

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Annual Report 2017/2018

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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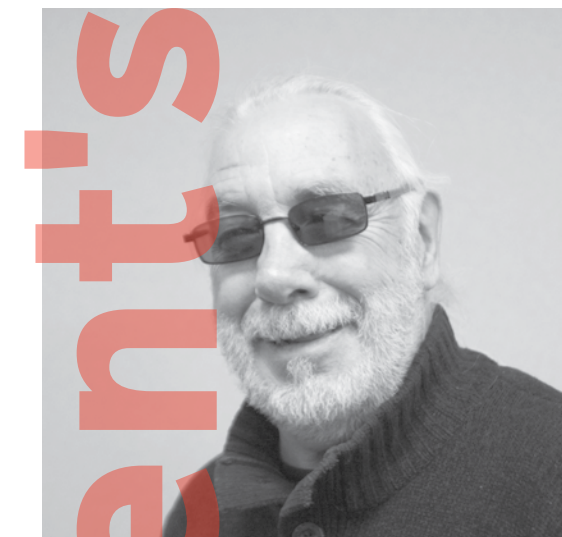
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President's Report

“Life is what happens when you’re busy making other plans.”

—John Lennon

There has indeed been much “life” happening at the Guild. After nearly eight years at the helm of the SWG, Judith Silverthorne retired, paving the way for a new Executive Director. As outlined in our policies, a clear succession plan had been developed resulting in long-time Program Manager Tracy Hamon assuming the role of Interim Executive Director. A selection process was undertaken by an arms-length committee resulting in Tracy being selected as the full-time Executive Director of the Guild. Congratulations, Tracy, and thank you, Judith, for your dedication and commitment to the Guild. It has been a pleasure to work with both of you.

Change also came last year in the form of union certification of the non-management staff. This relationship continues to emerge. The Board supports the employees in our new unionized environment and remains committed to bargaining in good faith towards a healthy and supportive workplace for all. Negotiating a collective agreement is the next step and the Board awaits an initial proposal from the unionized staff.

In attempting to build a better understanding of the organizational elements of the Guild, we have partnered with SaskCulture in LifeCycles, a pilot project designed to evaluate key organizational elements. The Guild was selected along with three other provincial organizations to engage in the process. In this phase, there will be a review of our

governance policies as well as the development of a new strategic plan. The Guild will work with targeted consultants towards those ends and we’re thankful for the opportunity and support provided by SaskCulture.

As for plans, 2019 will mark the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild. There will be celebrations, tributes, and legacy initiatives and I welcome you, the membership, to share your ideas and give of your time to make it a year to remember. Watch for announcements!

Next year will also mark the 10th anniversary of the Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence, a prestigious recognition of a Saskatchewan writer that is receiving much deserved national attention.

Diverse, accessible, and exemplary programming continues to be at the heart and soul of the SWG. Throughout all the changes, this core has remained solid, with membership participation driving the Guild’s programs. Honest and constructive feedback are key to ongoing success and to the development of new programming for an ever evolving membership.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership of the Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild for allowing me to serve as your President for the past three years. While it has been filled with many challenges, it has been an honour to work with such a diverse group of individuals who care for the well being of the Guild and the health of our writing community. Your understanding of and support for the Guild has made the task much easier. Thank you to the volunteer directors of the Board, senior staff, and the many members who have taken the time to both bend my ear and listened to my rants about process.

You have made me feel welcomed and I thank you.

Jack Walton
President

In the words of the famous author Dr. Seuss, “How did it get so late so soon?” Another year of SWG operations and programs have evaporated into time clouds. It’s been a year of transition in the office—new staff, old staff, same staff, different staff—and yet here we are at the end of the fiscal year to say proudly, here we are.

The SWG’s 49th year slid by financially on vacancy management’s skates. This means that with a decreased staff, the Guild was able to keep finances on track without any program repercussions. With the retirement of long-time Executive Director Judith Silverthorne and the search for the new Executive Director of the SWG, operational management and staffing stayed a steady course with reduced numbers. In May, a new ED (that’s me!) was hired and I officially began as the permanent ED on June 1.

Although we were in the last year of our Annual Global Funding, we were provided with funding for the 2018-19 fiscal year while SaskCulture negotiates a new contract with Saskatchewan Lotteries. Our Canada Council operating grants for *Grain* and programs are now combined into one grant application and we were able to increase the amount to about \$55,000 from \$53,000. Our City of Regina funding also remains stable at \$24,000 and we have two more years of funding in our operating grant.

