

Media Advisory



Alberta Readers' Choice Award Announces Juror Panel

EDMONTON, Alberta, January 26, 2010 – The Alberta Readers' Choice Award committee is pleased to announce its five jurors: the Honourable Tommy Banks, Senator, musician and long time broadcaster; well-known Alberta author Fil Fraser; Red Deer Mayor, Morris Flewwelling; independent bookseller, Simone Lee; and bookstore owner and literacy advocate, Laurie Greenwood.

The five jurors will select the final five titles from the current top ten list, which were voted on by Alberta librarians. The jurors will rank the titles based on a range of criteria from readability and literary merit to potential consumer appeal. The final list of five will then be subject to a public vote, during March and April, to determine the winner. Each of the jurors has been encouraged to choose a title to champion during the public voting phase.

The \$10,000 cash award is one of the largest literary awards in Canada and will be announced at the Book Publishers Association of Alberta Awards Gala on May 14, 2010 in Edmonton.

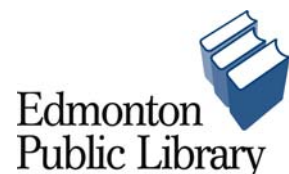
"We are thrilled to have such a diverse and quality group of jurors," said Kieran Leblanc, Co-Chair of the Alberta Readers' Choice Award working committee. "They each bring their own different perspectives but share a common passion – a genuine love of reading."

The 10 shortlisted titles as selected by Alberta librarians:

- *The Frog Lake Reader* by Myrna Kostash, published by NeWest Press
- *Crossing the Swell* by Tori Holmes, published by Rocky Mountain Books
- *In Bed with the Word: Reading, Spirituality, and Cultural Politics* by Daniel Coleman, published by University of Alberta Press
- *100 Years of Anne with an "e": The Centennial Study of Anne of Green Gables* Edited by Holly Blackford, published by University of Calgary Press
- *The Forgotten Explorer: Samuel Prescott Fay's 1914 Expedition to the Northern Rockies* by Samuel Fay, published by Rocky Mountain Books
- *The Weekender Effect Hyperdevelopment in Mountain Towns* by Robert Sandford, published by Rocky Mountain Books
- *Fishing for Bacon* by Michael Davie, published by NeWest Press
- *Bomb Canada and Other Unkind Remarks in the American Media* by Chantal Allan, published by AU Press
- *Fifth World Drum* by Anna Marie Sewell, published by Frontenac House
- *Buying Cigarettes for the Dog* by Stuart Ross, published by Freehand Books

The Alberta Readers' Choice Award is presented by the Edmonton Public Library, in partnership with the Book Publishers Association of Alberta.

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The Alberta Readers' Choice Award promotes the works of Alberta authors and publishers and encourages Alberta readers to support literary works published in Alberta. Visit www.albertareaderschoice.ca for more information.

About Book Publishers Association of Alberta

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) represents more than 30 Alberta publishers with a shared mission. We publish books by local, national and international authors and provide significant cultural and economic benefits to this province. We work with writers, printers, artists and other creative people to produce high quality books that are sold in Alberta and throughout the world. We are leaders in Canada's best-developed knowledge-based industry and are one of the strongest communities of regional publishers in North America. Visit www.bookpublishers.ab.ca for more information.

About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library has been an integral part of the city since it first opened in 1913. It currently serves a population of more than 782,439 through 17 physical branches and the EPL website. In 2009, EPL saw an estimated 12,623,814 in person and online library visits with 12,014,589 items borrowed. The second half of 2009 provided a significant achievement for EPL as it recorded, for the first time, monthly circulations of over 1 million from July through November. EPL is committed to broadening our reach, increasing our access and strengthening our capacity to serve Edmonton's many diverse communities. For more information on the Edmonton Public Library, visit www.epl.ca.

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