

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Annual Report 2018/2019



Mandate

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is a not-for-profit membership driven organization that strives to sustain and enhance an environment in Saskatchewan where writers and all forms of writing flourish; to promote the well-being of all writers; and to advocate on their behalf.

Funders

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is grateful to our generous funders, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.



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Nour Albaradan (l) and Mays Al Jamous (r)
Stories Under a Living Sky, Regina.
Photo credit: SWG Staff



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a great privilege and joy to serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild for the past year. In its 50th year as a provincial cultural organization representing writers in all disciplines; fostering excellence in Saskatchewan writing; and promoting awareness of Saskatchewan writers and literature, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild continues to thrive! This success is due to the passion of the writers who had the vision to create the Guild in 1969: Joan Conway, Jean Freeman, Ken Mitchell, Vera Simenson, and Ron Ware; and the Guild's continued success is due to the passion of our members, the hard work and dedication of the SWG staff, and the guidance of the SWG's governing Board of Directors.

In 2019, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild celebrated the appointment of Bruce Rice as the Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, and for the first time celebrated the appointment of a provincial Youth Poet Laureate, Alasdair Rees. The appointments of our Poets Laureate was celebrated at Government House to a packed room. Congratulations to both Bruce and Alasdair.

The Guild is in a strong financial position, and has continued to ensure the health and viability of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Foundation, whose goal is to steward legacy gifts for the Guild, scholarships and bursaries, and to work toward providing financial stability for the Guild itself. One of the original visions of the Foundation was to raise enough capital to purchase a building to house the Guild, and that is still something the Foundation works toward, with an eye to sustaining the brilliant culture of writing that members of the Guild have built in our province. The Foundation is managed independently by a Board of Directors appointed by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Board of Directors.

This past year also saw the Board enter into collective bargaining with the newly formed Staff Union, represented by CUPE. This process is still underway, under the steady stewardship of the Human Resources/Bargaining Committee. With the Executive Director's stalwart leadership, the SWG continues to flourish.

2018/2019 marked the conclusion of the Board Life Cycles pilot program spearheaded by SaskCulture, a program in which the SWG was a pioneering participant. This program helps identify where a non-profit board falls in its natural life cycle; the SWG Board is in a place of relative stability, and hopes to entice new members to join. This program steered the Board to a review of our Governance Bylaws and Policies. The Board also completed a Strategic Plan as the final activity of the program, under the guidance of our Life Cycles consultant, Bruce Anderson. The Strategic Plan focuses not only on the continued health of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, but also on sustainability and capacity. We are in a great position to continue to rock on!

Of course, getting to represent the SWG Board during the Guild's 50th anniversary year has been a lot of fun, especially because it's provided an opportunity to learn from the people whose vision brought us here. Thank you to you, the members of the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, for building this nurturing, exciting, and dynamic organization that will continue to provide some of the best programming in the country for writers at all levels of development. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the many volunteers, contract professionals, and especially the dedicated staff who work hard to carry out the Guild's programming.

Jillian Bell
President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"A word after a word after a word is power," says Margaret Atwood. The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, in dealing with writers and words is 50 years full of word-power! While 50 feels so much older, it also feels very much the same as 49. The SWG Board of Directors is deeply committed to maintaining our organization and steering us towards continued health and success, but we continue our transition with new staff and organizational changes. What has stayed steady throughout the past years is our commitment to being a diverse and inclusive organization and we hope to keep balancing the pen for another 50!

In November of 2018, the SWG Board developed a new strategic plan. One of the strategic goals was to increase self-generated revenues and we have taken that goal seriously. In our objective to increase self-generated revenues, we created donation drives and fundraising ideas. Consequently, the 2018-2019 fiscal year's finances were solid and in fact, we ended the fiscal year with a surplus. Some of our surplus was due to the SWG having less staff while we focused on ensuring sufficient time and training for new staff to learn about our programming and services.

Our funding from SaskCulture, SaskLotteries, and Canada Council remained steady for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This fall, the SWG will be applying for new multi-year funding from SaskCulture and Canada Council. The City of Regina funding remains at \$24,000 per calendar year, with the continued commitment to fund the City of Regina Writing Award.

As for memberships, we continued our upward climb of members with over 560. Our strategic goal is to see an increase of diverse memberships by 10% in the next three years. The SWG Board and staff continued to create awareness of the SWG and of our many programs and services and we hope that the vitality of our organization and members will be an attraction for new members. Although we are a smaller staff, we delivered diverse and lively programming, providing our members and writers with opportunities to develop their goals. We had many highs in

Photo credit: Shelley Banks

programming including a new Youth Poet Laureate, a new Indigenous Mentorship Program, new partnerships for newcomer programming, as well as strong regularly offered programming, such as mentorships, workshops, and festivals, just to name a few.

Our publications continued to be dynamic—*Grain* featured a special Indigenous issue, *Freelance* continued with its new structure to provide a more magazine style reading, *Spring* sprang into a new formatting, leaping forward with incredible content from emerging writers, and of course, *Windscrip*t kept its promise and delivered upcoming work from our talented youth writers. Although Stephanie Campbell left the SWG in June, her hard work and creativity live on in the magazines.