In memberships, the SWG welcomed a bevy of new writers, bringing our membership back up to over 550. Our increase may be attributed to the new policies surrounding Associate Memberships, or

just due to the quality of programming and services, and the great outreach by our SWG Board of Directors and staff. I prefer to think the latter!

As for programming, we kept what works, focusing on our summer reading series, mentorships, retreats, manuscript evaluations, and workshops to name a few. In publications, we revamped *Freelance* and *Ebriefs*. We saw every program as an opportunity to increase our diversity and to be inclusive.

We wished Oin Nicholson well in new ventures across the country and we welcomed a new baby, Freya, for Administrative Assistant Andrea MacLeod. We welcomed temporary Administrative Assistant, Saba Dar, who joined us as an intern and stayed. I’m happy to welcome Program Manager Yolanda Hansen and Program Coordinator Cat Abenstein to the SWG programming team—please introduce yourself to them when you meet them. Also, huge thank yous to every volunteer and committee member—your dedication to the Guild helps to keep us pulsing in the community.

Although Albert Einstein maintains that “time is an illusion,” the SWG continues to walk one foot at a time forward to a half a century. It’s my anticipation that we’ll continue to embrace our diverse cultural milieu, continue expanding our membership’s horizons with our programming and services and that all of us can continue to read, write and converse about writing.

Tracy Hamon
Executive Director



photo courtesy of Shelley Banks

ED's Report

Awards

CITY OF REGINA WRITING AWARD

And the winner was: Debby Adair! On May 15 at the Artesian, the SWG and City of Regina celebrated Debby and runners-ups Iryn Tushabe and Tanya Foster at the annual reception. Councillor Barbara Young was in attendance to present the award to the winner and runners-up. The SWG is grateful to the City of Regina for its continued sponsorship of this \$4,500 award and for the reception.

JOHN V. HICKS LONG MANUSCRIPT AWARDS

The John V. Hicks Luncheon, held in Regina during the SWG Fall Conference, awarded three prizes for nonfiction. The first place winner was Dauna Ditson for *Wide Open*; Lois Simmie won second place for *Finding my Way*; and Debby Adair took third for *Little Wonders*. \$1,000, \$650, and \$350 in respective prizes were awarded and selections were made by jurors Ted Barris and Susan Olding.

THE CHERYL AND HENRY KLOPPENBURG AWARD FOR LITERARY EXCELLENCE

Trevor Herriot was the winner of the 2017 Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence. On September 19, 2017 a luncheon was once again held at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon. The reception was open to all SWG members and about 95 people were on hand to eat a wonderful lunch and listen to Herriot accept the award.

Debby Adair accepts the 2018
City of Regina Writing Award from
Councillor Barbara Young.
Photo: SWG staff



Community Partnered Events

SWG Annual Report 2017/2018

WRITING NORTH

On January 19-20, 2018 the SWG and the University of Saskatchewan hosted Writing North: Hurry Hard! which was held at Marquis Hall on the University Campus. The event began on Friday afternoon with a panel discussion and featured Martha Baillie, Marina Endicott, Katherine Lawrence, Kenneth T. Williams, and Shane Book. Jordan Abel gave a special Friday night talk, which was followed by a Q&A. Each author's Saturday session explored writing and creating in relation to the conference theme.



The 2018 Writing North panel (from left to right): Shane Book, Katherine Lawrence, Marina Endicott, Martha Baillie, Kenneth T. Williams, and Jordan Abel. Photo: SWG staff

TALKING FRESH

On March 2-3, 2018 Talking Fresh: Unabridged was held at Hill Tower III in Regina. This year, writers and artists explored writing about various aspects of the unabridged in writing. Talking Fresh began on Friday, March 2 at 4:00 p.m. with a panel discussion that involved Tracey Lindberg, Ins Choi, Canisia Lubrin, Beau Dixon, and Catherine Graham. The evening also featured a reception and author readings. On Saturday, March 4, all authors conducted workshop-style sessions, focusing on the craft of writing in relation to their genres. The festival was free and open to the public, and many people found these sessions interesting and interactive.

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. Over the course of November, participants were challenged to write 50,000 words towards a novel. Write-ins were hosted by the SWG and featured guest authors Tara Gereaux and Counios and Gane. Congratulations to all participants who achieved their writing goals.

POET LAUREATE

Brenda Schmidt continued her Poet Laureate term with such events as the Saskatchewan Book Awards, the Poetry Month reading at Government House with Lisa Bird-Wilson and Lynda Monahan, Poetry and a Pint at Bushwakker Brewpub (featuring Shelley Banks, Chelsea Coupal, Gillian Harding-Russell, Randy Lundy, and Bernadette Wagner), and the Northern Spring Celebration of Poetry in Prince Albert. Thanks to the Lt. Gov. of Saskatchewan for being a patron of the Poet Laureate and to Bushwakker Brewpub for their poetic partnership.

