



**Media Release – NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR BRAND NEW LITERARY PRIZE
FOR PRAIRIE AUTHORS
FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

Calgary – Announcing the launch of The Prairie Grindstone Prize - a literary prize aimed at acknowledging hardworking and perhaps under-appreciated writers of fiction, poetry and creative nonfiction in the prairies.

This annual prize, funded by an anonymous donor, will be awarded every two years to an Alberta writer in mid career. It will be awarded in alternate years to a Saskatchewan writer. (For example, in 2023, the prize will go to an Alberta writer. In 2024, it will be awarded to a Saskatchewan writer. And so forth.)

“It’s an open secret that the Canadian writing and publishing business is Toronto centric. This award was created, in part, to recognize how hard Prairie writers have to work to get noticed at all”, says Lisa Murphy Lamb, Jury Chair for the prize. Each year, the winner will receive a cash award of \$50,000 that will enable the writer to focus on his/her/their work for a year or more.

This is not a book prize. It is awarded in acknowledgement of the author’s creation of a body of work of consistent high quality that has contributed to the public’s appreciation for and understanding of Western Canada’s landscape, people, history and culture.

“To acknowledge the juggling act that often occurs to write--another job, family, writer talks and readings--a prize like this opens up supportive opportunities to find more space to write, apply for residencies and travel for research. It also would feel like solid recognition for past work and the winning writer’s contribution to the prairie literary landscape”, according to Stacey Walyuchow, Marketing and Design for the prize.

The writer must be a resident of the province for the past five years, must have a minimum of four professionally published books and must be an active member of the local writing community.

Authors may not self nominate and recipients will be selected by a jury of peers.

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