

andrea bennett is a non-binary National Magazine Award–winning writer, editor, and illustrator who lives in Ayjoo mixw (Powell River), BC. Their first book of essays, *Like a Boy but Not a Boy: Navigating Life, Mental Health, and Parenthood Outside the Gender Binary* (Arsenal Pulp Press), was a CBC Books’ pick for the top Canadian nonfiction of the year. Their first book of poetry, *Canoodlers*, was published by Nightwood in 2014. andrea’s poetry and non-fiction has been widely published in magazines and newspapers such as the Walrus, the Atlantic, Hazlitt, Maisonneuve, the Tyee, the Globe and Mail, Reader’s Digest, Vice, Geist, CV2, Grain, Fiddlehead, the Malahat Review, and Arc. With Kim Fu they co-host The Rough Puffs, a Great British Baking Show rewatch podcast now entering its third season.

Dominique Bernier-Cormier is a Québécois/Acadian poet, translator, and teacher. He is the author of *Entre Rive and Shore* and *Correspondent*. *Correspondent* was longlisted for the Raymond Souster Award and an excerpt was featured on public transit across British Columbia as part of the Poetry in Transit program. Bernier-Cormier’s poetry has also won the Ralph Gustafson Prize for Best Poem and was a finalist for a National Magazine Award, the Montreal International Poetry Prize, and Arc’s Poem of the Year Award. He lives in Vancouver, where he writes and teaches in both French and English.

Ali Blythe is author of critically acclaimed poetry collections that explore trans-poetics. He is winner of the Vallum Award for Poetry, finalist for the Dorothy Livesay BC Book Award, Raymond Souster Award, and Victoria Book Prize, and recipient of an honour of distinction from the Writers Trust of Canada for emerging LGBTQ writers. Blythe’s poems and essays are published in national and international literary journals and anthologies, including *The Broadview Introduction to Literature*, *Best Canadian Essays* and *Best Canadian Poetry*. Blythe has held roles as a guest editor for special editions of literary magazines including The League of Canadian Poets, *Arc Magazine* and *Malahat Review*, and as editor-in-chief for *the Claremont Review*, an international literary magazine for youth.

Kate Cayley is the author of two previous poetry collections, a young adult novel, and two short story collections, including *How You Were Born*, winner of the Trillium Book Award and shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction. A tenth anniversary

edition of *How You Were Born* is forthcoming from Book*hug Press in 2024. She has also written several plays, both traditional and experimental, which have been performed in Canada, the US, and the UK. She is a frequent writing collaborator with the immersive company Zuppa Theatre. Cayley has won the O. Henry Short Story Prize, the *PRISM International* Short Fiction Prize, the Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction, and a Chalmers Fellowship. She has been a finalist for the K. M. Hunter Award, the Carter V. Cooper Short Story Prize, and the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Artist Award, and longlisted for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Prize, and the CBC Literary Prizes in both poetry and fiction. In 2021, she won the Mitchell Prize for Faith and Poetry for the title poem in *Lent*. She has been writer in residence at McMaster University and the Toronto Public Library, and mentored emerging writers through the University of Guelph Creative Writing MFA, the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies, Diaspora Dialogues, and Sisters Writes. Cayley lives in Toronto with her wife and their three children.

Lorna Crozier is the author of the memoir *Through the Garden*, which was named a *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Book and a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction and the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize. She has published eighteen books of poetry, including *God of Shadows*, *What the Soul Doesn't Want*, *The Wrong Cat*, *Small Mechanics*, *The Blue Hour of the Day: Selected Poems*, and *Whetstone*. She is also the author of the memoir *Small Beneath the Sky*, which won the Hubert Evans Award for Creative Nonfiction. She won the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry for *Inventing the Hawk* and three additional collections were finalists for this award. She has received the Canadian Authors Association Award, three Pat Lowther Memorial Awards, the Raymond Souster Award, and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. She was awarded the BC Lieutenant Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, the George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Kloppenburg Award for Literary Excellence. She is a Professor Emerita at the University of Victoria and an Officer of the Order of Canada, and she has received five honorary doctorates for her contributions to Canadian literature. Born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan, she now lives in British Columbia.

Amy Ching-Yan Lam is an artist and writer. She is the author of *Looty Goes to Heaven* (2022) and her poems have been published by Book Works, Montez Press, and yolkless press. *Baby Book* is her first collection of poetry. Lam's exhibitions, performances, and public artworks, both solo and as part of the collective Life of a Craphead, have been presented at Seoul MediaCity Biennale, Eastside Projects, and Art Gallery of Ontario, amongst others, and she has participated in residencies at Macdowell and Delfina Foundation. She lives in Toronto, which is Mississauga Anishinaabeg treaty territory, as well

as the land of the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat. Lam was born in Hong Kong.www.amylam.me

Erin Noteboom is a physicist turned poet turned children's novelist, whose honours include the TD Canadian Children's Literature Award, the CBC Literary Award for poetry, and a Governor General's Award. She has previously published two volumes of poetry, *Ghost Maps: Poems for Carl Hruska* (2003) and *Seal Up the Thunder* (2005), as well as a memoir, *The Mongoose Diaries: Excerpts from a Mother's First Year* (2007). Her novels for young readers (published under her married name, Erin Bow) are *Plain Kate*, *Sorrow's Knot*, *The Scorpion Rules*, *The Swan Riders*, and the middle-grade novel *Stand on the Sky*, which was winner of the 2020 Governor General's Award for Young People's Literature. Erin's day job is writing about things like black holes and quantum gravity at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics. She lives in Kitchener, Ontario.

Hana Shafi is a writer and artist who illustrates under the name Frizz Kid. Both her visual art and writing frequently explore themes such as feminism, body politics, racism, and pop culture. She's published articles in publications such as *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt* and *This Magazine*, and has been featured on *Buzzfeed*, *CBC*, *Flare Magazine*, and *Shameless*. She received the Women Who Inspire Award from the Canadian Council for Muslim Women in 2017. Her first book, *It Begins With The Body* was selected by CBC books as one of the best poetry books of 2018. Her second book, a compilation of essays and illustrations from her notable affirmation art series, titled *Small, Broke, and Kind of Dirty: Affirmations for the Real World* came out in 2020. Hana and her family immigrated to Mississauga from Dubai in 1996, and she now lives in Toronto with her two cute, but sometimes annoying, cats.

Russell Thornton's collection *The Hundred Lives* (Quattro Books, 2014) was shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize. His *Birds, Metals, Stones & Rain* (Harbour Publishing, 2013) was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry, the Raymond Souster Award and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. His other titles include *The Fifth Window* (Thistledown Press, 2000), *A Tunisian Notebook* (Seraphim Editions, 2002), *House Built of Rain* (Harbour Publishing, 2003; shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and the ReLit Award for poetry), *The Human Shore* and *The Broken Face* (Harbour Publishing, 2006 and 2018). His most recent collection is *Answer to Blue* (Harbour Publishing, 2021). Thornton's poetry has appeared in several anthologies and as part of BC's Poetry in Transit. He lives in North Vancouver, BC.

Harry Thurston is an award-winning poet and journalist whose environmental writing has been published in *Audubon*, *Canadian Geographic*, and *National Geographic*. Thurston lives in Tidnish Bridge, Nova Scotia, and is a Mentor in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction program at University of King's College.