ARTS ORGANIZATIONS PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Each year, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild have come together to address major conversations going on in the arts community. This year, we partnered with Common Weal and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan to address racism in the prairies after the acquittals of two non-Indigenous men were delivered in the killing of Colten Boushie and Tina Fontaine.

The panel discussion featured arts administrators and artists and navigated ways in which we can address these concerns within the arts community. With help from the Saskatchewan Film Pool and IndigenX Media, the conversation was professionally recorded and is available to all the organizations' membership as a resource.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild was pleased to partner, once again, with the Circle Project's day-long celebration of National Indigenous Peoples' Day in inner-city Regina. The event hosted musical acts, crafting, a free BBQ, and a storytellers' tipi sponsored by SWG. Elder Hazel Dixon and Rhonda Donais participated in the storytellers' tipi, engaging in hands-on activities, history lessons, and oral story traditions throughout the afternoon.

The SWG also partnered with the Indigenous Poets' Society to host a spoken word event in downtown Saskatoon. Spoken word poets Kevin Wesaquate, Janelle Pewapsconias, and Shawn Joseph shared their work covering themes such as decolonization, cultural appropriation, revitalization, and reclamation of Indigenous languages to a smaller, more intimate dinner crowd.

The SWG is grateful for the funding from Celebrate Canada.

Kevin Wesaquate delivers some spoken word poetry during National Indigenous Peoples' Day at Amigos in Saskatoon on June 21.
Photo: SWG staff

CELEBRATE CANADA

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild partnered with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan once again to host "Little Stories on the Prairie." This is a project that 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 event in Regina took place at the downtown Regina Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 23. Presenters included writers Ven Begamudré, Randy Lundy, Ponziano Aluma, Iryn Tushabe, and the drum and dance group KARIBU.

In Saskatoon, the program was hosted at the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival on Wednesday, June 27. Presenters included Ahmad Majid, Peace Akintade, Janelle Pewapsconias, Sandi Martinez, and Jebunnessa Chapola.

WORDS IN THE PARK

Our Regina summer reading series entered its ninth season, with readings taking place in Victoria Park, next to the vibrant Farmers' Market. Thanks to the wonderful City of Regina for helping to provide the funding, Regina Downtown Business Improvement District for their support for this Program, and the Regina Public Library for providing an alternate location in case of bad weather. This year's program included partnerships with Creative City Centre's Regina Word Up and Regina Word Up Youth poetry slam team, Listen to Dis' arts organization, and the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Authors, poets and storytellers that performed included: Brad Bellegarde, Tara Gereaux, *Wanderlust* Contributors (Byrna Barclay, Linda Biasotto, Annette Bower, Brenda Niskala, James Trettwer, Shelley Banks, Kelly-Anne Reiss), Danica Lorier, Amy Roher, David Gane and Angie Counios, Austin Ahenakew, Charly Bird, Elia Maxwell, Keith Foster, Jeremy Cook, Edward Willett, Trina Markusson, Ryan Weild, Bob Friedrich, Bernadette Wagner, Carol Daniels, Cat Abenstein, and Riva Racette.

Hosts included: *Wanderlust* Contributors, Danica Lorier, Cat Abenstein, Courtney Bates-Hardy, Ryan Weild, Bernadette Wagner, Devon Dozlaw, and Sarah Longman.

READINGS BY THE RIVER

Our Saskatoon summer reading series, Readings by the River, entered its fourth season in partnership with Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan (SotS) at the community tent by the Saskatchewan River. This series runs in conjunction with the SotS Happy Hour, leading up to the Shakespeare play for the evening and has maintained active audience interest. This year's program included partnerships from Tonight it's Poetry and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Mentorship program.

Authors, poets and storytellers that performed included: Darla Tenold, Vijay Kachru, Erica Violet Lee, Zoey Pricelys Roy, Tenille Campbell, David Gane and Angie Counios, Jeremy Cook, Danica Lorier, Shanda Stefanson, Beth Goobie, Ken Fox, Alexandra Popoff, Sally Meadows, Mari-Lou Rowley, Ayesha Baig, Rachel Laverdiere, and Kathie Cram.

Hosts included: Laura McNaughton, Sally Meadows, Eric Neufeld, Ayesha Baig, and Danica Lorier.

