





# Writers' 100 Guild of Alberta

## TABLE OF CONTENTS



ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA	PAGE 02
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	PAGE 03
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	PAGE 04
YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT	PAGE 05
REPORT ON ACTIVITIES	PAGE 07
WGA EVENTS	PAGE 16
WGA LITERARY AWARDS	PAGE 18
IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	PAGE 20
DONORS	PAGE 21
WGA STAFF & VOLUNTEERS	PAGE 22
TREASURER'S REPORT	PAGE 24
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	PAGE 25

## ABOUT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

## MANDATE

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

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

#### VISION STATEMENT

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

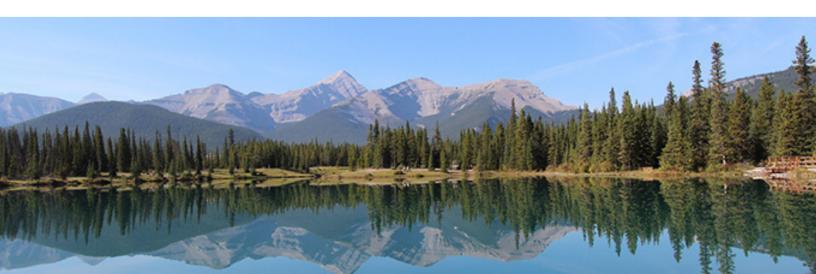
#### MISSION STATEMENT

We support and advocate for all writers and provide opportunities to expand each other's knowledge and connect while enriching Alberta's culture and economy.

#### VALUES GUIDING BELIEFS

#### The WGA believes that:

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



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It will come as no surprise to you that 2021/2022 was a time of challenge as we gauged how programs and events might transition from full Covid measures to an evolving level of hybrid – all while seeking to respect the needs of all members.

Despite the continuing uncertainties of our times, your WGA staff has sought a fair and balanced approach within the resources available, and they're to be commended for our many successes.

This past year has also seen Carol Holmes step down as Executive Director. Carol has provided essential expertise and level-headed management to the Guild for many years. As a sign of her constant professionalism, she continued to offer invaluable input to ensure a smooth transition as Giorgia Severini took over. We're sorry to see Carol step down but excited to move forward with Giorgia, who has very capably taken on the role. Given the limitations the recent years have placed on the Guild, much of our strategic planning had to be set aside. The Board is now completing an update to our strategic plan in order to better focus on our mission and strategies in the coming years.

This focus will include fund development and exploring new fundraising opportunities that will better stabilize WGA finances. It will also include actions to define and improve our diversity efforts – identifying and removing obstacles within our existing programs and finding opportunities for new programs that extend our reach. This is essential if we're to fulfill our mission to truly be a place for all writers at all levels, in all genres and all forms.

In a year of changes, several board members have reached their term limits. Sophie Pinkoski, who has served so well in the Youth Committee role, has competed her maximum term and must step away. Thanks to Sophie for her focus and energy.

Your executive is also losing Olga Krochak, who took on the role of Treasurer, as her term is up. Olga was able to cut through the noise of financial reports to provide a much-appreciated straightforward understanding of our financial situation.

The WGA flourishes thanks to the writing communities throughout the province – the wealth of information and the energetic people interested in learning more about the craft of writing, and those keen to give back. I encourage all members to consider putting their names forward to serve on the Board, with particular consideration to the board positions that have opened up. It is work, but it is also rewarding to be on the cutting edge of the WGA's journey.

Thanks to my fellow members of the Board of Directors. Your commitment and support were very much appreciated. Special thanks to Carol Parchewsky, who, having completed her term as Past President, will be leaving the Board this year. Her skill, perception, and willingness to step up for any challenge made the year so much more successful (and my work so much easier).

It has been a true privilege and honour to serve as your president over the last year. I wish you success in all of your writing endeavours.

Blaine Newton President

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I started as the Writers' Guild of Alberta's Executive Director on April 1, the start of our new fiscal year, and it is an honour to lead this remarkable organization. Alberta writers have proven their resilience during the pandemic by continuing to take part in our programs, sharing their knowledge with the community, and creating literary works that provide beauty, comfort, and challenge.

I want to express my gratitude, as well as gratitude on behalf of the Alberta literary community, to my predecessor, Carol Holmes. Her leadership brought the WGA to where it is today, with its multitude of programs serving a variety of writers' needs and stability through various economic downturns. She has been helping during the transition by working on finalizing several endowment funds, which will help further with the organization's long-term stability.

In April, we welcomed a new staff member, Ashley Mann, to step into my previous role as Programs and Operations Manager. Sadie MacGillivray is continuing as Program Assistant on an annual basis. It has been a privilege to start off as Executive Director with a remarkably strong staff team, which was further strengthened with Hadeel Othman as Summer Programs Assistant during the summer months. The staff has been coming up with creative ideas for advancing WGA programs, services, and operations and putting in the work to make them realities, as we can see in our past year's activities.

During the 2021/2022 year, we continued to provide programs primarily online, with careful

ventures into in-person programs, such as our outdoor holiday parties.

We continued activities developed during the pandemic, such as our online reading series and online writing retreat. Plus, we started a new program, the virtual writer in residence, which offered consultations to writers anywhere in Alberta. Some of our programs have started to return to in-person with safety considerations, such as our Alberta Literary Awards Gala, the Mentorship Program public reading, and WordsWorth summer youth writing camp, which has also moved from its previous venue of Kamp Kiwanis to Red Deer Polytechnic. We also experimented with a hybrid model for our 2022 Annual Conference: Shifting Creative Gears, which allowed participants to attend in-person activities in their communities while also offering a variety of online activities. Please have a look at our Report on Activities for the full details on the past year's programs and services.

As we move into the next year, we are taking into account that, after over two years of primarily online programming, many of us are suffering from screen fatigue, but while COVID cases remain high, many are also ambivalent about returning to prepandemic levels of in-person activity. We are aware that writers who are unable to attend in-person programs for a variety of reasons, including disability, are concerned about losing accessible programs as activities return to in-person. Thus we are exploring how we can offer a combination of

#### PAGE 05

in-person, online, and hybrid programs that will be inclusive and accessible to all Alberta writers.

