham Hotel and Conference Centre.



## Annual Conference

The 2025 Conference – Genre and Form Through Time took place from June 7-8, 2025 in Calgary at SAIT. The Conference explored major influences on genre and form, looking at how writers continue to be inspired and influenced by those before them, and how they shape the landscape for those who come after. Workshops, masterclasses, and panels delved into the business of writing and how to strengthen craft skills.

Conference pathways guided participants – novice, intermediate, and established – on ideal offerings according to where they felt they were on their literary journeys. However, all sessions were open to everyone in attendance. Participants also had the chance to connect and chat with other writers during self-directed networking time. The keynote was delivered by Natasha Deen, who spoke on writing in the current market. Day 2 of the Conference also included the WGA's AGM during the morning. In 2026, the AGM has been moved online to take place after the annual conference to extend programming to full days.

The 2025 Conference also included six online pre-conference sessions with were open to both online-only attendees as well as regular conference attendees.

In total, the Conference hosted 149 attendees, provided 16 sessions, and paid 31 facilitators.

The facilitators were:

Natasha Deen	Barb Howard	Teresa Wong	Margaret Curelas
Lisa Martin	Ellen Kartz	Niall Howell	Dustin Archibald
Kirti Bhadresa	Deborah Willis	Susan Calder	Lindsay Wong
Amy Lin	Judy I. Lin	P.D. Workman	Katherine Koller
Caleigh Crow	Lareina Abbott	Garry Ryan	Sarah Everett
Jessica Waite	BJ (Bayne) Wagner	Kendall Bistretzan	Kate Edwards
Anne Sorbie	Alycia Two Bears	Micheline Maylor	Jeananne Kirwin
Finnian Burnett	Leslie Greentree	Alexis Marie Chute	



## Controversy @ Noon Series

The WGA's signature Controversy @ Noon Series was held online 4 times throughout the year. 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. All Controversy @ Noon panels are available to rewatch on the WGA's YouTube page, as well as available for audio listening through YouTube. The WGA hosted the following Controversy @ Noon Panels:

### **Controversy @ Noon May Panel - Why Buy Canadian?**

Featuring Jason Lee Norman (Moderator) and Panelists Laura Rock Gaughan, Jay Millar, Hazel Millar, Katie Lafreniere

### **Controversy @ Noon August Panel - Banned Books: What Next?**

Featuring Peter Midgley (Moderator) and Panelists Ira Wells, Gail de Vos, and Malcolm Azania

### **Controversy @ Noon November Panel - The Things They Never Told Me About Publication**

Featuring Kate A. Boorman (Moderator) and Panelists Rebecca Schaeffer, Bertrand Bickersteth, and Matthew J. Trafford

### **Controversy @ Noon February Panel - Are Children's Writers the Ultimate Freedom Fighters?**

Featuring Natasha Deen (Moderator) and Panelists Nhung Tran-Davies, Paul Coccia, and Nafiza Azad.

## Drink the Wild Air Youth Writing Retreat

Drink the Wild Air Creative Writing Retreat for Youth ages 11-19 took place from March 13-15, 2026 at Camp Kannawin near Sylvan Lake. The facilitators were local writers Bertrand Bickersteth, Eli Smart, Ting Pimentel-Elger, and Kim Firmston.

Youth worked with professional writers, played games, shared stories, and took part in camp activities. Attendance was lower than previous years at 8 students, and future DTWA camps will focus on better marketing and outreach to inform potential students earlier in the semester. Drink the Wild Air was organized by the new WordsWorth Director, Ugochi Okoli.

## Horizons Writers Circle

Horizons Writers Circle is a program that provides support and mentorship for writers within the Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) community, ESL, and underrepresented writers who live in Edmonton and are at the beginning of their literary journey. Due to a lack of funding this year, the program was unable to provide one-on-one mentorship, and instead hosted periodic workshops and events to maintain continuity in the program and give alumni the opportunity to develop teaching and mentoring skills. Organized between WGA programmers and contractor Mila Bongco-Philipzig, Horizons Writers Circle this year ran workshops, events, open mics, and featured readings for all writers to attend, with a focus on marginalized writers. The Horizons Writers Circle events were held in-person in Edmonton.



## Manuscript Reading Service

The Manuscript Reading Service is an opportunity for writers to have their manuscripts read by an professional writer and provide a detailed evaluation of content and technique as well as suggestions for further development of the work. This service is available to WGA members and non-members within Canada. Authors pay a reduced fee to engage these services, with further subsidies awarded as funds permit throughout the year.

March 2025 to April 2026, 35 WGA members accessed the Manuscript Reading Service, with 19 of those members receiving WGA subsidies to cover part of the service fee.

## Mentorship Program

2026 marked the 15th year of the Mentorship Program. The Mentorship Program pairs emerging and established writers together for four months to develop the emerging writers' literary work, and provide support and encouragement in their chosen genre. The program is designed to meet the needs of emerging Alberta writers for guidance, collaboration and encouragement while senior writers receive short-term employment and an opportunity to sharpen their mentoring/teaching skills. The focus of the mentorship will be on instruction in the craft, and to a lesser extent, the business of writing. There is no cost to the apprentices.