FIRST NATIONS READING SERIES

The First Nations University and the Office of Indigenization through the University of Regina partnered with the SWG once again this year. For our fall semester reading, we hosted Louise Bernice Halfe and Tenille Campbell. The talk focused on Indigenous female sexuality in writing, as well as ties to the land, language, and tradition. Held at the First Nations University, the event was well-attended and engaging.

For the winter semester reading, we hosted poets Billy Ray Belcourt and Gwen Benaway. The authors explored how writing from a queer and trans perspective informed their writing, covering topics of online relationships, popular culture, #CanLit and more. This event was also partnered with the Heritage Community Association and UR Pride, and was followed by a writing workshop that gave preference to young, Indigenous, LGBTQ2S+ writers. The poets engaged and interacted in hands-on writing activities for 15 participants.



SWG
programming
visited
90+
communities
in the province
this year.

STORYTELLING EVENTS

With generous funding from Library Services for Saskatchewan Aboriginal Peoples once again, Aboriginal Storytellers' month hosted various events in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert. For the first time ever, SWG paired with the Grandmothers at the University of Regina. Grandmothers Lillian Piapot and Margaret Masney engaged in a come-and-go storytelling session with Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at the Aboriginal Student Centre on campus. The gathering proved to be a much needed and appreciated break from studying.

In Saskatoon, Tenille Campbell engaged with Indigenous students at the Gordon Oakes Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Saskatoon. Her engagement included elements of humour and intimacy and how they inform our way of storytelling.

The Mann Art Gallery in Prince Albert hosted author and artist Leah Dorion. Although the weather was a challenge, the SWG had full registration for her afternoon workshop. Dorion engaged the techniques of storytelling with her audience in ways that included age-friendly material, art, and props.

AUTHOR READINGS PROGRAM

The SWG was pleased to subsidize 54 authors through the Author Readings Program. For this fiscal year, there have been 143 readings with more than 8300 attendees. This well-established SWG program saw 109 schools, libraries, and community groups host the 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. The program used the entirety of the allocated budget for 2017-2018.

RURAL WORKSHOPS

The SWG was able to offer rural communities professional development opportunities to hone their writing skills. This fiscal year, the timing and structure of the readings/workshops remained flexible for hosts and authors as the community and the invited authors often provided both the workshop and reading in one day. Funding for this program is from the Canada Council and two community workshops were held this fiscal year.

*Danica Lorer tells a story
to an audience at the Swift
Current Public Library.
Photo: SWG staff*



The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild hosted its annual fall writing conference in Regina on October 21-22, 2017. The theme explored inspiration, from zombies to flash mobs, to words, and surviving the writing life.

Other Conference Sessions and presenters included:

KEEPING IT FRESH: SURVIVAL TACTICS FOR KEEPING GOING

with Alison Lohans, Pat Miller-Schroeder, Anne Patton, and Myrna Guymer. Moderator: Sharon Plumb Hamilton

POETRY WORKSHOP WITH KAREN SOLIE

THE RECLAMATION PROJECT: IN CONVERSATION WITH LOUISE BERNICE HALFE

HOW TO SUCCEED AS A NONFICTION WRITER

with Elizabeth Shih and Toby Welch. Moderator: Paula Jane Remlinger

POEM(S)TALK: A BLUE-CURSOR CAFÉ

with Gerald Hill and Katherine Lawrence

DAWN OF THE READ: WRITING AND INSPIRATION

with Lynda Monahan and Carla Braidek

ART THAT SAVES LIVES AND ITS RESIDUE

with Bruce Rice, Anne Lazurko and Merle Massie

Q & A WITH AN AUTHOR

with Dr. Blair Stonechild

Fall Conference Dawn of the Read

The Caroline Heath Lecture was presented by Karen Solie and focused on asking questions about how inspiration can motivate and interrogate and how to continue to be inspired by others and their writing.



Karen Solie delivers her keynote speech at the 2017 fall conference. Photo: SWG staff

Professional Development

THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The extremely popular Mentorship Program culminated with the Apprentice Reading hosted by former participant, Shelley Banks on April 26, 2018 at Revival Music Room in Regina. Friends, family and writers gathered to hear the emerging talent (who felt like rock stars on the stage) and stayed to enjoy the reception that followed the reading. Thanks to the City of Regina for the final reading funding. This year's participants:

Apprentice

Danica Lorer (Saskatoon)
Darla Tenold (Saskatoon)
Kate O'Gorman (Saskatoon)
Troni Grande (Regina)

Mentor

Bill Robertson (Saskatoon)
Dave Margoshes (Saskatoon)
dee Hobsbawn-Smith (Saskatoon)
Alexandra Popoff (Saskatoon)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