As we head into the year following the AGM,
Dorothy Bentley will be leaving her position as
Program Coordinator (Southern Alberta Office,
Calgary) to pursue exciting writing opportunities
that have come her way. Dee had a knack for
bringing in excellent presenters for the events she
organized, as well as coming up with creative event
formats like the online writing retreat, and we will
miss her.

I also want to acknowledge others who have helped the WGA during the past year. Thank you to our temporary contractors Catherine Little for her work on our financials and Lisa Mulrooney for her work on sponsorship development. We are also grateful to the volunteers of our recent casino, the first one we were able to hold since 2019, which is a significant source of revenue. Longtime member Vivian Hansen has stepped in after Carol Parchewsky as the WGA rep on the Calgary Distinguished Writers Program's steering committee, and I am thrilled to have her presence on this important program.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the outgoing and incumbent members of the board of directors. I couldn't ask for a more dedicated and capable board for my first months as Executive Director, and I am looking forward to seeing who steps into the board next. The ongoing dedication of the WGA membership is sure to make the years ahead enjoyable and full of excellent writing.

Giorgia Severini Executive Director



## YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

When I returned to Edmonton after finishing my publishing degree in 2017, I wanted to find a way to take what I had learned and make a difference in the literary community. I eventually found my way to the WGA, where they found me a place on the board as Youth Representative. For the past two terms, this platform has allowed me to expand my leadership skills and introduce many young writers like myself to the Guild. My goal was to offer more networking opportunities for writers seeking the next step in their writing process. Now that my final term on the board is ending, I look forward to passing on my role to the following young writer who can bring exciting new opportunities for the next generation of writers. I am extremely grateful for everything the Writers' Guild has given me, and I will continue participating in the community.

The WGA board has been working hard to prepare the new strategic plan in the past few months. We have been reviewing and identifying the Youth Committee's role in the guild and, most importantly, how it can evolve in the future. I have brought my thoughts forward on how young writers can be integrated into the community and ultimately look forward to seeing how an updated committee will implement this. Most significantly, we have identified the importance of strong communication between staff and the committee to bring ideas to reality. We hope to move the youth committee into a less operational role. By giving the staff the operational aspects of the committee, the committee members can make better use of their time, brainstorming new ideas for regular programming without the stress of coordinating it themselves.

As a Youth Write alumni, I know very well how formative the WGA's summer camp can be. This is where lasting relationships are formed between like-minded writers in a non-judgemental creative space. It is my hope that Youth Write alums will continue to be prioritized and actively brought into the fold in a leadership capacity. They are already building their own community themselves. It only makes sense to make them feel welcome in the WGA community at large. Doing so may involve encouraging them to submit to WestWord, and building a space within the magazine specifically for alums to share the impact that belonging to the Youth Write community has had on their lives and writing careers. Looking forward, ensuring the Youth Writers are made aware of the opportunities the WGA can give them beyond the writers' camp will better bring them into the fold.

I encourage any young writer under 30 exploring their options for their literary career to consider taking on a role either on the committee or putting themselves forward for the board Youth Representative position. The Alberta youth deserve a voice within the literary community. It's just a matter of stepping up and being heard.

Sophie Pinkoski Member at Large (Youth Rep)

PAGE 07

### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

#### <u>Advocacy</u>

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 Cultural Human Resources Council. We work collaboratively with Calgary's Wordfest, the Edmonton Stroll of Poets, Edmonton's Nonfiction festival (LitFest), as well as writing organizations across the country.

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

#### Annual Conference

The WGA 2022 Conference: Shifting Creative Gears, took place on June 3 – 5, 2022. The focus of the conference was a post-COVID world wherein perhaps we won't return to normal, but instead take the things we learned during the pandemic to create a new vision of the literary world for the future.

The conference took a hybrid format for this year by offering online programming on all three days plus select in-person activities in four Alberta hubs. Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, and Fort McMurray each held an in-person writing workshop, a networking activity, and a group writing critique session on Saturday, June 4.

Online sessions included a How to Speak with Confidence in a Borderless World workshop, panel on Importance of Short Works, Lunch and Online Connection Café: Navigating the Writer's Life Alongside Familial Relationships, and an Online Connection Café: Ask the Historians, among other events and workshops.

Altogether, the conference had 86 participants.

All registrants received access to the recorded sessions through YouTube for a limited time following the conference.

Some of the special guests and keynote speakers included:

- Ivan Coyote (Care Of: Letters, Connections and Cures)
- Alison MacLeod (Tenderness)
- Mariko Tamaki (Cold)
- Amanda Leduc (The Centaur's Wife)
- Farah Heron (Accidentally Engaged)
- Joan Marie Galat (Mortimer: Rat Race to Space)
- Eric Walters (On the Line)
- Waubgeshig Rice (Moon of the Crusted Snow)



#### Alberta Literary Awards and Gala

Our Alberta Literary Awards currently presents \$12,600 in prizes for the following awards:

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

The WGA was grateful to hold the 2022 awards in person this year at the Holiday Inn Express Downtown in Edmonton on Saturday June 11, 2022. Sarah Hoyles delivered the keynote. Capacity at the event was limited to one hundred people to keep the event as safe as possible.

See page 18 for this year's winners and finalists.



#### Horizons Writers Circle

The Horizons Writers Circle was launched in June 2021 with Luciana Erregue-Sacch as coordinator. The program is a continuation



of the former WGA project, Borderlines, that began in 2012. The Horizon Writers Circle has secured funding from the Edmonton Community Foundation to continue for our 2022-2023 cycle, with Luciana returning as coordinator. The program runs for six months and is fully subsidized, making it cost-free for successful applicants.

Through the Horizons Writers Circle, the WGA is working to combat the racism and discrimination that writers from the BIPOC, Indigenous, and other vulnerable communities face when trying to break into the literary industry. The Horizons Writers Circle initiates an inclusive dialogue that celebrates our diversity and contributes to a deeper understanding of one another. The program achieves this by pairing underrepresented writers with established writers from the same form/genre who can mentor and help them hone their craft. The Horizons Writers Circle also uplifts these new writers through workshops, discussions, networking, public reading opportunities, industry events, and other activities designed to introduce them to the literary scene and bolster their position as contributing members of the literary community.