None of the SWG programs and services would be possible without our remarkable staff: Jacqueline Fry, our Financial Manager, continued to amaze us with her experience and knowledge in support of board, staff and members. Yolanda Hansen just finished one-full year as Program Manager, Program Coordinator Cat Abenstein also just finished one year, and Andrea MacLeod returned from maternity leave (thanks also to the temporary staff of Samantha Workman and Saba Dar)—I am grateful for their skill and knowledge and thank them for their dedication to the SWG. While Indigenous Program Coordinator Nickita Longman and her successor Ali Fontaine have both moved forward with their careers, we thank them for their service and hard work on behalf of the SWG. The SWG is currently in the process of hiring a new Indigenous Program Coordinator, so stay tuned this fall for the announcement.

Truman Capote's character Holly Golightly once said, "[i]t's better to look at the sky than live there." In order to envision a healthy and vibrant community for our members, we need to remember and celebrate where and how we came to be along with where and what we are doing now before we can figure out how to look at the sky for another 50 years.

Tracy Hamon
Executive Director

Awards

CITY OF REGINA WRITING AWARD

The winner of the 2019 City of Regina Writing Award was Tara Gereaux for her submission *Wild People Quiet*. The SWG and City of Regina celebrated Tara and runners-up James Trettwer and Linda Biasotto at the annual reception on May 15 at the Artesian. Winners were selected by jury members Kathryn Mockler and Rosemary Nixon. Councillor Barbara Young presented the awards, while Joanne Skidmore presided as MC. Many previous award winners were in attendance to celebrate the 40th presentation of the awards. The SWG is grateful to the City of Regina for their continued sponsorship of this \$4,500 award and reception.

JOHN V. HICKS LONG MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

The John V. Hicks Award Luncheon, held in Saskatoon during the SWG Fall Conference, celebrated three prizes for poetry in 2018. The first place winner was Katherine Lawrence for *Homebodies*, Shannon McConnell won second place for *The Burden of Gravity*, and Joy M. Brown took third for *Heavy*. Winners were awarded \$1,000, \$650, and \$350 respectively. Selections were made by jurors Armand Garnet Ruffo and Kayla Czaga.

THE CHERYL AND HENRY KLOPPENBURG AWARD FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE

Sylvia Legris was the winner of the 2018 Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence. The luncheon reception announcing her award was held September 11, 2018 at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. Approximately 120 people were on hand to eat a wonderful lunch and listen to Legris accept the award and read from her work. The Guild is deeply appreciative of Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg's continued support for this award.

GARY HYLAND VOLUNTEER AWARD

The 2018 Hyland Volunteer Award was awarded to Bernadette Wagner at the Fall Conference for her long-standing and various contributions to the Saskatchewan writing and arts community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERED EVENTS

NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH (NANOWRIMO)

In November, the SWG celebrated National Novel Writing month by partnering with the NaNoWriMo Regina Region and the Regina Public Library. Participants were challenged to write 50,000 words towards a novel over the course of November. Frequent Write-Ins were hosted by the SWG and featured workshops by guest authors Sheena Koops and Marie Powell.

CELEBRATE CANADA

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild partnered with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan once again to host "Stories Under a Living Sky: From Many Stories Strength" (formerly known as "Little Stories on the Prairie"). This partnership incorporates writing, storytelling and musical performances by artists representing diverse cultural backgrounds, including new Canadians, Indigenous people, and Canadians who come from distinct cultural backgrounds.

The Regina event was held at the Regina Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 29. Presenters included featured writers Jolissa Simon and Mirtha Rivera, youth writers Nour Albaradan, Mays Al Jamous, Cassia Oddo, Mirabel Bonar and Jinhong Chen, and the musical group Andino Suns.

In Saskatoon, the Guild partnered with Tonight it's Poetry (TiP) and the Indigenous Poets Society at Amigos Cantina for TiP's regular weekly poetry series on Sunday, June 30. This special event started with an open mic where eight local poets shared their work and were followed by featured writers ecoaborijanelle, Julio Torres-Recinos and musicians Rodolfo Pino-Robles and Yellowsky.

BUSHWAKKER BREW PUB – WRITER'S CORNER

The Bushwakker Writer's Corner is a bookshelf and a space dedicated to celebrating recent works of Saskatchewan published authors. The Third Annual Bushwakker Writer's Corner Reading, organized by the Guild and Bushwakker on November 3, featured six Regina and area authors with recently published work. Anne Campbell, Counios and Gane, Gail Bowen, Gord Hunter and Ven Begamudré shared their work to an appreciative crowd. Bushwakker created a special chocolate surprise dessert for the event.

UR PRIDE – COMING OUT MONOLOGUES

UR Pride Centre and the SWG partnered on the "The Coming Out Monologues", a workshop series that culminated in a live performance and reading of the participants' work during the Regina Pride Festival in June 2019. Weekly workshops were led by local queer and trans writers and performers with a focus on creative writing and performance, building confidence and performance skills, and creating community. Workshops were lead by Saima Desai, Shayna Stock, Veracity, and Maxwell Adamson.

GLOBAL GATHERING PLACE – WEAVING WORDS

In partnership with The Global Gathering Place (GGP), the Guild offered newcomers to Canada in Saskatoon two creative writing workshop sessions to develop their storytelling and writing skills. These sessions were facilitated by Danica Lorer in August 2018 and March 2019 for 19 participants. Each group published their work in a chapbook designed by the Global Gathering Place and read their work in a final performance.