A variety of workshops were offered by the SWG throughout the province this year. In Saskatoon, the SWG utilized a few different spaces, while partnerships in Regina included the Regina Public Library for their Writes of Spring program. These partnerships provided more variety and workshop opportunities for writers. Workshops offered in the past year included:

Bernadette Wagner: What's in a Lifetime?
Bruce Rice: Voice and Writing from Art
Dwayne Brenna: The Rag and Bone Shop: Finding your Voice as a Writer
Elizabeth Philips: The Art of Revision
Gail Anderson-Dargatz: Sculpting a Good Idea into a Great Book
Gail Bowen: Ready? Set? WRITE!
Leah Dorion: Storytelling Workshop
Lee Maracle: Crafting Poetry from an Indigenous Perspective
Lisa Pasold: Write Every Day
Publishing Symposiums—Regina and Saskatoon

*Opposite page: A group of workshop participants pose with Lee Maracle at her workshop in the SWG Library on April 30.
Photo: SWG staff*

MANUSCRIPT EVALUATION SERVICE

This program, now funded solely by the SWG, provides valuable evaluations of the manuscripts in process and 17 people utilized the services of established Saskatchewan writers to evaluate their work. This program continues to be a valuable asset to any emerging writer and we encourage everyone from beginning, emerging, to established writers to take part in this program.

744, 824

the number of words read in this year's Manuscript Evaluations

+1500

views on
Livestream and
Facebook Live

WRITE AFTER LUNCH

This year, the Write After Lunch program continued for its fourth year. It offered opportunities for SWG members and the public to hear authors' presentations on the craft of writing, as well as ask them some questions, in the SWG Ken Mitchell Library and online via LiveStream and Facebook Live. Past talks are available to watch on the SWG YouTube channel and on our Facebook page.

Write After Lunch hosted talks from: Tara Gereaux, Martine Noël-Maw, Lee Maracle, Leah Dorion, Elizabeth Philips, Edward Willet, Devin Pacholik, and Bruce Rice.

WRITERS' GROUPS

Members' writing groups from all over the province continue to be an essential part of the Guild and this year the SWG provided funding for writers' groups for ongoing professional development of their members.

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 move forward in their advancement of writing.

18

writers' groups
funded

FUN FACT!

THE SWG PRODUCES
MORE PUBLICATIONS THAN ANY OTHER PROVINCIAL
WRITING ORGANIZATION IN CANADA

GRAIN REPORT

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 45 saw 90 writers published, for a total of 125 published pieces, plus six Short *Grain* Contest-winning pieces. *Grain* also published four visual artists in volume 45—Kathryn Macnaughton, Rajni Perera, and Saskatchewan artists, Phomohobes and Tim Moore. *Grain* went into volume 45 with a new Editor, Nicole Haldoupis, and Guest Associate Editors, dee Hobsbawn-Smith for poetry, and Edward Willett for fiction. The second half of volume 45 saw a new permanent editorial team, consisting of Editor Nicole Haldoupis, Poetry Editor dee Hobsbawn-Smith, and Fiction and Nonfiction Editor Terry Jordan. University of Saskatchewan MFA in Writing students, Simon Boehm, Carolyn Gray, and Dylan Rea, volunteered as preliminary readers to help tackle the backlog of fiction submissions which accumulated as a result of staffing changes and a rise in submissions, and to help us with our goal of having shorter response times. We celebrated the new team and winter issue with a launch party at McNally Robinson,

which featured readings by Saskatchewan writers Bruce Rice, David Carpenter, dee Hobsbawn-Smith, and Terry Jordan. Stephanie Campbell, the SWG Publications Coordinator, continued as *Grain*'s Designer, and Leah MacLean-Evans as *Grain*'s Proofreader.

General submissions remained high this year at 2112 (1081 poetry, 868 fiction, and 163 literary nonfiction submissions). Although we're slightly down from last year's 2231, we're up more than 30% from two years ago. The consistent inflow of submissions is likely a result of Submittable, where writers can submit work online for free, making the submission process more accessible.

Subscriptions fell again this year, from 598 in 2015-16, to 394 in 2016-17, to 220 in 2017-18, with 90% in Canada (17% from Saskatchewan), and 10% international subscribers, from the US, Thailand, and Germany. There were also 220 individual issues sold for the year. We ran two, two-year subscription promotions this year, one as a winter holiday sale and the other this summer as a 45th anniversary sale, which helped to boost subscribers.