This year's participating writers and mentors will be chosen by October 2022.

Kemosa Scholarship PAGE 09

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, and Nicole Harrish, were the 2022 judges. They selected the three finalists (Lareina Abbott, Amber Boyd, Apryl Gladue) as well as honourable mentions (Sandra Lamouche, Shirley Cire).

#### WGA Podcast Channel

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 Online Reading Series, can be accessed at any time through our podcast channel. Within the past year the podcast channel has 2,683 plays. As the pandemic recedes, this channel will continue to be updated to give members the chance to revisit or explore any of our former events or programs.



#### Canadian Literature Centre (CLC)

The mission of the CLC is to foster knowledge, reading, and appreciation of Canadian literatures, in English and in French, with a special focus on Indigenous, minority, and marginalized writing. We partnered with the CLC on two free masterclasses featuring Jael Richardson and Ifeoma Chinwuba. Both classes were held virtually and had a combined attendance of 117 people.

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

#### **Events and Workshops**

The WGA usually hosts monthly events which are generally free to members and available to non-members for a small fee in both Edmonton and Calgary. Due to COVID-19, the WGA choose to continue to host these professional development presentations and workshops online. The online format has helped engage more members and communities. However, as COVID-19 becomes less of a public concern, some of the events will be held in-person where appropriate in the future.

For a complete list of our past year's events, see page 16.

#### 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.

In the 2021/2022 year, we had 36 members take advantage of this service and 11 authors were hired as readers to give their feedback.

#### <u>Mentorship Program</u>

2022 marks the eleventh year for the Mentorship program, which pairs emerging writers with established Alberta authors to develop the emerging writer's literary work, and also to provide support and encouragement. Sponsored by the RBC Foundation, this program has seen many of its participants grow and succeed as published authors.

This year's participants are:

- Brenda Gunn worked with mentor J. Jill Robinson
- Jessica Coles worked with mentor Jannie Edwards
- Laura Wershler worked with mentor Vivian Hansen
- Lisa Murphy Lamb worked with mentor Merna Summers
- Medgine Mathurin worked with mentor Erina Harris
- Morgan Dick worked with mentor Vern Thiessen
- Sabrina Haslimeier worked with mentor Susie Moloney
- Wonai Masvingise worked with mentor Jacqueline Guest

The mentorship program runs for four months. This year's celebration of this program, complete with the emerging writers reading from their work, returned to in-person on May 7, 2022, at the Varscona Hotel in Edmonton.

#### <u>Partnerships</u>

The WGA continued the following major ongoing partnerships in 2021/2022: The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize, and administration for the Edmonton Stroll of Poets.

Both The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize and The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize continue to be successful. The Calgary prize received 47 entries and the Edmonton prize received 33.

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 (Glen Huser, Burning the Night, NeWest Press) was announced during our Alberta Literary Awards Gala on June 11, 2022 in Edmonton. The winner of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, Jaspreet Singh for My Mother, My Translator (Vehicule Press), was announced during The Calgary Awards on June 15, 2022.

The Edmonton Stroll of Poets Society has been in partnership with the WGA for many years. The WGA continues to provide administrative support to run a very successful organization. The Edmonton Stroll of Poets has over 100 active members, holds over 20 readings in a year, and also publishes a yearly anthology. Due to the COVID pandemic, the Stroll's reading series moved online and ran biweekly through the 2021-2022 season, but will be returning to biweekly in-person readings this fall.

The WGA has successfully partnered on events and programs with the Canadian Literature Centre, Wordfest, Calgary Memorial Public Library, the Book Publishers Association of Alberta, WordBridge: Lethbridge Writing Conference, Spruce Grove Public Library, Calgary's Single Onion Reading Series, the Literary Translators Association of Canada, and the Alexandra Writers' Centre Society.

The WGA continues its annual partnership with Frontier College to present the Scotiabank Giller Light Bash in Calgary. The WGA Calgary office takes a leadership role on the planning and execution of this large-scale event. Each year, Giller Light Bash events are held across Canada on the evening of the Scotiabank Giller Prize Gala, but like most events in 2021-2022, the Giller Light Bash took place virtually on November 8, 2021. It was still a great opportunity to connect with fellow book lovers while watching the Scotiabank Giller Prize broadcast and raising funds for this worthwhile cause.

#### **WestWord**

WestWord Magazine is distributed quarterly to over 1100 members and stakeholders, with Raymond Gariépy as editor. The magazine continues to include articles on the craft, business, and life of writing, regular features such as a column on legal natters for writers, as well as community and member news. WestWord is available in both print and electronic editions, and is currently distributed to 600 members by post, and 440 by email.

#### $\underline{WriteClick}$

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

#### **Retreats**

Due to the continued presence of COVID-19, this year's retreat, Focus Your Creativity, was also held online from January 14-16, 2022. Participants met the Virtual Writer in Residence, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, for a virtual fireside chat. There was also a Saturday's fireside visit with a focus on improving your writing, guided by our host and partner from the Write-In, Savanna Harvey.

Participants started each day with an inspiring talk, they could view at their leisure, on how to focus your creativity. These were hosted by one of our two mentors: Golden Pen recipient Vivian Hansen; and Dustin Archibald. There was also a live afternoon focus session with Dustin on developing characters and a live guided writing session with Vivian called, Six Lines: Poetry and Fiction as Soulmates on Sunday.

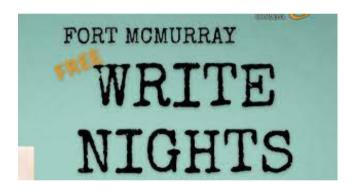


#### RURAL AND REMOTE OUTREACH

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

#### Fort McMurray Write Nights

The Writers' Guild of Alberta is pleased to partner with the Wood Buffalo Regional Library (WBRL) to return to in-person programming for writers in the Wood Buffalo Region. Alisa Caswell will facilitate the Write Nights, which are casual writing and discussion sessions suitable for adult writers of all levels. They are held on Wednesday evenings once a month and they are free.