Mentors and apprentices are expected to have an initial meeting in person. Subsequent meetings may take place in person or by telephone or email as distance may require. Mentors devoted 15-20 hours a month to program work while apprentices committed to a minimum of 20-25 hours per month. A public reading took place afterwards in Calgary.

This year's mentorship participants were:

Patti Lott mentored by Betty Jane Hegerat in Fiction/Novels  
Funded by the Mary Bell Scholarship

Shaylean Gladu mentored by Anna Veprinska in Poetry/Creative Nonfiction  
Funded by the Sharon L. Henderson Fund for Young and Emerging Writers


Ryan Pierson mentored by Monica Kidd in Literary Fiction  
Funded by The Calgary Foundation

Jane Jacques mentored by Theresa Shea in Fiction/Novels  
Funded by the W.O. Mitchell Scholarship Fund

Aldona Dziedziejko mentored by Vivian Hansen in Memoir/Creative Nonfiction

Keri-Lyn Halfacre mentored by Paul Fischer in Screenwriting  
Funded by The Calgary Foundation

Kiran Fatima mentored by Kelly Kaur in Memoir/Creative Nonfiction  
Funded by The Calgary Foundation



## Partnerships

The WGA partnered with several organizations to help cross-promote events for the community.

Organizations included:

The Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (AWCS)  
The Calgary Distinguished Writers Program  
The Single Onion Reading Series  
The Olive Poetry and Prose Open Mic  
Calgary Public Library  
Calgary Fringe  
The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC)  
Esker Foundation

The WGA also sponsored several events throughout the year, which included:

Speak Up YYC Open Mic Night  
Woolf's Voices  
Script Salon  
WordStruck by Foothills Writers Group

## Queer Writers' Collective

The Queer Writers' Collective of Edmonton gives space for writers to gather and build support networks. Typically, the QWC meets on the third Wednesday of every month, right before the regular Writers' Guild of Alberta Edmonton Pub Night. The QWC has seen a steady and growing attendance from writers in Edmonton. A unique QWC Discord Server (a digital online server offering users multiple ways to engage through text, images, group calls, and voice chats) was also created, where queer writers connect in offline hours as they feel comfortable.


## Regional Writer-in-Residence Program

The 2025 Regional Writers-in-Residence (RWiR) program provides WGA members access to the services of a virtual Regional Writer-in-Residence with priority given to those who cannot easily access an existing writer-in-residence service. Consultations were prioritized for local writers in remote areas, and then opened up online to the WGA and public membership. In total, there were 92 consultations during the program.

The 2025-2026 Regional Writers-in-Residence were:

Meaghan Archer (Greater Edmonton)  
Kimmy Beach (Red Deer)  
Caleigh Crow (Greater Calgary)  
Juleus Ghunta (Fort McMurray)  
David van Belle (Grande Prairie)  
Lee Kvern (Lethbridge)

RWiRs also provided in-person programming in their regions, such as hosting events and workshops.



## Stroll of Poets Festival

The 2nd Annual Stroll of Poets Festival Calgary took place from September 5-7, 2026 in the Inglewood area. The Stroll of Poets is a non-profit organization that was first based in Edmonton after being founded in 1991. Shortly afterwards, a Calgary Stroll of Poets was created as well. In its first 15 years of operation, the organization ran an annual one-day multi-venue performance poetry festival that took place in both Calgary and Edmonton. In recent years, the annual festival had been replaced by a monthly reading series in Edmonton. Seeing an opportunity to revive the Stroll of Poets festival in its original format in Calgary, the 2nd annual Stroll of Poets Festival hosted curated readings, open mics, workshops, an all-day writing lounge, after party, and joint celebration with the Single Onion Reading Series and Frontenac House anniversary party. Most events were free to attend, with a few ticketed options. Over the three days, the total attendance at the Stroll of Poets Festival was 474 people.

The event was funded by the City of Calgary. Other sponsors, supporters and community partners included The Confluence, Alexandra Writers' Centre Society, and Calgary Public Library.

## *WestWord*

*WestWord* is the WGA's members-only quarterly magazine that contains articles about writing life and business, profiles of Alberta writers, member news and new books, upcoming WGA and partner events, and articles on topics of interest. Back issues are available through the member section of the WGA website.

From April 2025 to March 2026, four issues of *WestWord* were distributed, with paid members receiving a both a print copy and digital copy. Student members and low income members received digital copies. All members also have access to the digital *WestWord* archive. Since the WGA's membership is valid for one year from purchase date, distribution varies in each period.

Select print copies of *WestWord* were also given away for free to select WGA partners and distributed at events where the WGA was tabling or promoting our services.

*WestWord* has now changed to a new nomenclature. Previous issues were labeled by quarter and are now named by season (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) starting with Winter 2026.



## WordsWorth Youth Writing Summer Camp

WordsWorth is a sleep-away creative writing residency for young writers ages 11-19 who believe in the power of creative expression through words. For one week away from home, participants are encouraged to take part in screen-free activities that span genres, forms, and creative skill levels all in the format of a 5-night sleep-away camp. Writers get to experience the benefits of community and camaraderie at WordsWorth: having accommodation in a dorm room, taking group meals in the cafeteria, and taking part in evening social activities with other campers. 2025's camp took place in Red Deer, Alberta, on the college campus of Red Deer Polytechnic. The theme was Ourtime.