Submissions for our annual Short *Grain* contest went up from 117 last year to 132, with 74 fiction submissions and 58 poetry. Aside from ten US entries, one from Thailand, and one from Germany, most were Canadian.

Judges for the 30th annual Short *Grain*

Publications

Contest were Canisia Lubrin for poetry and Rawi Hage for fiction. They selected the top three submissions in each category, as well as two honourable mentions:

FICTION

First place: “Starting a Religion”
by Francine Cunningham
Second place: “Raymond’s Old Man”
by Ted McInnis
Third place: “If Only”
by Francene Gillis

Honourable mentions:
“The Death of Xavier”
by Michael Holtzman
“Super Reader”
by Bill Stenson

POETRY

First place: “To the Men Who Would Have Killed Me”
by Lauren Turner
Second place: “Not Enough Hallelujahs”
by Nicole Lachat
Third place: “I felt a first communion in my brain”
by Annick MacAskill

Honourable mentions:
“Arachnophobia”
by Nolan Natasha Pike
“Letter to K from Žižkov”
by Alison Braid

Thanks 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 30 years.

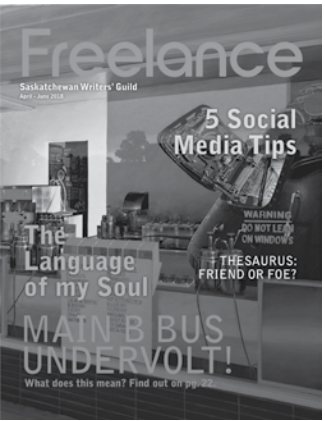
Nicole Haldoupis
Editor

Windscrip
submissions were
up by nearly
300%
in 2018



WINDSCRIPT

Windscrip, which features the best in Saskatchewan high school writing, saw a surge in submissions this year, thanks to an exciting new design and additional outreach to high schools from our programming team. Over 100 submissions were carefully considered by this year’s editor, Marie Powell. *Windscrip* Vol. 34 debuted at the Artesian in Regina on May 21, 2018, in conjunction with the Cathedral Village Arts Festival. Marie was the emcee for the event and provided opening remarks and introductions for all of the readers. Thanks to the following youth for being selected as magazine contributors, and for their public reading at the launch: Joseph Aldred, Bushra Burki, Kaylee Cloutier, Angelie Cortes, Jasmine Davidson, Jade Eckl, Keaton Fournier, Liam Garneau, Marlee Hauber, Kamryn Heavin, Quinn Hodges, Davis Ireland, Emily J. Hamilton, Kayla Huyghebaert-Belsher, Chad Kitchen, Abigail Kyliuk, Jackson Lester, Aaltice Mann, Madison Newberry, Brieanne



Oshaneek, Tia Pechawis, Ozmandias Rein, Meghan Reyda-Molnar, Chase Ross Daniel Silvester, Karley Stangel Caitlyn Waterhouse, and Ashton Weber. Congratulations to the award winners: Meghan Reyda-Molnar (Jerrett Enns Award for Poetry), Tia Pechawis (Jerrett Enns Award for Prose) and Chad Kitchen (Currie-Hyland Prize).

FREELANCE

Freelance is the SWG’s member newsletter provided free to all Guild members with an up-to-date membership. This year, *Freelance* was reinvented with a new contemporary design, and introduced several new components that aim to create a discourse with our membership, and inspire them on their writing journey. *Freelance* focuses on articles that cover craft, publishing, marketing, and the business of writing. This year, *Freelance* was distributed online to 373 members and mailed out to 170. We are always looking to work with new writers so



please submit your editorial pitches by contacting our Publications Coordinator. Current and archived issues of *Freelance* are available to SWG members in the Member Area of our website.

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. For information to be included in *Ebriefs*, it must be submitted to our Publications Coordinator by Wednesday evening. In November, *Ebriefs* was revamped using the marketing platform Mailchimp, and is now delivered to our members with a colourful new design. Archived issues of *Ebriefs* are available to SWG members in the Member Area of our website.

