



For Immediate Release

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Stars in Their Own Write Saskatchewan Book Awards Announce 2009 Finalists

Saskatchewan writers and publishers shone today as the finalists for the 17th Annual Saskatchewan Book Awards were announced. A total of 70 titles were submitted for 176 entries across 14 categories.

“Saskatchewan writers and publishers really are stars in this province. This year’s shortlist truly represents their talent and reflects the quality of the books published in Saskatchewan. Pick up one of these books and read it, and you won’t be disappointed,” said Jackie Lay, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Several writers received multiple nominations for their work. Among them are Regina authors Connie Gault (*Euphoria: A Novel*), Trevor Herriot (*Grass, Sky, Song: Promise and Peril in the World of Grassland Birds*), Gerry Hill (*14 Tractors*), Dave Margoshes (*The Horse Knows the Way*) and Jo-Ann Episkenew (*Taking Back Our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy, and Healing*). From Saskatoon, veterans David Carpenter (*Niceman Cometh*), Arthur Slade (*The Hunchback Assignments*) are both vying for the Fiction and Saskatoon Awards. Saskatchewan’s Poet Laureate, Robert Currie (*Witness*), is a finalist for two awards. In the publishing categories, the competition is stiff, as the CPRC Press (four nominations), the Gabriel Dumont Institute (three nominations, as well as two writing nominations), and Coteau Books (two nominations) contend for their top prizes with a single nomination publishers Hagios Press, Kakwa Publishing, Compass Publishing/Éditions Boussoles, and Purich Publishing for their top prizes.

In October and November, shortlisted authors will be featured in readings in Meadow Lake, Regina, Saskatoon and Swift Current. For the complete shortlist, and for information about an event in your area, please go to www.bookawards.sk.ca.

Awards in each of the 14 categories, including one new award for First Peoples’ Writing, will be presented on Saturday, November 28, 2009 at the Saskatchewan Book Awards Gala at Regina’s Conexus Arts Centre.

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