There were 37 campers who took part in WordsWorth 2025. The Program was headed by WordsWorth Director, Colin Matty, for his final year. Faculty included Marin Perlette, Johnny MacRae, Émanuel (Gab) Dubbeldam, Kim Firmston, Richard Kelly Kemick, Lindsey Walker, David Wilson, and Steve Currie.

## Retreats

The Writers' Guild of Alberta hosts writing retreats each year, which offer participants both guided and self-directed time to write without distractions. The Late Summer Writers' Retreat was held in Caroline at the Sanctum Retreat Centre with on-site facilitators Premea Mohamed and Dr. Jenna Butler.

## Under 30 Write Nights

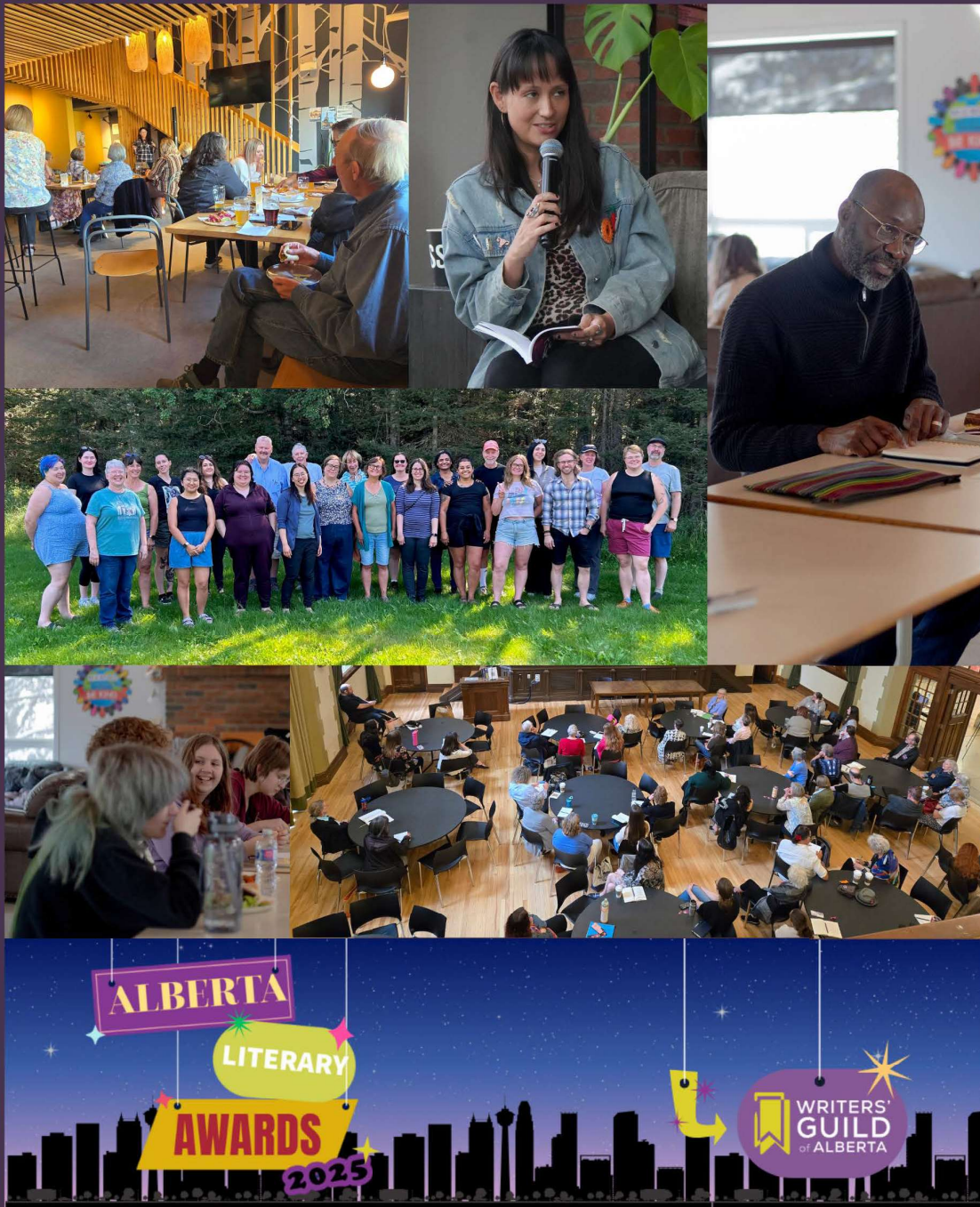
Several in-person Write Nights were held in Edmonton and Calgary but after low attendance numbers a single format Write Night was hosted online. The online Write Nights saw more participants register in advance and drop in through an open two-hour writing period, with the WGA Youth Committee and a WGA staff member present to answer any questions. The Youth Committee also considered changing the name of the Under 30 Write Nights to target youth and emerging writers, regardless of age. On average, the online Write Nights had around 10 participants from around Alberta attend.