Board of Directors**President**

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Vice-President

Jillian Bell

Past-President

Jeanne Alexander

Members-at-Large

Jason Heit
Tom Kroczyński
Rachel Laverdiere
Melanie McFarlane
Jeanette Montgomery
Paula Jane Remlinger

Board Committees & Liasons**Audit Committee**

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Jeanette Montgomery (Chair)
Paula Jane Remlinger
Jack Walton

Governance Committee

Jeanne Alexander
Jason Heit (Chair)
Tom Kroczyński
Rachel Laverdiere
Melanie McFarlane
Jack Walton

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Jeanne Alexander
Jillian Bell
Heather Getz
Jan Seibel
Jack Walton (Chair)

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Jeanne Alexander (Chair)
Jack Walton

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Jillian Bell
Dave Carpenter
Paula Jane Remlinger
Kathleen Wall
Jack Walton (Chair)

Talking Fresh 15 Committee

Mary Blackstone
Troni Grande
Tara Dawn Solheim

Writing North 7 Committee

Sheri Benning
Jeanette Lynes
David Parkinson

SWG Volunteers**Cathedral Village Arts Festival**

Chloe Chen
Tara Gereaux
Bev Lundhal

FNUniv of Canada Powwow

Carla Braidek
Saima Desai
Tria Donaldson
David Gray-Donald
Jared Kaye
Night Kinistino
Andrew Loewen
Brad Olson

2017 Fall Conference/AGM

Carle Steel

Readings by the River

Ayesha Baig
Danica Lorer
Laura McNaughton
Sally Meadows
Eric Neufeld

Regina Fan Expo

Byrna Barclay
Brad Donaldson
Tria Donaldson
Gail Krawetz
Bev Lundahl
Robyn Tocker

Talking Fresh 15

Courtney Bates-Hardy
Jillian Bell
Mary Blackstone
Nicole Haldoupis
Gerry Hill
Iryn Tushabe
Jack Walton

Word on the Street

Jennifer Graham
Robert G. Longpré
Kate O’Gorman

Words in the Park

Cat Abenstein
Courtney Bates-Hardy
Devon Dozlaw
Danica Lorer
Sarah Longman
Bernadette Wagner
Wanderlust
Contributors
Ryan Weild

Writing North 7

Kristina Bidwell
Carolyn Gray
Toni Hiatt
Bonita Hus
Joanne Leow
Taidgh Lynch
Jaclyn Morken
Rosemary Nixon
David Parkinson
Helena Rosales
Palash Sanyal

Volunteers

SWG**Grain**

Carol Capling
Peter Jay Shippy
Rea Tarvydas
Dr. Malgorzata Nowaczyk
Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg

Kloppenburg Award

Cheryl and Henry Kloppenburg
Saskatoon Community Association

Regina Programs

Gail Bowen
Amy Jo Ehman
Sheena Koops
Danica Lorer
Trina Markusson
Marion Mutala

Retreats

Allison Kydd
dee Hobsbawn-Smith

General Donations

Rita Bouvier
Annette Bower
Robert Calder
Janet Creurer
Robert Currie
Felicia Daunt
Catherine Dean
Jeanette Dean
Jean Fahlman
Lyn Goldman
Susan Harris
Karen Klassen
Alice Kuipers
Robert Leech

Trina Markusson

Murdine McCreath

James McLean

Helen Mourre

Laurie Lynn Muirhead

Wynne Nicholson

Joan Olson

Anne Patton

Terry Toews

Murray Walter

Jayne Whyte

SWG Foundation**General Donations**

Marion Beck
Anthony Bidulka



The 2017/2018 SWG Board of Directors (back row, from left to right): Rachel Laverdiere, Jason Heit, Jillian Bell, Jack Walton, Tom Kroczyński, (front row) Jeanne Alexander, Jeanette Montgomery.

The results of the annual audit were presented to the Audit Committee on September 17, 2018. MWC Chartered Accountants conducted the audit and were satisfied with the SWG accounting practices, requiring no adjusting journal entries for the past fiscal year. For those of you not familiar with audit practice this is a phenomenal feat for the SWG accountant. Congratulations, Jacquie!

The auditor notes will provide some explanation for questions that may arise from the financial statements. They are found after the Cash Flow Statement.

Some amounts that may draw your attention:

ASSETS: In 2017, the transfer from Cash to Short Term Investment had not yet occurred at audit time whereas it had taken place in time for the 2018 audit.

LIABILITIES: The bulk of the amount in Deferred revenue is the transfer of SWG funds to the SWG Foundation. These funds are earmarked for programs and events.

REVENUES: Beyond the usual Self-generated funds (detailed on Schedule 2) this amount contains the reimbursement of the intern's wages from the Regina Women's Immigrant Centre. The intern performed the duties of an Administrative Assistant.

Retreat revenue increased because there was no summer retreat in 2017 but it was held again in 2018. Notice the retreat expenses in the next section have increased accordingly.

EXPENSES: The Operational Expenses increase was due, in large part, to legal fees for labour negotiations.

Salaries and benefits are less for 2018 because some positions were not filled or only filled part-time during portions of the year.