REGINA OPEN DOOR SOCIETY – "OPENING DOORS THROUGH STORIES"

A group of newcomers to Canada met every Saturday in November 2018 at the Regina Open Door Society (RODS) to work with author Gail Bowen to develop creative writing and expand their English literacy skills. *Opening Doors Through Stories: Writing from Newcomers to Regina*, is a collection of true stories reflective of participants' personal experiences and perspectives and is a testament to the resiliency of the human spirit. This chapbook was launched at RODS in June 2019.

Chapbook contributors are David Mamani, Tokiko Nakagawa, Isaac Abram Ghebreslasie, Olenka Santoyo Sokolowski, Narek Harutyunyan, Antonio LaRocca and Mussarat Parveen. In a second partnership during May and June 2019, Gail Bowen worked with RODS youth clients to develop stories that highlight the voices of young leaders in our community.



A group of workshop participants pose with workshop instructor Gail Bowen (r) and SWG Program Coordinator Cat Abenstein (l).
Photo credit: SWG Staff

REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY - WRITES OF SPRING

In partnership with the Regina Public Library for *Writes of Spring*, the Guild was proud to offer three genre-specific workshops, an Indigenous Voices Panel, and, alongside SaskBooks, the Regina Publishing Symposium. *Writes of Spring* is a month-long celebration of writers and readers featuring author talks and programs for new, aspiring and established authors.

Workshops were held at the George Bothwell Library:

Gail Bowen: *Springing Into Mystery Writing*

Madelon Smid: *Perfecting Cupid's Aim: The Specificity of Writing Romance*

Jennie Hunter: *Conjuring Worlds: From Maps to Myths, Learn How to Bring Characters to Life and Make Plots Spark When Writing YA Fantasy*

Indigenous Voices Panel:

The Regina Public Library and the Guild presented a panel of Indigenous authors at the RPL Central Branch Mezzanine. Louise Bernice Halfe, Monique Gray Smith, and Wendy Mirasty spoke about their personal paths and key messages in their work. The event was moderated by Jesse Rae Archibald-Barber.

Regina Publishing Symposium

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, SaskBooks, and Regina Public Library offered writers and publishers a chance to learn "*Beyond the Book*" at this year's Publishing Symposium at the George Bothwell library. The symposium consisted of a half-day of presentations and information that covered topics such as the business of book publishing, self-publishing experiences, e-books and audiobooks and other exciting information. Presenters included Jillian Bell, Edward Willett, and Gina McCreary.

SASKBOOKS – SASKATOON PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and SaskBooks offered writers and publishers a chance to learn more about publishing their work at the Saskatoon Publishing Symposium held at the Cliff Wright Branch library. This year's symposium included a brief presentation on the basics of publishing and a panel discussion of copyright, permissions, libel and defamation. Presenters included Jillian Bell, Kate Sutherland, and Kimmy Beach.

CATHEDRAL VILLAGE ARTS FESTIVAL (CVAF)

The SWG was pleased to be a part of a number of CVAF events in its 28th year. The SWG hosted our annual *Windscript* launch, and co-organized a workshop with Vertigo Series on May 20. We also hosted a special SWG 50th anniversary celebration on May 23 at the Artesian. Original SWG member Jean Freeman joined Guild President Jillian Bell for an on-stage interview, SWG members including founder Ken Mitchell read from their work at an open mic, and all enjoyed cake.

Staff and volunteers also interacted with hundreds of Festival goers at the annual Street Fair at our information booth on Saturday May 25.



*Contributors pose at the Windscript Launch
Photo credit: SWG Staff*



*Writing North panel (l-r): Sarah Gartshore,
Elizabeth Philips, Michael Helm,
Laurie D. Graham and Jacqueline Baker.
Photo credit: SWG Staff*



*Waubgeshig Rice
Talking Fresh
Photo credit: SWG Staff*

STAY TUNE FEST

WRITING NORTH

On January 25-26, 2019, the SWG and the University of Saskatchewan's MFA Program hosted Writing North: Cabin Fever: Breaking Down Walls at St. Andrew's College. The event began on Friday afternoon with a lively interactive panel discussion featuring Jacqueline Baker, Sarah Gartshore, Laurie D. Graham, Michael Helm, and Elizabeth Philips, hosted by Alice Kuipers. Each presenters' Saturday session explored the craft of writing from the perspective of the genres of fiction, poetry and playwriting.

TALKING FRESH

How can we understand writing and language as translations? On March 1-2, 2019, an incredibly diverse group of Canadian writers came together for Talking Fresh 2019 Charades: *Sounds like Writing and Translation*. Joan Macleod (playwriting), Alexandra Shimo (non-fiction), Oana Avasilichioaei (poetry) and Waubgeshig Rice (fiction) discussed their work in a panel hosted by Angie Counios and David Gane on Friday, March 1. The evening also featured a reception and author readings. On Saturday, March 2, all authors conducted workshop-style sessions focusing on the craft of writing in relation to their genres. The festival is free, open to the public and continues to attract writers from all over southern Saskatchewan to its interactive and informative sessions.

READING PROGRAMS

WORDS IN THE PARK

Our Regina summer reading series in Victoria Park entered its tenth season! Thanks to the City of Regina for funding, Regina Downtown Business Improvement District for their support, and the Regina Public Library for providing an alternate location in case of bad weather. This year's program also partnered with Creative City Centre's Regina Word Up and Regina Word Up Youth poetry slam team and the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Authors, poets and storytellers who performed included: Veracity, John Leoppky, Liberty Skye, Randy Lundy, Night Kinistino, Tai Cook, Ven Begamudré, Marlis Wessler, Anne Campbell, Daniella Mercedes, Creed Horsefall, Lila Banionyte, Charly Bird, Neil Aitken, Tim Blackett, Gord Hunter, Peggy Worrell, Morgan Traquair, Suzanne Huggins, Raye Hendrickson, Keith Foster, Bernadette Wagner, Carla Harris, Carol Rose GoldenEagle, Narek Harutyunyan, and Kristen Mcleod. Hosts included: Janelle Remple, Courtney Bates-Hardy, Coby Stephenson, Peggy Worrell, Suzanne Huggins, and Bernadette Wagner.