## WriteClick

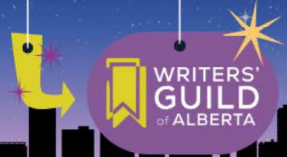
*WriteClick* is the WGA's weekly digital newsletter that is sent to active members. From 2025/2026, *WriteClick* was updated to a new layout. It was sent out every Wednesday with the exception of December 24, 2025. *WriteClick* features news on the WGA's upcoming events, member news such as book launches and awards, literary news that are of relevance to Alberta writers, markets and submission opportunities for writers, events across Alberta and online, and links to literary resources, such as FAQs, other literary organizations, and writing groups. There are also calls for volunteer opportunities and literary job postings. Members are welcome to submit their listings to *WriteClick* each week.

Most members of the WGA opted into receiving *WriteClick* in 2025/2026, resulting in an average of 1000+ unique subscribers. This number varies each week as expired WGA memberships are removed, and new memberships are added as they opt in.

# WGA Events 2025/2026



ALBERTA  
LITERARY  
AWARDS  
2025



# WGA Events At a Glance

**113 Events & Programs**

**3461 Participants**

**293 Artists Hired**

**\$176,625 Paid to Artists**

**10 Cities with Events**

**10 Online Events**

**39 Venues**

# Edmonton Events

## April 2025 to March 2026

### April 2025

- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Horizons Featured Reading at The Olive Reading Series at the Edmonton Poetry Festival at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Horizons Write Night at Stanley Milner Library
- Horizons Workshop: No More Fear of Failure at Strathcona Library
- Under 30 Write Night at Block 1912

### May 2025

- Mentorship Wrap Event at ArtsHub Ortona Armoury
- Alberta Literary Award Finalists Reading at Audreys Books
- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Under 30 Write Night at Block 1912

### June 2025

- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### July 2025

- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### August 2025

- Horizons Workshop: Meditative Yoga & Journaling at the Alberta Legislature Grounds
- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### September 2025

- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Under 30 Write Night at Block 1912
- Horizons Workshop: The Lost Art of Letter Writing at ArtsHub Ortona Armoury
- Horizons Workshop: Writing Actual Stories with Texts & DMs at ArtsHub Ortona Armoury

### October 2025

- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at the Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### November 2025

- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at the Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Horizons Workshop: Working with the Abyss at ArtsHub Ortona Armoury

### December 2025

- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at the Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### January 2026

- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Horizons Presents: Accented Words Open Mic at Paper Birch Books

### February 2026

- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar

### March 2026

- Pub Night at Rooster Kitchen and Bar
- Write Here, Write Now! Springboards Festival One-Day Retreat at Workshop West Playwrights Theatre
- Queer Writers' Collective at Rooster Kitchen and Bar



# Calgary

## April 2025 to March 2026

### April 2025

- Poetry Karaoke at Aroma Cafe & Bar
- Coffee & Chat at Crowfoot Library
- Under 30 Write Night at Element Cafe
- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Chat with Danny Ramadan at Community Wise Resource Centre
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Alberta Literary Awards Finalist Reading at Marriott Residence Inn
- W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Finalists Readings at Shelf Life Books

### May 2025

- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Under 30 Write Night at Element Cafe

### June 2025

- Alberta Literary Awards Gala 2025 at Festival Hall
- 2025 WGA Conference: Genre and Form Through Time at SAIT Campus
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Coffee & Chat at Memorial Park Library



### July 2025

- Gathering of Words: Flash Fiction Improv at Central Library
- Gathering of Words: Graphic Novels & Comic Books at Central Library
- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling

### August 2025

- Fringe Fest: Mini Slam at Festival Hall
- Coffee & Chat at Memorial Park Library

### September 2025

- Under 30 Write Night at Element Cafe
- Stroll of Poets Festival in Inglewood
- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café

### October 2025

- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Coffee & Chat at Judith Umbrach Library



### **November 2025**

- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café

### **December 2025**

- Calgary Holiday Party at Joyce on 4th
- Coffee & Chat at Fish Creek Library
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café

### **January 2026**

- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling

### **February 2026**

- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café
- Freedom to Read Panel & Banned Books Open Mic at cSpace (Treehouse)

### **March 2026**

- Coffee & Chat at Bowness Library
- Connections Brewing Pub Night at Last Best Brewing & Distilling
- Poetry Parlour at Pachamama Soul Café



# Online Events

## April 2025 to March 2026

### May 2025

- Alberta Literary Awards Finalists Online Reading
- Controversy @ Noon - Why Buy Canadian?

### August 2025

- Controversy @ Noon - Banned Books: What Next?

### October 2025

- Webinar: In a Flash - Writing Very Short Narratives

### November 2025

- Webinar: My Adventures in Book Publicity
- Controversy @ Noon - The Things They Never Told Me About Publication
- Under 30 Write Night

### February 2026

- Controversy @ Noon - Are Children's Writers the Ultimate Freedom Fighters?

