

Press release



QUEBEC WRITERS' FEDERATION NAMES WINNERS OF 2017 LITERARY PRIZES

[Montreal, November 21, 2017] The 2017 Quebec Writers' Federation's Literary Awards took place in Montreal tonight, uniting the province's literary community in a celebration of some of the best literature published by Quebec writers in the past year. The combined total of the six book awards is \$12,000.

Winners

Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction

Sponsored by Paragraphe Bookstore

Heather O'Neill, *The Lonely Hearts Hotel* (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.)

"The story-telling prowess in Heather O'Neill's latest book is reminiscent of Charles Dickens -- epic in scope, beautifully paced and tremendously engaging. O'Neill manages to capture an era in Montreal and describe it so it comes alive."

Jury: La Florya Gauthier, Peggy Herring, Vish Khanna

Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-fiction

Sandra Perron, *Out Standing in the Field: A Memoir by Canada's First Female Infantry Officer* (Cormorant Books)

"This powerful and revealing memoir offers a glimpse into one woman's harrowing experiences as the first female officer in the Canadian Infantry. Drawing on her journal entries to craft an elegant and gripping work, Perrault offers an account of her experiences in military training and subsequent deployment through the mid-1990s, both positive and negative."

Jury: Chris Frey, Rod MacLeod, Rebecca Margolis

Concordia University First Book Prize

Sponsored by Concordia University

Jocelyn Parr, *Uncertain Weights and Measures* (Goose Lane Editions)

"The great strength of the book is its evocation of the early days of post-Revolutionary Russia as it became the Soviet Union, and the picture it draws of the promotion of ideologically driven 'science.'"

Jury: Marilyn Bowering, Adrian Harewood, Alexia Moyer

A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry

Erin Robinsong, *Rag Cosmology* (BookThug)

“Rooted in the fecund scent of nature, of mulch and loam and decay, as well as growth and light and life, *Rag Cosmology* is as politically aware as it is lyrically aware. So varied in form and content that it seems as though it might fly apart at any moment, either exploding from the pressure driving it within or implode from under the gravity that holds it all together.”

Jury: Geoffrey Cook, George Murray, Jennifer Still

Cole Foundation Prize for Translation

Sponsored by the Cole Foundation

Peter Feldstein, *The Pauper’s Freedom: Crime and Poverty in Nineteenth-Century Quebec*

(McGill-Queen’s University Press)

A translation of [Jean-Marie Fecteau’s](#) *La liberté du pauvre* (VLB éditeur)

“Feldstein’s translation distinguishes itself on multiple counts. First, he renders Fecteau’s idiosyncratic and sometimes abstruse French prose into readable English. Feldstein is able to find comprehensible equivalents for technical terms and academic jargon. He also has a fine ear for catching some of Fecteau’s aphoristic, humorous touches.”

Jury: Renée Desjardins, Jeffrey Moore, Greg Robinson

QWF Prize for Children’s and Young Adult Literature: Picture Books with Text and Beginner Readers

Sponsored by Janet and John Blachford

Karen Nesbitt, *Subject to Change* (Orca Book Publisher)

“The author very aptly depicts the modern high school setting, and the small-town sensibility. But perhaps the book’s greatest strength lies in its depiction of the various relationships. Nesbitt very sensitively captures complex family dynamics.”

Jury: Catherine Austen, Lisa Doucet, Raziel Reid

The six \$2,000 literary prizes were given out on Tuesday, November 21 at the QWF Awards Gala held at the Lion d’Or. The event was hosted by **Nantali Indongo**, host of *The Bridge* on CBC Radio and member of Nomadic Massive, a multilingual hip hop group based in Montreal.

Information about the other shortlisted authors, including photos and book summaries, is online at the QWF Literary Database, <http://quebecbooks.qwf.org>.

OTHER PRIZES AWARDED AT THE GALA

This year’s ceremony announced the winner of the inaugural **QWF Literary Prize for Young Writers**. Sponsored by Champlain, Dawson, Heritage, John Abbott, and Vanier colleges and the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the \$1,000 prize is awarded annually to a young Quebec writer between 16 and 24 years old for their short story, poem, or work of non-fiction written in English and published in a recognized literary publication. This year’s winner is Nicola Sibthorpe for her story “Artemisia Absinthium,” which was published in Concordia University’s *Headlights Anthology*. Second prize (\$350) went to Tyrell Dueryny for his poem “Macramé,” and third prize (\$150), to Sophie Panzer, for her short story “And They Lived.”

The QWF also bestowed the 2017 QWF Judy Mappin Community Award to teacher, editor and festival director **Philip Lanthier**, who has worked tirelessly throughout his career to create a space for literature in the Eastern Townships. The honorary award is annually conferred upon a remarkable person, who is immersed in, engaged with and committed to the flourishing of the English-language literary community of Quebec.

The **3Macs *carte blanche* Prize** was awarded to **Domenica Martinello** for her piece "[Ferrante In the Cellar](#)" which appeared in issue 29. The juror was **Liz Howard**. The prize is awarded annually in recognition of an outstanding submission by a Quebec writer, artist, or translator to *carte blanche*, QWF's online literary journal (www.carte-blanche.org).

Finally, Joshua Levy was named the **2018 CBC/QWF Writer in Residence**. **The position was created in 2016 to help increase** local writers' profiles in the community. Levy will be responsible for producing a series of nonfiction blog posts on Montreal-related themes to CBC Quebec's audience.

-30-

MEDIA INQUIRIES:
Christopher DiRaddo
(514) 806-5087
cd@christopherdiraddo.com

