

The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce
The 2025 Word Awards ShortList
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2024

NOMINEES ARE PRESENTED ALPHABETICALLY BY LAST NAME

UNPUBLISHED WORK CLASSES

FRESH INK {Student Writing Awards}

FRESH INK – MANUSCRIPT FIRST 3 CHAPTERS

- Jada Kaastra: Clinton, ON “*Never Safe*”
- Megan Strutzenberger: Peterborough, ON “*The Hope Beneath*”

FRESH INK – NON-FICTION PIECE

- Ethan Geurts: Kemptville, ON “*Walking in a Woodland Wilderness*”
- Emi Helleman: Ottawa, ON “*In the Midst*”
- Ethan Vandekuyt: Ottawa, ON “*A Church of Unfamiliar Echoes*”

FRESH INK – POETRY

- Christopher Germain: Hamilton, ON “*Safe in the Fold*”
- Ethan Geurts: Kemptville, ON “*The Ballad of Orpheus Crow*”
- Haley Hummel: Stratford, ON “*Don't You Know*”
- Cecily Jurgens: Ottawa, ON “*I Am Nothing*”
- Parlynn Keysha Saint-Louis: Orleans, ON “*I will bless Your name*”
- Ethan Vandekuyt: Ottawa, ON “*At the Crystal Stream I Greet my Friend*”

FRESH INK – SHORT STORY

- Amani Agbonkhese: Maple Ridge, BC “*Lights like Rocket Pops*”
- Christian Bacsa: Toronto, ON “*Etude Of Quelled Pride And Wartime*”
- Jada Kaastra: Clinton, ON “*Be the Fighter*”
- Maelle Levasseur: Hythe, AB “*The Way Out*”
- Sarah VanZandbeek: Edmonton, AB “*By Name*”

IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Author Awards}

- Jane Anne Hyslop Kennedy Ireland: Teeswater, ON “*Forgiveness*”
- Elise Johnson: North York, ON “*Waiting Room of My Soul*”
- Mark McLeod: Okotoks, AB “*The Year We Won The Stanley Cup*”
- Hilda Van Gyssel: St. Williams, ON “*And it was Very, Very Good*”
- Hilda Van Gyssel: St. Williams, ON “*Sitting in Church*”

MANUSCRIPT – FIRST 3 CHAPTERS

- Linda Greenberg: London, ON “*Show Him the Father*”
- Willy Kotiuga: Pointe-Claire, QC “*Holding the Moments: One Life, Many Lenses*”
- Mark McLeod: Okotoks, AB “*The Comrie and Granddaddy’s Farm*”
- Mark McLeod: Okotoks, AB “*The Comrie Kids Great Grandmother McLEOD*”
- Mark McLeod: Okotoks, AB “*The Comrie Kids: The Story of Clan McLEOD*”

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT

- Sharon Bacon: Port Sydney, ON “*Bacon Bits*”
- Susanne Dobbin: Brantford, ON “*Heads Up*”
- Willy Kotiuga: Pointe-Claire, Quebec “*A Stranger in the Theologians’ Den*”
- Gabrielle Stein: Barrie, ON “*Risen From The Ashes*”
- Lori Taetz: Kelowna, BC “*Grandpa’s Glasses*”
- Michelle Teigrob: Peterborough, ON “*Joyfully Star-Mapping Through Life’s Dung-Piles*”
- Cheryl Thiessen: Oak Lake, MB “*The Gifted*”
- Winnifred N. White: Whitby, ON “*Surviving in a Nursing Home: The Reality of Life Behind the Scenes*”

DIGITAL ENTRY CLASSES

SONGWRITING AWARD

- Steve Bell: Winnipeg, MB “*One Can Hope*”
- Ashley Osborne: Calgary, AB “*Love - Kids Version*”

ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – CHRISTIAN

BLOG – PERSONAL

- Lynn Dove: Cochrane, AB “*Lady Aurora*”
- Sandee Macgregor: Georgetown, ON “*The Gift of Motherhood is a Wonder to Behold*”

BLOG – TOPICAL

- Matthew Ruttan: Oro-Medonte, ON “*Recovering the lost art of porch-sitting and the evening constitutional*”
- Jack A. Taylor: Maple Ridge, BC “*Identity and Ministry*”

COLUMN SINGLE & COLUMN STANDALONE, CHRISTIAN & GENERAL MARKET

- David Guretzki: Ottawa, ON “*Speaking the(ir) truth: How Pontius Pilate demonstrates abuse of power*”
- Rev. Dr. Ed Hird: Surrey, BC & Janice Hird: Surrey, BC “*John Calvin, Father of Calvinism*”
- Rev. Dr. Ed Hird: Surrey, BC & Janice Hird: Surrey, BC “*John Knox, Father of Presbyterianism*”
- Sally Meadows: Saskatoon, SK “*Churchill, Elvis, and My Father’s Writing Legacy*”
- Derek Schuurman: Grand Rapids, MI “*‘Al Jesus?’*”