## CULTURE DAYS

Alberta Culture Days Workshops

Alberta Culture Days is an opportunity for communities across Alberta to celebrate arts and culture through local events and activities. For Alberta Culture Days, the WGA offered three free writing workshops held over zoom on September 25, 2021. The workshops included:

- John O'Neil Short Fiction: Dialogue and Description
- Joan Crate The Starting Point and Beyond
- Dina Del Bucchia Oh You're Funny: Writing with Humour

The WGA had 50 participants registered in these workshops for 2021.



PAGE 13

## **ONLINE PROGRAMMING**

#### <u>Digital Strategies</u>

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic forced all of the WGA programming to an online format. As the pandemic has eroded, in-person events have resumed this year. However, online programming allowed for a greater number and variety of participants and hosts at our events. As we transition back to in-person events, our online programming will continue in a way that is most accessible to the community.

#### **Webinars**

The Get Publishing Webinar Series was launched in 2016 after the Get Publishing Communications Society dissolved and gifted its brand to the WGA. The webinars allow more accessibility to presentations about the writing craft and business for members who are unable to attend our events in Edmonton and Calgary. They also allow us to more easily bring in presenters from outside Alberta, thus increasing the diversity of voices in our programs.

The webinar program featured in the past year were:

- Writer Beware: Writing Scams and How to Avoid Them
- AFA Grant Writing Sessions

#### <u>Virtual Readings with the Finalists</u>

This reading series was originally created in 2020 to promote the work of the finalists as well as promote the Alberta Literary Awards. As a lead up to the 2022 Alberta Literary Awards, the WGA once again put on several virtual readings with some of the finalists of the Alberta Literary Awards and the Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize.

As well, The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Readings were on April 28,2022. Each event consisted of awards finalists reading from their work and discussing it with the event host.

#### Online Reading and Interview Series

The Online Reading Series began due to the pandemic in 2020 and continued into 2021. This program allows authors who had their book release events canceled to present their work to the online community through reading, discussion, and interviews. In 2022, as COVID-19 became more manageable and events began to resume, the Online Reading series continued thanks to funding by Read Alberta. Now, the series focuses on two authors interviewing each other, with one author, who has an upcoming work, doing a reading. These interviews are done exclusively through Zoom and are recorded for release at a later time. The most recent interview was between authors Farzana Doctor and Kelly Kaur.



#### Online Workshops

Due to the continuance of COVID-19, as well as the success of the online workshops in 2020 and 2021, the WGA hosted multiple virtual workshops. The workshops were:

- How to write Engaging Fiction
- Crafting Comedy Unlocking Your Inner Comedian
- SMASH, BANG! A Workshop About Eliminating Writers Block
- Yoga & Writing Workshop Series with Lisa Tierney and Samantha Warwick
- Storytelling Through Comics with Teresa Wong
- Alberta Culture Days Free Workshops
- When Words Collide festival: Writing Sword Fight Scenes
- Everyday Magic: Writing Speculative Fiction.



#### <u>Virtual Writer in Residence</u>

Gail Anderson-Dargatz was chosen as the new WGA 2022 Virtual Writer-in-Residence. Gail is the writer of The Cure for Death by Lightning and A Recipe for Bees, both finalists for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, among other awards.

The Virtual Writer-in-Residence program ran from January to the end of May. WGA Members were invited to request appointments with the Virtual Writer-in-Residence. Gail booked 46 sessions with writers during this time, several were repeat sessions. During each session, writers presented their ongoing project to the Virtual Writer-in-Residence for her thoughts and feedback. Following the session, Gail sent the writer her notes on their project with links and other resources they can use to bring their writing up to the next level. Most writers chose to meet on Zoom.



### YOUTH WRITING RESIDENCIES

The WGA's youth writing residencies 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. Due to COVID-19, Drink the Wild Air was once again held online, but with a few added precautions, we were able to run WordsWorth in person. CircuitTree was not run this year. Colin Matty once again served as Camp Director for Drink the Wild Air and WordsWorth.

#### Drink the Wild Air



Drink the Wild Air is a whirlwind weekend of creativity unleashed for youth aged 11-19. Participants once again came together online to take workshops with working professionals, play games, and share stories, songs, poems, and art. Drink the Wild Air had 13 registrants and took place March 18 for orientation, and March 19-20, 2022, for two full days of creative fun. The 2022 Team consisted of Colin Matty, Sadie MacGillivray, and Nisha Patel.

#### WordsWorth

WordsWorth is a week-long sleepover creative writing residency



for young writers who believe in the power of words. Though typically held near Bragg Creek at Kamp Kiwanis, this year's programming was held in Red Deer at Red Deer Polytechnic (formerly Red Deer College). Guided by established and respected artist-instructors, participants experienced writing through a variety of forms.

But the experiences didn't begin and end with the classes; young writers came together to celebrate writing through friendships, campfires, concerts, open mic sessions, hikes, free-writing time, and semi-competitive games. The program is for youth aged 11-19. In order to get back into the swing of in-person youth programming, only two weeks were offered, rather than three like in previous years. The first week ran from July 10-15th and was for ages 11-14. The second week ran from July 17-22 and was for ages 15-19. WordsWorth attracted a total of 37 participants: 14 participants for the first week and 23 participants for the second week.

The 2022 staff consisted of Colin Matty as the Camp Director; Henry Greyson, Sadie MacGillivray, and Jess Tollestrup as the Creative Team; as well as Kim Firmston, Johnny MacRae, Marc Herman Lynch, Omar Ramadan, David Wilson, Marin Perlette, Shima Robinson, and Lindsey Walker as the instructors.