### March 2026

- Canada Council for the Arts: Writing a Compelling Grant Application
- Write Night for Youth and Emerging Writers

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## Controversy@ Noon 2025

### Banned Books: What Next?

Tuesday, August 26      12-1 PM MT      Online, Free

Peter Midgley (Moderator), Ira Wells (Panelist), Gail de Vos (Panelist), Malcolm Azania (Panelist)

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## Controversy @ Noon 2025

### The Things They Never Told Me About Publication . . .

Wednesday, November 26      12-1 PM MT      Online, Free

Kate A. Boorman (Moderator), Rebecca Schaeffer (Panelist), Bertrand Bickersteth (Panelist), Matthew J. Trafford (Panelist)

# Rural Alberta Events

## April 2025 to March 2026

### July 2026

- WordsWorth: Ourtime Youth Writing Summer Camp at Red Deer Polytechnic

### August 2025

- Late Summer Writers Retreat at Sanctum Retreat Centre in Caroline

### September 2025

- Meet Me in the Middle at Blindman Brewing in Lacombe

### February 2026

- Regional Writer in Residence Event: Sh\*t That Got Me Published - Author Talk and Q&A with Lee Kvern at Lethbridge Public Library in Lethbridge
- Regional Writer in Residence Event: A Liverpool Echo - A Reading and Q&A with Kimmy Beach at Red Deer Public Library in Red Deer
- Regional Writer in Residence Workshop: Playwriting with Meaghan Archer at Airdrie Public Library in Airdrie
- Regional Writer in Residence Workshop: Early Days in Playwriting with Caleigh Crow

### March 2026

- Regional Writer in Residence Workshop: The Sensory Rewrite with Meaghan Archer at Strathcona County Community Centre in Sherwood Park
- Regional Writer in Residence Event: Read Across Wood Buffalo Day Proclamation Acknowledgement at Keyano College in Fort McMurray
- Drink the Wild Air Youth Writing Retreat at Camp Kannawin in Sylvan Lake



# Alberta Literary Awards Finalists & Winners



**228 Submissions**  
**35 Finalists**  
**13 Winners**

Our juries deliberated on an overwhelming number of submissions to select the following 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 and winners of the 2026 WGA Literary Awards!

## **The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize**

Sponsored by The City of Calgary

**The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is awarded in honour of acclaimed Calgary writer W.O. Mitchell and recognizes literary achievement by Calgary authors. The prize was established in 1996 and is coordinated through a partnership between The City of Calgary and the Writers' Guild of Alberta. The \$5,000 prize is awarded annually for an outstanding book of fiction, poetry, non-fiction, children's literature, or drama published in the preceding year.**

*Precarious: The Lives of Migrant Workers* – Marcello Di Cintio (Biblioasis)

*There's Magic Here Too : A Trans Woman's Guide to Being Monstrous* – Skylar Kay (Frontenac House)

*The Crane* – Monica Kidd (Breakwater Books)

*The Winner of the Prize will be announced on June 17, 2026.*

## **The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize**

Sponsored by Audreys Books, the Edmonton Arts Council, and the City of Edmonton.

**The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize was established by the City Council in 1995 and is administered by the Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA). The prize was renamed in 2011 after the late Robert Kroetsch, who was best known for his Governor General's Award-winning novel, *The Studhorse Man*. Entries are judged by an independent jury recruited by the WGA. The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize primary prize recipient will be awarded \$15,000, and two secondary prizes of \$5,000 will be awarded to the runners up. The Edmonton Book Prize is now part of the Edmonton Arts Prizes.**

**WINNER:** *Stock* – Jennifer Bowering Delisle (Coach House Books)

*Beaver Hills Forever* – Conor Kerr (Arsenal Pulp Press)

*Crohnic* – Jason Purcell (Arsenal Pulp Press)

## Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction

Supported by The Big Book Club

**This prize is awarded to one winner of either novel or collection of short fiction by an Alberta author published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** *Graveyard Shift at the Lemonade Stand* – Tim Bowling (Freehand Books)

*We Are All of Us Left Behind* – Bradley Somer (Freehand Books)

*The Beauty and the Hell of It* – Lynda Williams (Guernica Editions)

## Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

Sponsored by Scott Saxberg

**This prize is awarded for a nonfiction book by an Alberta author published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ *kiskisomitok: ᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭᑭ to remind each and one another* – reuben quinn (Talonbooks)

*Precarious: The Lives of Migrant Workers* – Marcello Di Cintio (Biblioasis)

*At the Limits of Care: Gendered Work and Stories that Matter* – Janna Klostermann (University of Toronto Press)

## R. Ross Annett Award for Children’s Literature

Sponsored by Under the Arch Youth Foundation

**The children’s literature category alternates yearly between picture and chapter books. The 2026 award was presented for a children’s chapter book (fiction or nonfiction) by an Albertan writer, published in 2024 or 2025.**

**WINNER:** *Takedown* – Ali Bryan (DCB Young Readers)

*No Purchase Necessary* – Maria Marianayagam (HarperCollins)

*Beast* – Richard Van Camp (Douglas & McIntyre)

## **Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry**

Sponsored by the Benediktson Family

**This prize is awarded for a collection of poetry by an Alberta author published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** *Beaver Hills Forever* – Conor Kerr (Arsenal Pulp Press)