READINGS BY THE RIVER

The Guild continued our partnership with Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan (SotS) to host our Saskatoon summer reading series, Readings by the River, for its fifth season. This series runs in the community tent in conjunction with the SotS Happy Hour, prior to the Shakespeare play for the evening, and has maintained active audience interest.

Authors, poets and storytellers who performed included: Jennie Hunter, Taidgh Lynch, Donna Miller, Leigh Thomas, Tenille K. Campbell, Kevin "Poetik" Wesaquate, Darla Tenold, Kate O'Gorman, Danica Lorer, Beth Goobie, Ruth Chorney, Paula Jane Remlinger, Jeanette Dean, Judith Muirhead, Alasdair Rees, Imogen Rennie, Olivia Bestvater, Rachel Laverdiere, Carrie Ann Schemenauer, and Robert Cram. Hosts included: Ayesha Baig, Beth Goobie, Darla Tenold, Alasdair Rees, and Paula Jane Remlinger.

AUTHOR READINGS PROGRAM

SWG was pleased to subsidize 52 authors through the Author Readings Program. For this fiscal year, there were 140 readings with nearly 10,000 attendees! This well-established SWG program saw 109 schools, libraries, and community groups host readings. While the host pays a minimal registration fee to the SWG for the author to do their reading, the Guild pays the author a more significant reading fee plus mileage to and from the venues. Host organizations have been encouraged to better report their attendees at events and this improved self-reporting has allowed us to create a clearer snapshot of the program reach. Some events had over 500 people experiencing the talent of Saskatchewan authors at one time. Towards the end of the fiscal year, we even had to turn down some applicants as the program had used the entirety of the allocated budget for 2018-2019.

Carol Rose GoldenEagle
Words in the Park
Photo credit: SWG Staff

STORYTELLING EVENTS

With generous funding from Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples once again, the Guild hosted Indigenous Storytelling Month events in Regina and Saskatoon in February. In Saskatoon, storyteller Randy Morin shared stories with the students of Lester B. Pearson School. In Regina, elementary students at Albert Community School heard from storyteller Rhonda Donais, and university students interacted with writer Tenille K. Campbell at the University of Regina's Aboriginal Student Centre. In partnership with the Humanities Research Institute at the U of R, writer Cherie Dimaline shared stories with students at Scott Collegiate.

UNSETTLING IDEAS BOOK CLUB

After a year-long hiatus, the Unsettling Ideas Book Club was relaunched in partnership with Knox Metropolitan United Church in September 2018 with the reading of Joshua Whitehead's book *Jonny Appleseed*. Joshua joined a large crowd at Knox Metropolitan Church on September 21 for soup, bannock and discussion. The UR Pride Centre partnered with the Guild and Knox Met to make this event possible.

The book club continued with Lee Maracle's discussion of her book *My Conversations with Canadians* on January 19, and Arielle Twist's reading from her debut poetry collection *Disintegrate/Dissociate* on February 26.

INDIGENOUS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Indigenous Mentorship Program (IMP) paired six emerging and established Indigenous writers in Saskatchewan for a four-month writing mentorship. Apprentices and Mentors began their work together with a retreat in Moose Jaw from January 10-13 and worked intensively for the next four months. A final reading for apprentices and mentors was held on May 1 in Regina. We are grateful for funding from the Canada Council for the Arts for this year's program. This year's participants included:

APPRENTICE

Elaine McArthur
 Joely BigEagle-Kequatooway
 Sarah Vermette

MENTOR

Carol Rose GoldenEagle
 Randy Lundy
 Tara Gereaux

INDIGENOUS PROGRAMS

POET LAUREATE AND YOUTH POET LAUREATE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Brenda Schmidt ended her term as Poet Laureate in December 2018 with the Emerging Poets Reading. Four emerging Saskatchewan poets – Belinda Betker, Chelsea Coupal, Raye Hendrickson and Fionncara MacEoin – shared the stage with Brenda at the Art Gallery of Regina on December 10 and delighted a large crowd of poetry lovers.

Due to funding changes, the SWG redesigned the program in 2019 to continue the tradition of honouring Saskatchewan poets and the poetry community while adding the new position of Youth Poet Laureate and exciting new community engagement opportunities.

On April 1, Bruce Rice began his term as the eighth Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan, while Alasdair Rees became the first Youth Poet Laureate. Both Bruce and Alasdair celebrated April as Poetry Month with the annual Poetry Soiree at Government House (hosted by the program's honorary patron, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan) and reading at the Sask Book Awards. Bruce and Alasdair featured weekly poetry videos on their Facebook pages, which included readings and interviews with local poets. In their roles, our Poet Laureates have engaged people from around the province through readings and events in Regina, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Eastend, with many more opportunities planned for the 2019-2020 year.