#### The workshops were:

- Editing Word-Force Style with Kim Firmston
- A Mighty Matter of Legend: How to Write Like A Hobbit with Johnny MacRae
- Uncanning the Uncanny: Weird Ain't Even the Half of It with Marc Herman Lynch
- Writing the Detective with Omar Ramadan
- The Writer's Voice with David Wilson
- Drawing the Script with Marin Perlette
- Poetry Writing and Performance with Shima Robinson
- Every song has a story: Unique voices, universal reach with Lindsey Walker

## **WGA EVENTS**

Live by the Word: Titilope Sonuga on the

Business of Poetry:

September 14, 2021

Reading, interview, and Q&A with Carrie

Armstrong:

September 18, 2021

Alberta Culture Days Free Workshops:

September 25, 2021

CLC Masterclass with Ifeoma Chinwuba:

October 28, 2021

Online Reading Series: Micheline Maylor: The Bad

Wife

November 5, 2021

The WGA and Horizons Writers Circle Present:

Literary Festivals 101:

November 18, 2021

Workshop: Storytelling Through Comics with

Teresa Won:

November 20, 2021

Annual General Meeting:

November 22, 2021

Merry Calgary Christmas in the Country:

December 4, 2021

Edmonton Outdoor Holiday Party:

December 4, 2021

The WGA, LTAC and Horizons Writers Circle

Present: Translation 101:

January 18, 2022

WGA 2022 Retreat: Focus your Creativity:

January 14-16, 2022

Wolf Moon Guided Write Night with Samantha

Warwick:

January 17, 2022

CLC Masterclass with Jael Richardson:

January 19, 2022

Single Onion #180 Reading Series:

January 20, 2022

WGA Member Night: New Fiction with Shelf Life

Books:

January 27, 2022

AFA Grant Writing Tips in Bite Size Pieces:

February 10 -11, 2022

Single Onion #181 Reading Series:

February 17, 2022

WGA Freedom to Read, Panel Discussion:

February 24, 2022

WGA & Yoga Santosha: Yoga & Writing

Workshop Series with Lisa Tierney and

Samantha Warwick:

February 26, March 5, and March 12, 2022

Horizons Writers Circle Public Reading:

March 1, 2022

Single Onion #182 Reading Series:

March 17, 2022

SMASH, BANG! - A workshop About Eliminating

Writers Block:

March 20, 2022

Writer Beware: Writing Scams and How to Avoid

Them:

March 26, 2022

The WGA and Horizons Writers Circle Present:

Editing 101:

April 7, 2022

We Need to Talk About Cyrpto:

April 13, 2022

2022 Alberta Literary Awards -Readings with the

Finalists:

April 20-21, 2022

Write for Life: Creative Visioning:

April 23, 2022

City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize finalist

readings:

April 28, 2022

Write for Life: Transitioning from Writer to

Author:

April 30, 2022

Writer for Life: Memoir:

May 7, 2022

2022 Mentorship Program Public Reading and

Reception:

May 7, 2022

WGA Annual Conference: Shifting Creative

Gears:

June 3-5, 2022

How to Write Engaging Fiction:

June 20, 2022

Writing Cinematic Scenes in Fiction:

July 23, 2022

Summer Grant Writing Sessions:

August 3-4, 2022

Calgary Write- In:

August 9, 23, September 8, 20, 2022

When Words Collide festival: Writing Sword

Fight Scenes:

August 13, 2022

Everyday Magic: Writing Speculative Fiction:

August 13, 2022

Authors on Authors: "What Kind of Writer Are

You?" with Bertrand Bickersteth and Makda

Mulatu:

August 24, 2022

Authors on Authors: "Writing That First Novel"

with Farzana Doctor and Kelly Kaur:

August 31,2022

Single Onion Reading Series #186:

September 15, 2022

### **WGA LITERARY AWARDS**

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists!

### Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction (fiction book)

#### Winner:

 Theresa Shea for The Shade Tree (Guernica Editions)

#### Finalists:

- Premme Mohamed for The Annual Migration of Clouds (ECW Press)
- P.J. Vernon for Bath Haus (Doubleday, c/o Penguin Random House Canada)

#### Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

(nonfiction book)

#### Winner:

 Omar Mouallem for Praying to the West: How Muslims Shaped the Americas (Simon &Shuster)

#### Finalists:

- Jordan Abel for *Nishga* (Penguin Random House Canada)
- Julie Sedivy for Memory Speaks: On Losing and Reclaiming Language and Self (Harvard University Press)

#### Stephan G. Stephannson Award for Poetry

(poetry book)

#### Winner:

• Rayanne Haines for Tell the birds your body is not a gun (Frontenac House)

#### Finalists:

- Tyler Engström for Think of How Old We Could Get (Frontenac House)
- ky Perraun for Miraculous Sickness (At Bay Press)

## R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature Winner:

 Lorna Schultz Nicholson for When You Least Expect It (Red Deer Press)

#### Finalists:

- Larry Loyie with Constance Brissenden for Wild Waters-Inside a Voyageur's World (Indigenous Education Press)
- Meagan Mahoney for Meranda and the Legend of the Lake (Owlkids Books)

#### **Short Story Collection Award**

#### Winner:

- Lori Hahnel for Vermin (Enfield &Wizenty) Finalists:
- Norma Dunning for Tainna (Douglas & McIntyre)
- Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike for Double Wahala, Double Trouble (Griots Lounge Publishing Canada)

#### Nonfiction Memoir Award

#### Winner:

 Trina Moyles for Lookout: Love, Solitude, and Searching for Wildfire in the Boreal Forest (Random House Canada)

#### Finalists:

- Asley Bristowe for My Own Blood (Random House Canada)
- Omar Mouallem for Praying to the West: How Muslims Shaped the Americas (Simon & Schuster)

#### Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story

(published short story)

#### Winner:

 Rod Moody-Corbett for "Malady Head" (Soft Punk Magazine)

#### Finalists:

- C.J. Lavigne for "Cenotaph" (Augur Magazine)
- Ben Lof for "Naked States" (The Malahat Review)

#### James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction

(published short nonfiction)

#### Winner:

• Lisa Martin for "The Wounded Man" (The New Quarterly)

#### Finalists:

- Omar Mouallem for "How a McDonald's Knockoff Became the Immigrant Dream" (VICE Magazine)
- Julie Sedivy for "Defamiliarizing the Mother Tongue: On Immigration's Impact on Learning and Losing Language" (Literary Hub)

#### Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama

(published or produced play)

#### Winner:

- David van Belle for Love is Magic Finalists:
- Dale Lee Kwong for Ai Yah! Chop Suey
- Eugene Stickland for Closer and Closer Apart (Durville UpRoute Books)



## **Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award** (unpublished essay)

#### Winner:

- Jessica Waite for "In Defense of Grief" Finalists:
- Katherine Abbas for "Inglorious Bastards"
- Ali Bryan for Bad Extra