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS: The net surplus for 2018 increases the SWG reserve fund by \$32,849. SaskCulture encourages non-profit organizations to build a six-month reserve of expenses.

In summary, the SWG is currently on sound footing with a reserve of \$250,346, over half-way to the recommended amount.

If you are familiar with any type of finance and are willing to serve on the Audit Committee, please contact the SWG office. A minimal commitment of one meeting per year is required, along with monitoring quarterly financial statements.

Jeanette Montgomery
Audit Committee Chair

Audit Committee Report



Chartered Professional Accountants LLP

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.

The accompanying summarized statements of financial position, operations and changes in net assets and schedule of grain and retreat activity are derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc. as at July 31, 2018 and for the year then ended. We expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated September 22, 2018. Those financial statements, and the summarized financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summarized financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.

Opinion

We expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated September 22, 2018. The basis for our qualified audit opinion was on the completeness of donation and sponsorship revenues. In our opinion, the summarized financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc. for the year ended July 31, 2018 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

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 Standards (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

MWC LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants LLP

REGINA, Saskatchewan
September 22, 2018

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summarized Financial Statements

Summarized Statement of Financial Position			
As of July 31	2018	2017	
ASSETS			
Current assets	\$ 673,661	\$ 625,459	
Capital assets and art work	13,131	16,997	
Due from related parties	-	2,378	
	\$ 686,792	\$ 644,834	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities	\$ 405,592	\$ 419,439	
Deferred revenue	7,398	7,898	
Due to related parties	23,456	-	
Net Assets	250,346	217,497	
	\$ 686,792	\$ 644,834	

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.
Summarized Financial Statements

Summarized Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets			
Year Ended July 31	2018	2017	
REVENUES			
Grant	\$ 759,948	\$ 755,818	
Self-generated	73,248	66,123	
Donations and sponsorships	18,841	25,654	
Grain (Schedule 1)	48,982	45,768	
Retreat (Schedule 2)	20,399	12,191	
	921,418	905,554	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	133,191	136,982	
Program delivery	81,876	105,167	
Grain (Schedule 1)	84,923	93,582	
Retreat (Schedule 2)	40,258	25,237	
Operational and amortization expenses	175,679	175,192	
Salaries and benefits	347,642	406,992	
Donation to SWG Foundation Inc.	25,000	-	
	888,569	943,152	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES)	\$ 32,849	\$ (37,598)	
Net assets - beginning of year	217,497	255,095	
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 250,346	\$ 217,497	

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

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Inc.
Summarized Financial Statements

Summarized Statement of Grain Operations		(Schedule 1)	
Year Ended July 31	2018		2017
REVENUES			
Grant	\$ 34,500	\$	33,550
Donations and sponsorships	3,025		2,651
Publications revenue	11,457		9,567
	48,982		45,768
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	55,330		54,344
Publishing and distribution	15,048		18,963
Office, meetings and travel	1,432		1,645
Salaries and benefits	13,113		18,630
	84,923		93,582
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM GRAIN OPERATIONS	\$ (35,941)	\$	(47,814)

Summarized Statement of Retreat Operations		(Schedule 2)	
Year Ended July 31	2018	2017	
REVENUES			
Donations and sponsorships	3,251	1,311	
Workshop and participant fees	17,148	10,880	
	20,399	12,191	
EXPENSES			
Artists' fees	1,550	1,500	
Program delivery	33,878	19,124	
Office, meetings and travel	160	56	
Salaries and benefits	4,670	4,557	
	40,258	25,237	
EXCESS OF REVENUES (EXPENSES) FROM RETREAT OPERATIONS	\$ (19,859)	\$	(13,046)

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

STAFF

Executive Director
Judith Silverthorne
Tracy Hamon

Program Manager
Tracy Hamon
Yolanda Hansen

Accountant
Jaqueline Fry

Administrative Assistant
Andrea MacLeod, Nicole Cole, Saba Dar

Publications Coordinator
Stephanie Campbell

Program Coordinator
Oin Nicholson

Indigenous Program Coordinator
Nickita Longman

Program Assistant
Leah MacLean-Evans

Grain

Editor
Nicole Haldoupis

Fiction and Nonfiction Editor
Terry Jordan

Poetry Editor
dee Hobsbawn-Smith

2017-2018 Board of Directors

President
Jack Walton

Past-President
Jeanne Alexander

Vice-President
Jillian Bell

Members-at-Large
Jason Heit
Tom Kroczyński
Rachel Laverdiere
Melanie McFarlane
Jeanette Montgomery
Paula Jane Remlinger

SWG Funders



SWG Partners



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Writers'
Guild**

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