RURAL WORKSHOPS

The SWG continues to offer rural writers and communities professional development opportunities through the Rural Workshops Program. In 2018-2019, workshops and readings by three Saskatchewan writers were hosted in Big River, Eastend and Muenster. Funding for this program is from the Canada Council for the Arts.

*Youth Poet Laureate Alasdair Rees (l) and
Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan Bruce Rice (r)
Photo credit: SWG Staff*

FALL CONFERENCE

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild hosted its annual fall writing conference in Saskatoon on October 20-21, 2018 at the Park Town Hotel.

Sarah de Leeuw presented the Caroline Heath Lecture. *Literary Nonfiction and Poetry in a Time of Reconciliation: A Collection of Writerly Reflections* asked how we write poetry and nonfiction in a time of reconciliation, and how we should reflect on this topic as writers.

Conference Sessions and presenters included:

- **YOU CAN'T STAND STILL: CREATING COMMUNITY** with Susan Harris, Vijay Kachru, and Danica Lorier
- **POETRY WORKSHOP** with Sarah de Leeuw
- **WHAT THE PUNK?** with Halli Lilburn
- **WHAT THE "FMSBWTÖZÄU" IS SOUND POETRY?** with Steven Ross Smith
- **IDENTITY POLITICS** with Tenille K. Campbell and Mika Lafond
- **THESE ARE THE DAVES OF OUR LIVES** with Dave Carpenter, Dave Margoshes and David A. Robertson.
- **SPEED DATING FOR WRITING GROUPS** with dee Hobsbawn-Smith
- **INDIGENOUS POETS SOCIETY SPOKEN WORD FEATURE** by Lindsay "Eekwol" Knight and Leigh Thomas
- **OPEN MIC WITH GERRY HILL: "BEAUTY TIPS"**
- **AFFIRMATION STATION** with J. Jill Robinson and Steven Ross Smith
- **THE BUSYNESS OF WRITING** with David A. Robertson

EASY WRITERS: FREEDOM AND WRITING CONFERENCE



*President's Breakfast
Annual Fall Conference
Photo credit: SWG Staff*

WORKSHOPS

2018-2019 was a very busy programming year with 19 professional development workshops offered. The SWG continues to focus on diversity and inclusivity in this program by offering workshops on a wide range of writing topics and genres, with diverse facilitators in other formats (online) and locations. Workshop partners included the Vertigo Series for a special Cathedral Village Arts Festival workshop, the Regina Public Library for their *Writes of Spring* program and SaskBooks, who co-organized the Publishing Symposiums with the Guild.

Workshops offered in the past year included:

Randy Lundy: Getting Back Into Writing

Barbara Klar: Listening to the Poem's Wisdom

Anne Lazurko: The Story of Creation (4 week online course)

Sheena Koops: If She Can Do It, So Can I: The Process, A NaNoWriMo Workshop

Marie Powell: You CAN Get There From Here

Amy Jo Ehman: Write Food: Stirring Your Creative Juices

Candas Jane Dorsey: How To Be Unrealistic!

John Barton: Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Submitting Your Work to Literary Magazines

dee Hobsbawn-Smith: Writers Group Speed Dating

Jenn Smith Nelson: Break Into the Travel Writing Market

Curtis Peeteetuce: The Process of Playwriting

Jean Hillabold: Genre Bias: Writing Romance and Erotica

Fabrice Koffy: Slam to Animate Words

Alison Lohans: Ideas—Reining Them In For Lift Off

Publishing Symposiums—Regina (Beyond the Book) and Saskatoon

THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Four pairs of apprentices and mentors were matched in the 2019 Mentorship Program to work for four months. A concluding Apprentice Reading, hosted by former apprentice Kate O'Gorman on April 30, 2019 at Amigos Cantina in Saskatoon, gave the apprentices the opportunity to share their work with friends, family and fellow writers. This year's participants included:

APPRENTICE

Steffan Swaan

Judith Wright

Theressa Slind

Gail May-Melin

MENTOR

Edward Willett

Alexandra Popoff

Sylvia Legris

Randy Lundy

WRITE AFTER LUNCH

The Write After Lunch program continued for a fifth year. A number of Saskatchewan authors presented interactive talks on writing at the SWG's Ken Mitchell Library on the first Tuesday of each month. These talks are available online via Facebook Live and on the SWG YouTube channel. Write After Lunch presenters included Barbara Klar, Belinda Betker, dee Hobsbawn-Smith, Dianne Warren, Erik "Del Suelo" Mehlsen, Linda Biasotto, Sheena Koops, and Erroll Kinistino.

MANUSCRIPT EVALUATION SERVICE

This program assists writers at all levels of development with professional evaluations of completed manuscripts. Twenty-two writers participated in the program; their manuscripts included fiction (including children's fiction), nonfiction and poetry and totalled over a million words!

WRITERS' GROUPS

In 2018-2019, the SWG provided funding for 18 writers' groups for ongoing professional development of their members. Activities undertaken by these groups included professional development workshops with professional writers, writing retreats, assisting member meetings, and peer critiques of members' writing. We are pleased to help these groups in some small way and we hope to continue to develop opportunities for groups and their individual members to advance their writing abilities.

RETREATS

The SWG hosted Writers/Artist Retreats in February and July-August 2019, as well as two Facilitated Retreats from November 8-11, 2018 and July 12-19, 2019. Twenty-four writers enjoyed the Winter Retreat between February 1-22, and 11 writers joined On-Site Retreat Coordinator Judy McCrosky for the Summer Retreat from July 19-August 2, 2019. Writers from all over Canada continue to enjoy the SWG retreats.