#### Golden Pen Award (lifetime achievement)

• Chris Wiseman





#### PAGE 20

## IMPORTANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta gratefully acknowledges the funding support of the following organizations and individuals in 2021/2022:

#### **GRANTORS**

- Access Copyright Foundation
- Alberta Culture
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Calgary Arts Development
- Canada Council for the Arts
- Edmonton Arts Council
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Wood Buffalo Arts Council (Conference)

#### **SUPPORTERS**

- Pandemic University (Kemosa Scholarship)
- Jeananne Kathol Kirwin, LLP (Kemosa
- · Scholarship)
- Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy (James H.
- Gray Award for Short Nonfiction)
- Aritha van Herk (Golden Pen Award)
- The Haynes Family In Memory of Dr.
   Sterling Haynes (Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize)
- Vivian Hansen (Memoir Award)

#### **FOUNDATIONS**

- ArtsVest (Mentorship Program)
- Amber Webb-Bowerman Memorial Foundation (WordsWorth/CircuitTree)
- The Calgary Foundation (Own Voices Alberta)
- RBC Foundation (Mentorship Program)
- Rozsa Foundation (Conference)
- Under the Arch Youth Foundation at The Calgary Foundation (R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature)

#### **SPONSORS**

- Access Copyright (Conference)
- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story & Own Voices Alberta)
- Alberta Views (Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama)
- Audreys Books (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- Stephan V. Benediktson (Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry)
- The City of Calgary (The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize)
- The City of Edmonton (The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- Priority Printing (Conference)
- Nhung Tran-Davies (Kemosa Scholarship)
- Young Alberta Book Society (Conference)

### **DONORS**

Thank you to all of our donors.

Alberta Magazine Diane Armstrong Karen Spafford-Fitz Richard and Beatrice Kerr **Publishers Association** Diane Robitelle Rona Altrows Kathy Seifert Ali Brvan Dolly Dennis Rosza Foundation Kerry McKinnon Alice Major Elaine Morin Kerry Mitchell Ruth DyckFehderau Allison Kydd Eleanor Byers Krystyna Fedosejevs Sandy Romanow Amber Hayward Elizabeth Millham L. Deborah Sword Shaun Hunter Ann Campbell Eric Bryer Leslie Greentree Sheila Birmingham Lisa Cook Ann Goldblatt Estate of Mary Thompson Shirley Serviss Susan Glasier Anne Logan Faye Holt Lisa Murphy Arts Council Wood Buffalo Fran Kimmel Lori D. Roadhouse Taryn Pawluk Asma Faizi Frank O'Keeffe Lori Hahnel Ted Bishop Astrid Blodgett Greg Hickmore Margaret Macpherson The Haynes Family - In Audrey Seehagen Hazel Hutchins Marilyn Letts Memory of Dr. Sterling Audrey Whitson Holly Quan Marjorie Zelent Haynes **AWCS Youth** In memory of Gonda Marlene Kadar The John Patrick Gillese Barb Howard Bosscher Bres on behalf Marlvn Wall Fund at Edmonton Beth Everest Community Foundation of the University of Mary Anne King Betty Jane Hegerat Manitoba, Partnerships & Mary Bell Memorial Trudy Grienauer Blaine Newton Fund Innovation Office Wendy Powell Brenda Gunn Jacqueline Guest Merna Summers WGA Board of Directors Brian Hitchon Jane Trotter Micheline Maylor William Masuak Mireille Smith Bruce Hunter Janice Lore Young Alberta Book Mohamed Osman Calgary Public Library Janice McCrum Society Canadian Literature Jean Crozier Mona Bacon Jennifer Cross Monica Walker Centre Carol Holmes Jennifer Keane-Mackinnon Nancy Jackle Carol Parchewsky Jill Foreman Nora Gould Charlotte Corothers Jim Conlev Okechukwu Nnamchi Cheryl Schenk Jo-Ann Kolmes Olga Krochak Sulkin Chris Wiseman Joan Marie Galat Owl's Nest Books Dan Martin Joan McMillan Pamela Clark Darcy Tamayose Joanne Morcom Patricia Atchison Johanna Wishart Darlene Quaife Patsy Wiebe Johanne Yakula David Peyto Peter Midgley Deborah and Steve John Stephens Prairie Journal Leighton Julie Sedivy Rachelle Pinnow Dennis Lee Karen Farkas Raymond Gariepy

## **WGA STAFF & VOLUNTEERS**

#### **WGA STAFF**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Giorgia Severini

PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR Ashley Mann

PROGRAM AND EVENTS COORDINATOR
Jason Norman

PROGRAM COORDINATOR (SOUTH ALBERTA OFFICE)

Dorothy Bentley

COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR Ellen Kartz

MEMBER SERVICES COORDINATOR Mike Maguire

PROJECT ASSISTANT Sadie MacGillivray

SUMMER PROGRAMS ASSISTANT Hadeel Othman

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WORDSWORTH DIRECTOR Colin Matty

HORIZONS WRITERS CIRCLE COORDINATOR Luciana Erregue-Sacchi

BOOKKEEPER Catherine Little

SPONSORSHIP COORDINATOR Lisa Mulrooney







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YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

YOUTH MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Kaja Pedersen Sophie Toro

Sophie Pinkoski (Chair)

### TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report the completion of my first year on this board and as a treasurer, having joined in January 2022, and completing a ninemonth service. The WGA has been through many changes in these months. Carol Holmes has retired, and we welcomed a new Executive Director, Giorgia Severini.

The board of directors has also undertaken a major task in developing and approving a new strategic plan and reviewed and approved the audited financial statements. The auditors advised a few deferrals of grants that the staff and board approved. During this time, we have also approved a balanced budget for 2022-23. At the same time, we maintain a healthy reserve fund to last us for at least 3 three months in an emergency.

As we slowly emerge from the pandemic and start running our programs and events, I encourage members and their families to support the organization with donations, as we board members do. The WGA conference and gala were successful while at the same time keeping our members safe.

We have reviewed our endowment funds and concluded that we have a good variety. Staff is currently working with donors to establish several funds that will provide ongoing program support. We have also established a fund to support an Indigenous writing award and are in the process of forming an advisory committee.