*Stock* – Jennifer Bowering Delisle (Coach House Books)

*Dog and Moon* – Kelly Shepherd (University of Regina Press)

## **Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama**

Supported by Leslie Greentree and Blaine Newton

**Awarded for a play written by an Alberta author published, produced or staged at a live reading in 2025.**

**WINNER:** *Mermaid Legs* – Beth Graham (Playwrights Canada Press)

*Rise, Red River* – Tara Beagan (Playwrights Canada Press)

*Pochsy IV: Unplugged* – Karen Hines (Coach House Books)

## **Memoir Award**

Sponsored by Vivian Hansen and Jessica Waite

**This prize is awarded for a nonfiction memoir by an Alberta author published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** *The Many Names of Robert Cree* – Robert Cree with Therese Greenwood (ECW Press)

*Food for the Journey* – Elizabeth Haynes (Thistledown Press)

## Short Story Collection Award

Sponsored by Lori Hahnel

**This prize is awarded for a collection of fiction short stories by an Alberta author published in 2024 or 2025.**

**WINNER:** *An Astonishment of Stars* – Kirti Bhadresa (ECW Press)

*Graveyard Shift at the Lemonade Stand* – Tim Bowling (Freehand Books)

*Beauty and the Hell of It* – Lynda Williams (Guernica Editions)

## James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction

Supported by Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy

**This prize is awarded for an outstanding literary short nonfiction piece by an Alberta author on any topic published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** “Luminaries Eat Kale” – Patti Edgar (Queen’s Quarterly)

“Owning Bones” – Jannie Edwards (The Linden Review)

“If I Tell Him” – Rachelle Pinnow (Riddle Fence)

## Howard O’Hagan Award for Short Story

Sponsored by Alexandra Writers’ Centre Society

**This prize is awarded for an outstanding single short story by an Alberta author published in 2025.**

**WINNER:** “Walking Jello” – Barb Howard (The University of British Columbia Magazine)

“Buckshot” – Katherine Koller (The Fiddlehead)

“Redbird” – Stephanie Tamagi (PRISM International)

## **Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award (Unpublished)**

Supported by the Haynes Family in Memory of Dr. Sterling Haynes and  
Melissa Haynes

**This prize is awarded for an outstanding unpublished essay by an  
Alberta author.**

**WINNER:** “Furniture Broken by Boys” – Leslie Greentree

“Two Stupid Idiots” – Ali Bryan

“A Bigger Animal” – Aldona Dziedziejko

## **Writers’ Guild of Alberta Golden Pen Award**

Supported by Aritha van Herk

**The Writers’ Guild of Alberta Golden Pen Award is presented to acknowledge the lifetime achievements of outstanding Alberta writers who have made major contributions to the Alberta writing landscape. The Golden Pen Award winner must be a writer living in Alberta or a writer who has spent a significant portion of their writing life in Alberta, who has produced a distinguished body of work over a longstanding career.**

**WINNER:** Caterina Edwards

Caterina Edwards is the award-winning writer of six books in various genres. Her memoir *Finding Rosa: A Mother with Alzheimer’s, A Daughter in Search of the Past*, a double prize winner in Canada, was published in Italy in 2021 to glowing reviews and much media attention. It was followed by an Italian edition of the novel *The Lion’s Mouth*. Her literary noir, *The Sicilian Wife*, was named a Best Book of 2015 by The National Post. In 2016, Caterina was inducted into the City of Edmonton’s Arts & Culture Hall of Fame.

Caterina has also published novellas, short stories, and plays, appearing in literary magazines and anthologies. She taught post-secondary creative writing for thirty-five years and was three times a writer-in-residence. Caterina also served on the board of the Writers’ Guild of Alberta. She continues to mentor emerging writers through the co-teaching of writing workshops. Her next book, *The Great Antonio*, is the biography of a professional wrestler, who was once the strongest man in the world. Her writing remains her way of turning the unknown into the known, the forgotten into the remembered.

# WGA Supporters

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals throughout the WGA's 2025/2026 fiscal year (April 2025 to March 2026).

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## WGA Funders

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Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Edmonton Arts Council  
Calgary Arts Development  
Canada Council for the Arts  
Edmonton Community Foundation

## Supporters & Sponsors of the 2025 Alberta Literary Awards & Gala

Alexandra Writers' Centre  
Society (AWCS)  
Under the Arch Youth  
Foundation at The Calgary  
Foundation  
The University of Calgary's  
Calgary Distinguished Writers  
Program  
Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy

The Benediktson Family  
The Haynes Family – In  
Memory of Dr. Sterling Haynes  
Scott Saxberg  
Vivian Hansen  
Toby Roch  
Arnold Hansen  
Aritha van Herk

## 2025 Conference Supporters, Sponsors & Donors

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Young Alberta Book Society (YABS)  
Spotlight Editing Services  
LitFest Alberta

# WGGA Supporters

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals throughout the WGA's 2025/2026 fiscal year (April 2025 to March 2026).