Writer-in-Residence Beth Goobie worked with eight emerging writers at the November 2018 Facilitated Retreat. A week-long facilitated retreat was offered July 12-19, 2019 with Writer-in-Residence Tanis MacDonald, who worked with three emerging writers.

We thank all participants and donors to the SWG Retreats Program for their continued support.



*Facilitated Retreat Participants (back row l-r): Bob Friedrich, Madonna Hamel, Iryn Tushabe, Jill McKenzie, Nicole Stadnek, Joely BigEagle-Kequahtoway. (front row l-r): Melissa Cromarty, Beth Goobie (WiR), and Shaun Lalonde Muenster, SK
Photo credit: SWG Staff*

GRAIN

Grain, the journal of eclectic writing, is a literary quarterly in print, thanks to funding from the Canada Council for the Arts and the continued support of operational funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries through SaskCulture. It has continued to publish engaging, diverse, and challenging work by writers and visual artists on a provincial, national, and international level.

Volume 46 saw 102 writers published in our four regular issues, for a total of 133 published pieces, plus six Short *Grain* Contest-winning pieces. *Grain* also published a fifth special issue this year, dedicated to the work of Indigenous writers and storytellers, a project for which we received financial support from the Government of Canada. This special issue included work by 33 writers, for a total of 41 pieces. *Grain* also featured the work of four visual artists in volume 46, plus one in the special issue—Steve Mennie from BC, and Gina Brass, Rebecca Perehudoff, Corinna Wollf, and special issue artist, Joi T. Arcand. Four of these artists either originate from, have spent most of their adult life and artistic career, or are currently living in Saskatchewan.

Grain's editorial team for volume 46 consisted of Editor Nicole Haldoupis, Poetry Editor dee Hobsbawn-Smith, and Fiction and Nonfiction Editor Terry Jordan. For the Indigenous Writers and Storytellers issue, we were able to hire Guest Associate Editors to work with Nicole on the issue—Lisa Bird Wilson worked as the Guest Fiction and Nonfiction Editor, and Tenille K. Campbell was the Guest Poetry Editor. The work of Preliminary Readers helped us overcome our fiction backlog, and the effect of their work showed through volume 46, and assisted us in achieving our goal of shorter response times—Nathan Mader and Cassidy McFadzean were hired for a short time as Preliminary Readers, and University of Saskatchewan MFA in Writing students, Simon Boehm, Carolyn Gray, and Dylan Rea, volunteered as Preliminary Readers. Stephanie Campbell, the SWG Publications Coordinator, continued as *Grain's* Designer through volume 46, with a Guest Designer, Chris Tyrone Ross, for the special issue,

and Leah MacLean-Evans continued as *Grain's* Proofreader.

General submissions remained high this year at 2119 (1179 poetry, 691 fiction, and 249 nonfiction), up from last year's 2112 (1081 poetry, 868 fiction, and 163 nonfiction). The lower fiction number was likely caused by our delayed opening of fiction submissions, which we did to allow time to focus on the fiction backlog, however other genres experienced a rise. We received 151 submissions for our Indigenous Writers and Storytellers issue (104 poetry, 29 fiction, and 18 nonfiction).

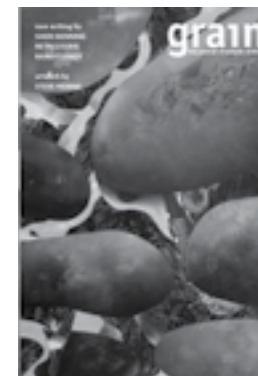
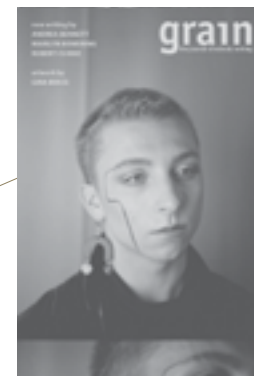
Subscriptions rose this year to 348, up from 220 in 2017-18, (328 Canada, 1 Germany, 1 Denmark, 17 USA). There were 136 individual issues sold for the year, down from last year's 220.

Our 31st annual Short *Grain* Contest judges were Karen Solie (poetry) and Joshua Whitehead (fiction). Submissions went up significantly this year—we received more than double the number of poetry entries, 221, up from last year's 101. For fiction, we received 102, down from last year's 103. Aside from five US poems, all entries were Canadian.

Thank you to the judges for their work and consideration of each entry, and to Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg for their continued support as benefactors of the Short *Grain* Contest. Their generosity has kept this contest going for over thirty years.

Nicole Haldoupis
Editor

SWG Annual Report 2017/2018

**THE SHORT *GRAIN* WINNERS****FICTION**

- 1st place: "Middle of Nowhere" by Roni Muench (Saskatoon, SK)
 2nd place: "The Settler" by Shandell Houlden (Sooke, BC)
 3rd place: "Don't Tell Pablo" by Cora Siré (Montreal, QC)

Honourable Mentions

- "Small Fires Burned in Newspaper Boxes" by Chelsea Comeau (Port Alberni, BC)
 "Lady With the Big Head Chronicle" by Angelique Lalonde (Hazelton - Gitxsan Territory, BC)

POETRY

- 1st place: "Horizontal Gene Transfer" by Bradley Peters (Mission, BC)
 2nd place: "Walking With Lions" by Bert Almon (Edmonton, AB)
 3rd place: "330 + 1 Lakes" by Sarah Pelletier (Toronto, ON)

Honourable Mentions

- "Flood" by Tara Borin (Dawson City, YT)
 "The Reasons Why My Younger Self Will Not Surrender Her Memories To Me" by Tea Gerbeza (Regina, SK)

FREELANCE

Freelance is the SWG’s member newsletter provided free to all Guild members with an up-to-date membership. *Freelance* aims to create a discourse with our membership, and inspire them on their writing journey. *Freelance* focuses on articles that cover craft, publishing, and the business of writing and is distributed online and mailed. Writers and editorial pitches are always welcome by contacting our Publications Coordinator. Current and archived issues of *Freelance* are available to SWG members in the Member Area of our website.

