



#205B - 2314 11th Ave  
Regina SK S4P 0K1  
Phone: (306) 569-1585  
Fax: (306) 569-4187  
director@bookawards.sk.ca  
www.bookawards.sk.ca

## For Immediate Release

### Saskatchewan Book Awards Entries Break All Previous Records!

The Call for Entries to the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards closed with a record number of 113 titles submitted, exceeding the 2006 record of 96. The 113 titles have been entered for 13 juried awards, giving a total number of 256 entries, compared with the 2005 record of 221. In addition, there are 91 entries for the new fourteenth award, the Readers' Choice, which is not juried but voted on by readers across the province.

All of Saskatchewan is well represented, with writers from north, south, east and west contending for prizes. More than thirty of the authors reside outside Regina and Saskatoon. And if you thought that you knew a lot about Saskatchewan, think again. Saskatchewan writers have been busy exploring our history, travel, politics, and environment. They have also written about Africa, India, Afghanistan, Ukraine and the Philippines. There's something for everyone in this year's entries.

The awards will be presented at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala on November 29<sup>th</sup>, where esteemed Métis writer and social activist **Maria Campbell** will address an audience of over 400 authors, publishers and lovers of literature. Best known for her 1973 autobiography *Halfbreed*, Maria Campbell is an accomplished playwright who has also authored or co-authored nine books. The importance of her contribution can be measured by the continued growth of and interest in Aboriginal writing and publishing in Canada. That range is evident in the 2008 Awards submissions, with entries in Poetry (*The Crooked Good* by Louise Halfe), Fiction (*Charlie Muskrat* by Harold Johnson), First Book (*The Story of the Rabbit Dance* by Jeanne Pelletier), Non Fiction (*Lost Angels: Encounters with First Nations* by Paula Laureen Henderson), and Education (*The Michif Resource Guide: Lii Michif Niiyanaan, aan Michif biikishwanaan* by Laura Burnouf, *Funny Little Stories* by Arok Wolvengrey, and *The Western Metis: Profile of a People* by Patrick Douaud).

The Saskatchewan Book Awards recognize and celebrate excellence in Saskatchewan writing and publishing. The shortlist of titles nominated for each of the fourteen awards will be announced at simultaneous News Conferences in Regina and Saskatoon on October 15. Readers will have a chance to meet nominated authors and hear them read from their works at events around the province during the month of November. The awards will be presented on Saturday, November 29, 2008 at the Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala to be held at Regina's Conexus Arts Centre. The full list of awards and information about all Saskatchewan Book Awards events, including how to obtain tickets, are available at [www.bookawards.sk.ca](http://www.bookawards.sk.ca)

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For more information:

Glenda James  
(306) 569-1585