As I finish the first year of my first term, I will not be continuing as a treasurer for family reasons. But I encourage anyone who wishes to be on the board to undertake this important and interesting executive position.

Olga Krochak Sulkin Treasurer



#### WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### March 31, 2022

#### **INDEX**

	Page
Independent Auditor's Report	
Statement of Operations	3
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	4
Statement of Financial Position	5
Cash Flow Statement	6
Notes to Financial Statements	7 - 12



Pierre Bergeron CPA,CGA\* Simon Belzile CPA,CGA\* Mathieu Lepage CPA,CGA\*

\* Professional Corporation

#### 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, 2022, 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, 2022, 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.

Zuguan \$ 60-

Bergeron & Co. Chartered Professional Accountants

August 10, 2022 Edmonton, AB

#### WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS For the year ended March 31, 2022

DEVENIUE	2022	2021
REVENUES	e 404.271	¢ 470.052
Grants (Note 11)	\$ 484,371	\$ 479,053
Programming	66,075	50,692
Membership fees	39,318	40,543
Fundraising	24,915	1,559
Donations	24,904	19,712
Sponsorships	20,700	21,000
Advertising	1,665	1,065
Interest	618	468
Other		2,615
	662,566	616,707
EXPENSES		
Wages and benefits	295,903	278,704
Contract fees	175,235	101,782
Program	98,757	58,182
Contributions Edmonton Community Foundation	16,039	4,900
Office and administration	11,793	6,970
Professional fees	11,537	8,392
Insurance	5,858	4,863
Bad debts	3,569	-
Telephone and utilities	3,046	4,013
Bank charges (Note 7)	2,119	6,793
Rent	1,951	3,591
Amortization of tangible capital assets	1,074	1,279
Advertising and promotion	83	1,143
	626,964	480,612
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER		
EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER ITEMS	35,602	136,095
EXTENSES BEFORE OTTER TEMS	33,002	130,073
OTHER		
Government assistance - loan forgiveness (Note 10)		10,000
Government assistance - interest benefit (Note 10)	1,372	3,119
	1,372	13,119
	1,5/2	
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$36,974	\$ <u>149,214</u>

#### WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS For the year ended March 31, 2022

NET ASSETS		estricted Note 12)	/45.55	vested in oital assets	<u>Uı</u>	nrestricted		Total 2022		Total 2021
Balance, beginning of year	\$	165,000	\$	3,149	\$	101,137	\$	269,286	\$	120,072
Excess of revenues over expenses		-		(1,074)		38,048		36,974		149,214
Investment in capital assets			_	1,126	-	(1,126)	_			
Balance, end of year	<b>S_</b>	165,000	\$	3,201	\$	138,059	\$_	306,260	<b>S_</b>	269,286

#### WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION March 31, 2022

ASSETS		
CURRENT	2022	<u>2021</u>
Cash (Note 3) Accounts receivable (Note 4) Goods and Services Tax recoverable Prepaid expenses Investments (Note 5)	\$ 267,264 19,182 1,783 10,781 	\$ 341,864 39,802 1,356 1,141 106,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	464,370	490,163
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS (Note 6)	3,201	3,149
TOTAL ASSETS	S <u>467,571</u>	S <u>493,312</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 7) Deferred revenue (Note 8) Deferred contributions (Note 9)	\$ 9,599 - 124,220	\$ 13,762 11,440 
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	133,819	195,585
LOAN ISSUED UNDER THE CANADA EMERGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT (Note 10)	27,492	28,441
TOTAL LIABILITIES	161,311	224,026
NET ASSETS Net assets invested in capital assets Restricted net assets (Note 12) Unrestricted net assets	3,201 165,000 138,059	3,149 165,000 101,137
TOTAL NET ASSETS	306,260	269,286
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 467,571	S 493,312
Approved by the Directors:		
No.	brochab	

, Director

, Director

#### WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA CASH FLOW STATEMENT For the year ended March 31, 2022

ODED A TINIC A CTIVITIES	2022			<u>2021</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES Excess of revenue over expenses	\$	36,974	\$	149,214
Add (deduct):	4	50,577	Ψ	1 17,211
Charges to income not involving cash				
Amortization of tangible capital assets		1,074		1,279
Government assistance - interest benefit		(951)		(1,560)
Loan forgiveness		_	_	(10,000)
		37,097		138,933
Net change in non-cash working capital				
balances related to operations		100		(4.701)
Trade receivables Interest receivable		408 26		(4,791) 584
Grants receivable		20,186		(31,999)
Goods and Services Tax recoverable		(427)		4,179
Prepaid expenses		(9,639)		9,820
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities		(4,162)		(38,407)
Deferred revenue		(11,440)		2,730
Deferred contributions		(46,163)		66,578
	_	(14,114)		147,627
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Receipt of loan issued				
under Canada Emergency Business Account				40,000
				40,000
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Purchase of tangible capital assets		(1,126)		_
Purchase of investments		(165,360)		(106,000)
Receipt of investments	_	106,000		70,129
	_	(60,486)	_	(35,871)
(DECREASE) INCREASE IN CASH		(74,600)		151,756
CASH, beginning of year	_	341,864	_	190,108
CASH, end of year	\$	267,264	<b>\$_</b>	341,864

#### 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 38% of its revenue from one grantor (2021 - 30%).

#### 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

#### Management's use of estimates

a) The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the current year. These estimates are reviewed periodically and adjustments are made to income as appropriate in the year they become known.

#### Revenue recognition

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

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

Membership fees are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year to which they relate.

Investment transactions are recognized on the transaction date and resulting revenue is recognized on an accrual basis. Specifically, interest income is recognized on a time proportion basis.

#### Financial instruments

 Financial assets and liabilities are measured initially at fair value. Subsequent measurement is at amortized cost.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost consist of cash, trade receivables, grants receivable, interest receivable, and non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificates.

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

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

#### Impairment of financial assets

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

#### Cash and cash equivalents

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

#### Tangible capital assets of an NPO

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

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

Amortization expense is reported in the statement of operations.