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## Youth Program Sponsors & Donors

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Sharon L. Henderson Fund for Young and Emerging Writers  
W.O. Mitchell Scholarship Fund  
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Trudy Grienaue  
Carol Holmes  
Audrey Whitson  
Karen Spafford-Fitz

# WGA Supporters

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals throughout the WGA's 2025/2026 fiscal year (April 2025 to March 2026).

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## Bursary Fund

Olive Yonge  
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Louise Courtemanche  
Thomas Wharton  
Laura Nicol  
Mary Lynn Cloghesy  
Jean Crozier

## WGA Donors

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Dallas Stainthorp  
Merna Summers  
Rea Tarvydas  
Jane Trotter  
BD Wilson  
Christopher Wiseman  
Tony Yep

# WGA Volunteers 2025/2026

Ann Dunbar  
Anne Logan  
Elizabeth Haynes  
Hilary Faktor  
Inga Nelson  
Jacqueline Guest  
Jeananne Kirwin  
Katrina Goetjen  
Kim Miner  
Lavinia Ionescu  
Lori Hahnel  
Marilyn Scott  
Nicole Harrish  
Richard Van Camp  
Skylar Kay



**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2026**

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Cash Flow Statement	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7 - 12

## 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, 2026, 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, 2026, 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**

May 19, 2026  
Edmonton, AB

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
For the year ended March 31, 2026

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Grants (Note 9)	\$ 495,284	\$ 504,197
Programming	101,968	107,621
Donations	65,191	22,476
Membership fees	52,225	42,423
Sponsorships	20,735	19,054
Fundraising	12,927	4,958
Interest	9,577	18,351
Advertising	2,330	1,545
Other	<u>149</u>	<u>97</u>
	<u>760,386</u>	<u>720,722</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Wages and benefits	366,536	356,358
Contract fees	176,625	150,519
Program	161,225	172,029
Office and administration	18,651	11,830
Contributions Edmonton Community Foundation	18,385	4,816
Professional fees	12,043	12,840
Travel	10,924	8,412
Insurance	6,444	7,331
Telephone and utilities	3,650	3,344
Bank charges (Note 7)	3,548	3,354
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,870	1,492
Advertising and promotion	726	1,115
Rent	<u>335</u>	<u>2,192</u>
	<u>780,962</u>	<u>735,632</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER ITEMS</b>	<u>(20,576)</u>	<u>(14,910)</u>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Gain (loss) on disposition of assets	<u>-</u>	<u>(677)</u>
<b>DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u><u>\$ (20,576)</u></u>	<u><u>\$ (15,587)</u></u>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**  
**For the year ended March 31, 2026**

NET ASSETS	<u>Restricted</u> (Note 10)	<u>Invested in</u> <u>capital assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2025</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 165,000	\$ 6,283	\$ 126,850	\$ 298,133	\$ 313,719
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	-	(1,870)	(18,706)	(20,576)	(15,587)
Investment in capital assets	-	1,126	(1,126)	-	-
Prior Period Adjustment	-	-	(535)	(535)	-
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b><u>\$ 165,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 5,539</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 106,483</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 277,022</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 298,132</u></b>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**March 31, 2026**

ASSETS		
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 155,293	\$ 143,208
Accounts receivable (Note 4)	14,667	20,942
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	9,666	5,482
Prepaid expenses	10,787	9,101
Short-term investments (Note 5)	<u>294,135</u>	<u>166,684</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>484,548</b>	<b>345,417</b>
INVESTMENTS (Note 5)	-	178,093
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)	<u>5,402</u>	<u>6,145</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 489,950</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 529,655</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7)	\$ 14,936	\$ 9,824
Deferred contributions (Note 8)	<u>197,992</u>	<u>221,698</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>212,928</u></b>	<b><u>231,522</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Net assets invested in capital assets	5,539	6,283
Restricted net assets (Note 10)	165,000	165,000
Unrestricted net assets	<u>106,483</u>	<u>126,850</u>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>277,022</u></b>	<b><u>298,133</u></b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 489,950</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 529,655</u></b>

Approved by the Directors:

  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Director

**Judith Clark**  
 \_\_\_\_\_, Director

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA  
CASH FLOW STATEMENT  
For the year ended March 31, 2026**

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (20,576)	\$ (15,587)
Add (deduct):		
Charges to income not involving cash		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,870	1,492
Gain on disposal of assets	-	677
Interest reinvested directly to investments	<u>-</u>	<u>139</u>
	(18,706)	(13,279)
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Trade receivables	3,213	(13,685)
Interest receivable	3,062	(146)
Goods and Services Tax recoverable	(4,184)	(2,392)
Prepaid expenses	(1,686)	(5,301)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	5,112	(16,470)
Deferred contributions	(23,706)	46,137
Prior period adjustment	<u>(535)</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(37,430)</u>	<u>(5,136)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of tangible capital assets	(1,126)	(6,876)
Purchase of investments	(472,774)	(406,777)
Receipt of investments	<u>523,415</u>	<u>322,266</u>
	<u>49,515</u>	<u>(91,387)</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH</b>	12,085	(96,523)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>143,208</u>	<u>239,731</u>
<b>CASH, end of year</b>	<u><b>\$ 155,293</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 143,208</b></u>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**March 31, 2026**

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

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

The Writers' Guild of Alberta receives 36 % of its revenue from one grantor (2025 - 34 %).