SPRING

Spring is a biannual publication that showcases emerging Saskatchewan writers. Managing and Poetry Editor Bernadette Wagner and Fiction and Nonfiction Editor Edward Willett reviewed over 120 submissions to select 22 final works of fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. Every contributor was able to read their work at either the Regina *Spring* launch on March 21 at the Revival Music Room, or the Saskatoon *Spring* launch on March 26 at the Refinery. Contributors included Karen Nye, Kelly Mills, Sharon Bird, Tara Dawn Solheim, Morgan Traquair, Carrie Stene, Mandie Hagel, Tea Gerbeza, Sharon Bird, Ryan Weild, Andrea Ledding, Janet Robinson, Irteqa Khan, Shauna Checkley, R. D. Cram, Shauna Eveleigh Harris, Danica Lorer and Sue Cook.



WINDSCRIPT

Windscrip features the best in Saskatchewan high school writing. A great crowd celebrated the launch of *Windscrip* Vol. 35 at the Artesian during the Cathedral Village Arts Festival on May 20, 2019. Editor and launch host Tea Gerbeza provided opening remarks and introductions for all of the readers, while Youth Poet Laureate, Alasdair Rees, performed as featured poet. The following youth were selected as magazine contributors and read at the launch: Andrew Adair, Teah Angelstad, Kayla Huyghebaert Belsher, Breanna Bjarnason, Sohila Elgedawi, Rebekah Fehr, Michelle Gall, Olivia Grandy, Tiana Lafreniere, Teah Lennea, Samantha Leray, Seija Liimatainen, Kyle Luo, Annika Olson, Jenai Petit, Sarah Radke, Cassiopeia Raycraft, Trinity Squirrel, Karlet Stangel, Jarrad Starr, Emily Zbaraschuk. Congratulations to award winners Trinity Squirrel (Jerrett Enns Award for Poetry), Rebekah Fehr (Jerrett Enns Award for Prose) and Annika Olson (Currie-Hyland Prize).

EBRIEFS

Ebriefs is the Guild’s weekly email bulletin available to any member who has email or internet access. In addition to being a useful informational resource about events and markets, *Ebriefs* helps to build a sense of community by including classifieds, calls of interest, and member news and events. Submissions to *Ebriefs* must be received by our Publications Coordinator by Wednesday evening. Archived issues of *Ebriefs* are available to SWG members in the Member Area of our website.



Top Photo:
Family Literacy Day, RODS
Regina Public Library
Photo credit: SWG Staff

Bottom Photo:
Alison Kydd, Author Readings Program
Indian Head Library, Constant Comments Book Club
Photo credit: SWG Staff

2018 - 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (FROM OCTOBER 2018)

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Melanie McFarlane

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Mary Blackstone

**Writing North 7
Committee**
Sheri Benning
Jeanette Lynes
Diane Tegencamp

SWG VOLUNTEERS

Library Inventory
Ashley Maxie

**Cathedral Village
Arts Festival**
Chloe Chen
Ryan Weild

Fall Conference
Jillian Bell
Jennifer Fry
Susie Hammond
Marie Hanson
Hope Houston
Jennie Hunter
Zach Keesey
Tom Krocynski
Danica Lorer
Melanie McFarlane
Jeanette Montgomery
Kate O'Gorman
Paula Jane Remlinger
Darla Tenold

Readings by the River
Ayesha Baig
Paula Jane Remlinger
Darla Tenold

Talking Fresh 15
Courtney Bates-Hardy

Amy Bedel
Mary Blackstone
Angie Counios
David Gane
Tara Gereaux
Raye Hendrickson
Daylene Silz
James Trettwer
Iryn Tushabe

Words in the Park
Courtney Bates-Hardy
Janelle Rempell
Coby Stephenson

Word on the Street 2018
Jennie Hunter
Kate O'Gorman
Ryan Weild

Word on the Street 2019
Susie Hammond
Kate O'Gorman
Danica Lorer
Amanda Roslinsky
Jack Walton

Writing North 2019
Amy Bedel
Susie Hammond
Hope Houston
Jennie Hunter
Zach Keesey
Tonia Laird
Danica Lorer
Bronwen McRae
Cameron Muir
Kate O'Gorman
Doreen Stumborg
Darla Tenold

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Kloppenburg Award
Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg
Saskatoon Community
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gillian harding-russell
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James McLean
Renee Molesky
Wynne Nicholson
Joan Olson
David Richards
William Robertson
Glen Sorestad
Bernadette Wagner
Murray Walter
Jayne Whyte

Retreats

S. Portico Bowman
Hilary Clark
Tara Gereaux
Carol Gossner
Elizabeth Greene
Ilonka Halsband
Judit Hollos
Elizabeth Kuzma
Anne Lazurko
Donna C. Miller
Leona Theis