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

#### Contributed materials and services

yolunteers 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

	2022	2021
Internally restricted cash - sustainability fund Externally restricted cash - Casino funds Externally restricted cash - Deferred contributions Externally restricted cash - Deferred revenue Externally restricted cash	\$ - 4,00 120,220 - 124,22	0 154,291 11,440
Unrestricted cash	143,043	101,041
Cash	\$ 267,264	<u>341,864</u>

#### 4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

5.

		2022		2021
Grants receivable Trade receivables Interest receivable	\$	11,813 6,950 419	\$	31,999 7,358 445
	\$_	19,182	\$	39,802
INVESTMENTS				
		2022		2021
Redeemable guaranteed investment guaranteed Investment certificate, maturing on April 13, 2022, bearing interest at .40% per annum.	\$	68,754	\$	
Redeemable guaranteed investment guaranteed Investment certificate, maturing on June 28, 2022, bearing interest at .35% per annum.		51,426		-
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on March 23, 2022 bearing interest at a rate fo 2.00% per annum		45,180		-
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on April 13, 2021, bearing interest at a rate fo 0.75% per annum		-		45,000
Non-redeemable guaranteed investment certificate maturing on April 13, 2021, bearing interest at a rate fo 0.75% per annum	_		_	61,000
	\$_	165,360	\$	106,000

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

#### 6. TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

		Cost	Accumulated Amortization			Net Bo	<u>2021</u>	
Computer hardware Furniture and fixtures	\$	35,388 8,229	\$	32,505 7,911	\$_	2,883 318	\$_	2,752 397
	\$_	43,617	\$_	40,416	\$_	3,201	\$_	3,149

#### 7. CREDIT CARDS

The Guild holds a credit card with an authorized credit limit of \$4,000 bearing interest at a rate of 19.99%. The amount payable on the credit card as at March 31, 2022, was \$21 (2021 - \$195), 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 \$40 (2021 - \$36), these amounts are included in bank charges. The credit cards are guaranteed by the current and future assets of the Guild.

#### 8. DEFERRED REVENUE

	2022		2021
Registrations	\$ =	\$	8,440
Book prize management fees	 -	_	3,000
	\$ 	\$	11,440

#### 9. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

	Opening	Funds received	Funds used	Ending
Edmonton Arts Council \$	40,000	\$ 19,000	\$ (40,654)	\$ 18,346
Canada Council for the Arts	42,205	50,400	(66,205)	26,400
Calgary Arts				
Development Agency	35,000	38,800	(73,800)	-
Casino	16,093	-	(12,092)	4,001
Donations, fees and other	13,200	95,278	(50,305)	58,173
Alberta				
Foundation for the Arts	8,205	211,812	(210,217)	9,800
Access Copyright Foundation	6,750	-	(6,750)	-
RBC - Emerging Artists	6,500	15,000	(14,000)	7,500
Amber Bowerman-				
Webb Foundation	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Alberta Culture & Tourism	430	-	(430)	
Canada Summer Jobs	-	4,703	(4,703)	
\$_	170,383	\$434,993	\$ <u>(481,156)</u>	\$ 124,220

#### 10. LOAN GRANTED UNDER THE CANADA EMEGENCY BUSINESS ACCOUNT

Loan, with an unpaid principal of \$40,000, guaranteed by the Canadian government, interest-free until December 31, 2023 (a) \$\frac{2022}{2021}\$

(a) The Guild obtained a \$40,000 loan under the Canada Emergency Businesss Account Program. If the Guild repays \$30,000 by December 31, 2023, the \$10,000 balance will be forgiven. Otherwise, an interest rate of 5% will apply to the balance which will be repayable in 36 monthly blended installments. Since there is reasonable assurance that the Guild will repay \$30,000 by December 31, 2023, the organization recognized \$10,000 in net income when the loan was granted under Government assistance - loan forgiveness in 2021. The liability resulting from the \$30,000 balance was initially recognized at its fair value of \$25,509 using an interest rate of 5%. The organization deems that the \$4,490 difference is a contribution toward current financing expenses and recognized in net income as well, under Government assistance - interest benefit.

Regular principal payments required on all long-term debt for the next five years are due as follows:

2023	\$ 0
2024	30,000
2025	0
2026	0
2027	 0
	\$ 30,000

#### 11. GRANTS

		2022		2021
Alberta Foundation for the Arts	\$	255,979	\$	200,893
Calgary Arts Development Agency		73,800		22,800
Canada Council for the Arts		66,205		34,595
Edmonton Arts Council		40,654		32,000
Royal Bank of Canada Emerging Artists		14,000		14,000
Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis		12,092		13,280
Access Copyright Foundation		6,750		-
Chawkers Foundation		5,000		-
Summer employment grants		4,703		4,782
Cultural Human Resources Council		1,813		-
John Gillies Fund		1,451		-
Edmonton Community Foundation		1,300		10,000
Alberta Cultural Days		1,230		-
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy		(606)		126,243
Rozsa Foundation		-		15,000
Amber Bowerman-Webb Foundation		-		4,000
City of Lethbridge	_	-	-	1,460
	\$	484,371	\$	479,053

#### 12. RESTRICTED NET ASSET

The Writers' Guild of Alberta's Board of Directors has restricted a sum of \$61,000 (2021 - \$61,000) as a sustainability fund which 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 (2021 - \$104,000) as a sustainability fund for future programming and operations, these funds are held in the guaranteed invetment certificates, see note 5.

#### 13. WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA ENDOWMENT FUND

The Writers' Guild of Alberta is the beneficiary of the Writers' Guild of Alberta Endowment Fund held with the Edmonton Community Foundation. Assets of this fund are not the property of the Guild but the income generated from the fund is transferred to the Guild. As at December 31, 2021, the balance in the Foundation's Endowment Fund was \$43,684 (2020 - \$37,571).

#### 14. FUND-RAISING EXPENSES AND OTHER

As required under Section 7(2) of the Regulations of the Charitable Fund-raising Act of Alberta, the Guild discloses that it incurred \$0 of expenses related to fundraising in 2022 (2021 - \$0) and it received \$49,818 of contributions in 2022 (2021 - \$21,270).

#### 15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

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

#### 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.

#### 16. COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

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

## Writers' Guild of Alberta

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