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Diversity Thrives in the 2006 Saskatchewan Book Awards Submissions

“The long list for this year's Saskatchewan Book Awards is officially in!” declared SBA’s Executive Director, Glenda James, “For the third year in a row, there are more than 200 entries! Clearly, Saskatchewan’s literary community is growing.” Submissions to the awards, which recognize and celebrate excellence and diversity in Saskatchewan writing and publishing, number 218 entries—comprised of 89 titles in 13 distinct categories. James adds, “And for the first time, we are holding simultaneous News Conferences in Saskatoon and Regina to announce the Shortlist.” They will be held in Regina at Campion College and in Saskatoon at Frances Morrison Library on Thursday, October 19 at 1:30 p.m.

In this year's entries, many authors reflect on the history, culture, and beauty of Saskatchewan. Even so, these submissions reflect a multiplicity of interests. *In a Cold Land* by Sara Williams details the history of such common horticultural sights as the Thunderchild crabapple tree. Habeeb Salloum’s *Arab Cooking on a Saskatchewan Homestead* is both a cookbook and a memoir. Two photographic works, *Regina’s Secret Spaces* and *Saskatoon: A History in Photographs*, celebrate the beauty and history of the province’s major cities. Although the Saskatchewan theme is prevalent among this year's submissions, there is also a wonderful, vast array of works with diverse focuses, such as *Wolf: Legend, Enemy, Icon* by natural history author Rebecca L. Grambo and *Imagining the Tenth Dimension* by Talking Dog Studio’s Rob Bryanton. From snowmobiles to monsters, and geoscience to poetry, there is sure to be a Saskatchewan book to suit everyone's tastes among this year's submissions!

This year’s strong showing of entries from older citizens adds to the diversity of the Saskatchewan Book Awards. Authors over 80 years old penned five submissions, including the novel *The Apothecary*, Saskatoon author Martha Blum’s sequel to *The Walnut Tree*, and *Servir et non être servi: Un Fransaskois se raconte*, a memoir by Abbé Roger Ducharme of Willowbunch. Plus, in his entry *One Hundred Years of Heart*, Regina photographer Mark Greschner captures one hundred of the province’s centenarians in commemoration of the Saskatchewan centennial.

The release of the shortlist on October 19 will pare down the number of nominees in each of the 13 categories significantly. Readers will have a chance to hear nominees read from their works at The Regina Brunch on Sunday, November 12th at Regina's Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson Plaza. The Awards Gala ceremony itself is scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 25th at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre. Tickets for both events can be purchased on-line at tickets@bookawards.sk.ca or by phone at 791-7744.