**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 WGA 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, 2026**

**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>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Externally restricted cash - Casino funds	\$ 922	\$ 42,434
Externally restricted cash - Deferred contributions	<u>197,070</u>	<u>179,264</u>
Externally restricted cash	197,992	221,698
Unrestricted cash	<u>(42,699)</u>	<u>(78,490)</u>
Cash	<u>\$ 155,293</u>	<u>\$ 143,208</u>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**March 31, 2026**

**4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE**

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Trade receivables	\$ 10,799	\$ 14,012
Interest receivable	<u>3,868</u>	<u>6,930</u>
	<u>\$ 14,667</u>	<u>\$ 20,942</u>

**5. INVESTMENTS**

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on April 15, 2026, bearing interest at 4% per annum (4% previous year) (*)	\$ 68,754	\$ 68,754
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on March 25, 2027, bearing interest at 2.70% per annum (2.70% previous year) (*)	49,224	47,930
Redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on April 15, 2026 bearing interest at a rate of 2.45% per annum	35,000	50,000
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate, maturing on June 25, 2026, bearing interest at a rate of 2.40% per annum (3.65% previous year)	89,731	87,071
The Prime-Linked Cashable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on June 28, 2026, bearing variable interest. at RBC Canadian prime rate of 4.45 % per annum ( 4.50% previous year) (*)	51,426	51,426
Non-redeemable Guaranteed Investment Certificate maturing on June 8, 2025, bearing interest at a rate of 4.20% per annum	<u>-</u>	<u>39,596</u>
	<u>\$ 294,135</u>	<u>\$ 344,777</u>

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

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**March 31, 2026**

**6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS**

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	
			<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Computer hardware	\$ 6,938	\$ 2,722	\$ 4,216	\$ 5,929
Furniture and fixtures	<u>10,419</u>	<u>9,233</u>	<u>1,186</u>	<u>216</u>
	<u>\$ 17,357</u>	<u>\$ 11,955</u>	<u>\$ 5,402</u>	<u>\$ 6,145</u>

**7. CREDIT CARDS**

The WGA 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, 2026, was \$ 1,804 (2025 - \$1,444). 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 nil (2025 - \$142); these amounts are included in bank charges. The credit cards are guaranteed by the current and future assets of the WGA.

**8. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS**

	Opening	Funds received	Funds used	Ending
Edmonton Arts Council	\$ 38,000	\$ -	\$ (38,000)	\$ -
Edmonton Community Foundation	10,000	10,000	(10,000)	10,000
Calgary Arts Development Agency	-	89,716	(43,456)	46,260
Casino	42,433	-	(41,512)	921
Donations, sponsorships & other fees	43,242	218,804	(195,272)	66,774
Alberta Foundation-Arts	80,523	242,219	(275,342)	47,400
RBC-Emerging Artists	7,500	-	(7,500)	-
Red Deer Community Foundation	-	3,960	(1,700)	2,260
Northwestern Alberta Foundation	-	1,320	-	1,320
Calgary Foundation	<u>-</u>	<u>34,586</u>	<u>(11,529)</u>	<u>23,057</u>
	<u>\$ 221,698</u>	<u>\$ 600,605</u>	<u>\$ (624,311)</u>	<u>\$ 197,992</u>

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**March 31, 2026**

**9. GRANTS**

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$ 275,342	\$ 242,900
Calgary Arts Development Agency	43,456	43,456
Edmonton Arts Council	38,000	49,194
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis	41,512	50,972
Canada Council for the Arts	42,000	42,000
Calgary Foundation	11,527	-
Edmonton Community Foundation	10,000	28,000
Giftfunds Canada	10,000	-
Royal Bank of Canada Emerging Artists	7,500	15,000
City of Calgary	5,000	4,500
Canada Summer Job	4,741	-
Culture Works Canada	4,506	-
Red Deer Community Foundation	1,700	-
Alberta Community Initiatives Program	-	8,000
Access Copyright Foundation	-	7,125
Rozsa Foundation	-	6,050
Cultural Human Resources Council	-	7,000
	<u>\$ 495,284</u>	<u>\$ 504,197</u>

**10. RESTRICTED NET ASSET**

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's Board of Directors has restricted a sum of \$70,000 (2025 - \$70,000) 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 \$95,000 (2025 - \$95,000) 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 WGA but the income generated from the fund is transferred to the Guild. As at December 31, 2025, the balance in the Foundation's Endowment Fund was \$ 77,553 (2024 - \$63,113.94).

**12. FUND-RAISING EXPENSES AND OTHER**

As required under Section 7(2) of the Regulations of the Charitable Fundraising Act of Alberta, the WGA discloses that it incurred \$ 19,803 of expenses related to fundraising in 2025 (2025 - \$ 765 ) and it received \$79,093 of contributions in 2026 (2025 - \$27,434).

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**March 31, 2026**

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

**Interest rate risk:**

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

The WGA'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.

**WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**March 31, 2026**



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



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WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

2025 - 2026



**Thank you to everyone  
who has played a part  
in enriching and  
celebrating Alberta's  
Literary Community!**