*Andino Suns
Stories Under a Living Sky, Regina
Photo credit: SWG Staff*

Audit Committee Report

The annual audit was conducted by MWC Chartered Professional Accountants LLP and was presented to the Audit Committee on September 19, 2019. The auditors state the Guild’s financial practices are sound and in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Some items of note:

- Membership numbers are up from 513 in 2018 to 563. Breakdown as follows:

Regular member	258
Senior	234
Student	41
Associates/Groups	16
Honorary/Lifetime	11
Funder/Other	3
- Membership fees are lower than 2018. This is due to an over inflation of the 2018 dues as some 2-year membership funds were included in the amount. An adjustment was processed in 2019 to defer the income and correct the issue.
- Artist fees are higher than 2018 due to more programing in 2019. More programs mean more fees for instructors, presenters and mentors. But that also means more benefit for the members who take advantage of these programs. Two of the programs were the Indigenous Mentorship program and the Indigenous issue of *Grain*.
- Salary costs are down due to vacancies in various staff positions during the year.
- Interest income increased due to excellent management of funds by SWG staff.
- An amount of \$7,500 has been budgeted for website redevelopment in the next year. The SWG website was last updated in 2008.

The hard work and resourcefulness of SWG staff in funds management, program organization and grant application has resulted in a net surplus of \$42,346 for 2019. This increases the SWG reserve to \$292,692, over half way to our goal of six month’s operating costs.

Jeanette Montgomery
Audit Committee Chair



**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR
ON SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Members of Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild Inc.

Opinion
The summary financial statements, which comprise of the summary statement of financial position as of July 31, 2019, the summary statement of operations and changes in net assets and summary schedules of grain and retreat operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild Inc. for the year ended July 31, 2019. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 22, 2019.

Which are prepared in our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements
The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the related auditor’s report, is not a substitute for reading the complete audited financial statements, including notes and the auditor’s report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon
We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 22, 2019. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was on the completeness of memberships, donation and sponsorship revenues.

Management’s Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements
Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarized financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, “Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.”

MWCLLP


Chartered Professional Accountants LLP

REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 22, 2019


Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Financial Position			
As of July 31	2019	2018	
ASSETS			
Current assets	\$ 692,038	\$ 673,661	
Capital assets and art work	17,650	13,131	
Due from related parties	432	-	
	\$ 710,120	\$ 686,792	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities	\$ 411,030	\$ 405,592	
Deferred revenue	6,398	7,398	
Due to related parties	-	23,456	
Net Assets	292,692	250,346	
	\$ 710,120	\$ 686,792	

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Director



Director

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets			
Year Ended July 31	2019	2018	
REVENUES			
Grant	\$ 801,056	\$ 759,948	
Self-generated	68,696	73,248	
Donations and sponsorships	23,981	18,841	
Grain (Schedule 1)	64,001	48,982	
Retreat (Schedule 2)	22,857	20,399	
	980,591	921,418	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	155,252	133,191	
Program delivery	93,901	81,876	
Grain (Schedule 1)	109,775	84,923	
Retreat (Schedule 2)	48,566	40,258	
Operational and amortization expenses	169,065	175,679	
Salaries and benefits	341,686	347,642	
Donation to SWG Foundation Inc.	20,000	25,000	
	938,245	888,569	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$ 42,346	\$ 32,849	
Net assets - beginning of year	250,346	217,497	
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 292,692	\$ 250,346	

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc. Summary Financial Statements

Summary Statement of Grain Operations		(Schedule 1)	
Year Ended July 31	2019	2018	
REVENUES			
Grant	\$ 45,302	\$ 34,500	
Donations and sponsorships	2,802	3,025	
Publications revenue	15,897	11,457	
	64,001	48,982	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	75,231	55,330	
Publishing and distribution	21,364	15,048	
Office, meetings and travel	1,808	1,432	
Salaries and benefits	11,372	13,113	
	109,775	84,923	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM GRAIN OPERATIONS	\$ (45,774)	\$ (35,941)	

Summary Statement of Retreat Operations		(Schedule 2)	
Year Ended July 31	2019	2018	
REVENUES			
Donations and sponsorships	985	3,251	
Workshop and participant fees	21,872	17,148	
	22,857	20,399	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	2,000	1,550	
Program delivery	43,664	33,878	
Office, meetings and travel	217	160	
Salaries and benefits	2,685	4,670	
	48,566	40,258	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM RETREAT OPERATIONS	\$ (25,709)	\$	(19,859)

These schedules report the revenues and expenses of the Grain and Retreat operations. Any shortfall is covered by general operational funds

These statements are derived from the audited financial statements which are available upon request from the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

2018-2019 SWG STAFF

Executive Director
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Yolanda Hansen

Financial Manager
Jacqueline Fry

Administrative Assistant
Saba Dar
Samantha Workman
Andrea MacLeod

Publications Coordinator
Stephanie Campbell/Dustin Gill

Program Coordinator
Cat Abenstein

Indigenous Program Coordinator
Nickita Longman / Ali Fontaine

Program Assistant Vacant

Grain Editor
Nicole Haldoupis

Fiction and Nonfiction Editor
Terry Jordan

Poetry Editor
dee Hobsbawn-Smith

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Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

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Regina, Saskatchewan
S4R 1C9

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Regina, SK
S4P 3R9

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800.667.6788

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