DEVOTIONAL/INSPIRATIONAL

- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON *“Frosty Trials: Anticipating the Coming Spring”*
- Elena Dee: Oakville, ON *“The Right Attitude”*
- Allison Lynn Flemming: St. Catharines, ON *“Trust This Good News!”*
- Maxine Hancock: Vermilion, AB *“Wide-angle Nativity: Minor characters matter in telling the Christmas story”*
- Evelyn Pedersen: Mississauga, ON *“He Became Nothing”*

LONG FEATURE & NEWS

- Julie Fitz-Gerald: Uxbridge, ON *“Rethinking Global Mission”*
- Lynda MacGibbon: Toronto, ON *“Interrupted by Astonishment”*
- Randal Rauser: Edmonton, AB & Bob Stenhouse: Edmonton, AB *“Disabusing the Church: How can we protect the people we love and our shared institutions?”*
- Ilana Reimer: Vancouver, BC *“The Church’s global future: Canadians look ahead to collaborating at Lausanne 4 in Korea”*

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, CHRISTIAN & GENERAL MARKET

- Allison Lynn Flemming: St. Catharines, ON *“The Last Noel”*
- Allison Lynn Flemming: St. Catharines, ON *“Touch the Horizon”*
- Garfield Mark: South Porcupine, ON *“From Turmoil to Peace—A Personal Testimony of God’s Care Over a Lifetime”*
- Jenna Sanderson: Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON & Chantelle Sanderson: Whitchurch-Stouffville, ON *“Image Bearers of God’s Love Unite!”*
- Philip Serez & Robyn Serez: Kitchener, ON *“The terrifying delight of losing everything”*

PERSONAL OPINION

- Sandra McIntosh: Kanata, ON *“We are Rich—The Beauty of Diversity”*
- Jamie Munday: Kelowna, BC *“Mission Inversion”*
- Aimee Patterson: Winnipeg, MB *“Making Room for Inefficiency”*

POETRY

- Naomi Pattison-Williams: Camrose, AB *“The Midwife”*
- Luke Sawczak: Etobicoke, ON *“They said nothing to anyone”*

PROFILE/HUMAN INTEREST

- Rebecca Nicol: Moncton, NB *“Elmer and Sherry Komant—The Persistent Call to Serve”*
- Patricia Paddey: Winnipeg, MB *“Making Waves for Justice’s Sake”*

SHORT FEATURE

- Helena Smrcek: Brantford, ON *“The Symbolism of It All”*
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB *“Thick Skin is for Rhinos”*

ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET

LONG FEATURE

- Lynn C. Bilton: Brighton, ON *“Peaceful Pastures”*
- Julie Fitz-Gerald: Uxbridge, ON *“The housing crisis: Lack of housing, addiction and mental health are creating the perfect storm”*
- Doug Lett: Saskatoon, SK *“Unique School Helps Teens Rebuild Their Lives”*

PUBLISHED BOOKS CLASSES

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN – CHRISTIAN & GENERAL MARKET

- Karen Autio: Kelowna, BC *“Playdate Surprise”*
- Jordan Hageman: Stoney Creek, ON *“The Storywriter”*
- Tim J. Huff: Aurora, ON *“Pop-Pop’s Nursery Rhyme Parade”*
- Ashley Osborne: Calgary, AB *“I Know Love”*
- Kathleen Templeton: Calgary, AB *“Jar of Tears: Moms aren’t supposed to die”*

CONTEMPORARY

- Angela Charles: Burlington, ON *“Hope Relinquished”*
- Tamara Wanner: Moose Jaw, SK *“Rainbow Baby: Unravelling by Loss”*

HISTORICAL

- Ellen Hooge: Calgary, AB *“Daughters Of Havah Volume One - Matriarchs of Israel”*
- Jack A. Taylor: Maple Ridge, BC *“The Sacrifice”*
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB *“Even if We Cry”*

MYSTERY & SUSPENSE

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB *“Flicker of Trust”*
- Beverley Hopwood: Durham, ON *“In the Clear”*
- Laura Thomas: West Kelowna, BC *“Captured in Frame”*

NOVELLA & STORIES

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB *“Not By Chance”*
- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB *“Unremarkable Sue”*
- Helena Smrcek: Brantford, ON *“Love Across Time”*

ROMANCE

- Kathleen Mosey: Fergus, ON *“A Snowy Christmas Season”*
- Helena Smrcek: Brantford, ON *“Once Upon a Horse”*

