

Press release
UNDER EMBARGO

This press release contains time-sensitive information that may only be released to the general public on or after October 26, 2006



QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION

**QWF ANNOUNCES QUEBEC
LITERARY AWARDS SHORTLIST**

Celebrating the work of English-language authors in Quebec

[*Montreal. October 26, 2006*] The Quebec Writers' Federation is proud to announce the shortlist for the 2006 QWF Literary Awards. With a combined total of \$10,000, these five awards will be announced at a special gala ceremony on **Wednesday, November 22 at Le Lion d'Or.**

"This year's shortlist is a reflection of local excellence, and shows that Quebec's English-language authors punch above their weight," said Derek Webster, President of the Quebec Writers' Federation. "With Quebec's representation on the Giller and Governor General's Award shortlists, it's clear that this is a great year for Quebec authors."

This year, two of the nominees for the McAuslan First Book Prize have much to celebrate, as they are also nominated in a second category. **Susan Elmslie's** debut collection of poetry *I, Nadja, and Other Poems* receives a second nomination for the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, while **Rawi Hage**, whose novel *DeNiro's Game* is currently shortlisted for both the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award, is also in the running for QWF's recently renamed Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction. Also nominated for the McAuslan First Book Prize, which is sponsored by McAuslan Brewing Inc., is **Melissa A. Thompson** for her novel *Dreadful Paris*, which is published by Montreal's newest English-language publisher, Snare Books.

Another first-time author, **Barry Webster**, is nominated for the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction for his debut collection of short stories, *The Sound of All Flesh*. **Anita Rau Badami** rounds out the shortlist for the fiction

prize, newly sponsored by Paragraphe Bookstore, for her third novel, *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*

The other two nominees for the A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry, sponsored by the family of Sidney Weisbord, are **Jon Paul Fiorentino** for his *The Theory of the Loser Class* and **Lazar Sarna** for *He Claims He is the Direct Heir*.

The books nominated for this year's Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction represent a wide range of styles and topics: they are **Byron Rempel's** *Truth is Naked, All Others Pay Cash*, **Sherry Simon's** *Translating Montreal: Episodes in the Life of a Divided City* and **William Marsden** and **Julian Sher's** *Angels of Death*. The Gallant Prize, named for one of Quebec's most outstanding writers of all time, is collectively sponsored by five of Quebec's English-language CEGEPs: Champlain, Dawson, Heritage, John Abbott and Vanier.

This year's Translation Prize, sponsored for a second year by Pierre Lapointe, will honour a French translator (or team) working to bring an English Quebec writer's book to French readers. Nominated in this category is **Dominique Fortier** for *Parlez-vous Boro?* (translation of last year's Mavis Gallant Prize nominee *Spoken Here*, by the versatile Pointe-Claire writer Mark Abley). Fortier's translation is also shortlisted for one of this year's Governor General's Literary Awards. Also on the QWF shortlist are **Paule Champoux** for *Les Anglos: La face cachée du Québec, Tome 1, 1608-1850* (translation of Louisa Blair's *The Anglos: The Hidden Face of Quebec City, Volume 1, 1608-1850*), and **Lori Saint-Martin** and **Paul Gagné** for *La clameur des ténèbres* (translation of Neil Bissoondath's *The Unyielding Clamour of the Night*, which last year won the Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction). The team of Saint-Martin and Gagné, who won the QWF Translation Prize the last time it was offered to a French work in 2004, are also shortlisted this year for a Governor General's award for their translation of Margaret Atwood's *The Penelopiad*.

More information about the shortlisted authors as well as photos and book summaries can be found online by accessing the QWF Literary Database, <http://quebecbooks.qwf.org>.

The winner of the honorary QWF Community Award will be announced in the coming weeks. The winners of the five \$2,000 literary prizes will be announced at the annual **QWF Literary Awards Gala** at the **Lion d'Or** (1676 Ontario E.) on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7 p.m.** The Gala is open to the general public and will be hosted by Anne Lagacé Dowson, host of CBC Radio's *Radio Noon*. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the following bookstores: Argo Books, Babar en ville, Bibliophile, Clio Bookstore, Paragraphe Bookstore, and The Word. Tickets are also available at the QWF office and at the door (space permitting). For ticket information, call (514) 933-0878.

MEDIA INQUIRIES:
Christopher DiRaddo
(514) 842-5087
mobile: (514) 806-5087
diraddo@videotron.ca