SPECULATIVE

- Teresa Arsenault: Slemon Park, PE *“Tales of Ellmorria: Out of Hiding”*
- Johanna Frank: Kitchener, ON *“Here Lyeth”*



YOUNG ADULT – CHRISTIAN & GENERAL MARKET

- Chantal MacDonald: Moncton, NB *“Peace on a New Horizon”*
- Christina Van Starckenburg: Regina, SK *“Shadows of Memory and Stone”*
- Catherine Witzaney: Lacombe, AB *“Wingless”*

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

- Mark Glanville: Vancouver, BC *“Improvising Church”*
- Judith Paulsen: Toronto, ON *“A New and Ancient Evangelism Rediscovering the Ways God Calls and Sends”*
- Ephraim Radner: Toronto, ON *“Mortal Goods Reimagining Christian Political Duty”*

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Stephen G. Dempster: Moncton, NB *“The Return of the Kingdom”*
- Hannah Neshet: Edmonton, AB *“Hidden Secrets in the Hebrew”*

CHILDREN – CHRISTIAN & GENERAL MARKET

- Cindy Palin: Olds, AB *“Every Once in a Magical Dittle”*
- Lana Shupe: Shelburne, NS *“The Little Church Beside the Sea”*

CHRISTIAN LIVING – PERSONAL GROWTH

- Daniel Im: Edmonton, AB *“The Discipleship Opportunity”*
- Julie Lane-Gay: Vancouver, BC *“The Riches of Your Grace”*
- Alastair Sterne: Victoria, BC *“Longing for Joy”*
- Karen Stiller: Ottawa, ON *“Holiness Here”*
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park, AB *“Small Habits, Big Faith”*
- Rebecca Van Noppen: Mountain, ON *“Cultivating Trust—Finding God's Hope and Freedom for Your Finances”*

CULTURE

- Craig Dockstader: Orleans, ON *“To Shift a Nation - How the Body of Christ Can Effectively Promote Change in Canada”*
- Richard Long: Ottawa, ON *“The City-Wide Church: Unity That God Blesses”*
- David MacKenzie: Courtenay, BC *“Chairman Dave's Little Read Book”*
- Donna Mann: Elora, ON *“Faithful Choices in Church & Mission”*

DEVOTIONAL

- Wendy Heuvel: Spencerville, ON *“God Moments - Volume 1: 30 Daily Devotions to Awaken and Grow Your Faith”*
- Brenda J. Wood: Innisfil, ON *“Heart to Heart, 366 Devotions for Common Sense Living”*

LIFE STORIES – MEMOIR

- Susan Barclay-Hawley: Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON *“Shadow Gifts: Finding Beauty in the Darkness”*
- Paul H. Boge: Winnipeg, MB *“Mully Children's Family Transformations – The Charles Mulli Legacy”*
- Reg Reimer: Abbotsford, BC *“On the Cruel Edges of the World: A memoir of carrying help and hope into dark places in dangerous times”*

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET FICTION

CONTEMPORARY

- Susan Doherty: Westmount, QC *“Monday Rent Boy”*
- Matt Robbins: Salmon Arm, BC *“All Enemies Foreign and Domestic”*

SPECULATIVE

- Shireen Jeejeebhoy: Toronto, ON *“The Soul's Awakening”*
- Larry J. McCloskey: Ottawa, ON *“University of Lost Causes”*

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION

CULTURE & CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

- Angie Peters: Brampton, ON *“Just Act: We are the Solution to Poverty”*
- Harold Taylor: Sussex, NB *“Making Writing Work for You”*

LIFE STORIES

- Robyn Olfert: Winnipeg, MB *“Invisibly Ill and Living with Hope”*
- Jane C. Rozek: Kelowna, BC *“Wilderness Courage”*
- Cam Taylor: Mission, BC *“Unlocking the Mystery of Grief”*

BOOKS – SPECIALTY BOOKS & POETRY

POETRY

- William G. Hobbs: Welland, ON *“The Phone Booth: a year in haiku and other writings”*
- Kim LM Longstreet: Winnipeg, MB *“The Sun Neither Rises nor Sets”*
- John Terpstra: Hamilton, ON *“Some People”*

SPECIALTY BOOK

- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB *“Vagabond Come Home”*
- Jack A. Taylor: Maple Ridge, BC *“When Ministry and Marriage Collide - Honest Conversations on Thriving Through Conflict”*



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE IT ONTO THE 2025 WORD AWARDS SHORTLIST

Copies of the 2025 Shortlist will be posted on our [Media page](#) and [Finalists page](#)

Winners of The 2025 Word Awards will be announced on **Saturday, September 20, 2025**

BECOME A 2025 AWARDS SPONSOR

Please consider becoming a 2025 Awards sponsor. With your assistance we are able to support Christian writers across Canada.

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