

Cogswell Award Longlist 2025

Bios

Kayla Czaga is the author of the poetry collections *For Your Safety Please Hold On* (Nightwood Editions, 2014), *Dunk Tank* (House of Anansi, 2019), and *Midway* (House of Anansi, 2024), which is a finalist for a 2025 BC/Yukon Book Prize. Frequently anthologized in *The Best Canadian Poetry in English* series, her writing has also won *Arc Poetry Magazine's* Poem of the Year award, *The Fiddlehead's* Ralph Gustafson prize, and *The Malahat Review's* Far Horizons poetry contest. She lives with her wife and two senior cats in Esquimalt, BC, on traditional Songhees and Xwsepsum territory.

Rosanna Deerchild is Cree, from the community of O-Pipon-Na-Piwan Cree Nation. Her first play, developed through Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre's Pimootayowin Creators Circle, *The Secret to Good Tea*, was the first Indigenous-written play to debut on their mainstage for the 2022–2023 season. As the host of *Unreserved* (CBC Radio One), Rosanna shares Indigenous community, culture, and conversation. She has written three collections of poetry: *this is a small northern town*, *calling down the sky*, and *she falls again*.

Garry Gottfriedson is from Kamloops, BC. He is strongly rooted in his Secwépemc (Shuswap) cultural teachings. He holds a Masters of Education Degree from Simon Fraser University. In 1987, the Naropa Institute in Boulder, Colorado, awarded a Creative Writing Scholarship to Gottfriedson for Masters of Fine Arts Creative Writing. There, he studied under Allen Ginsberg, Marianne Faithfull and others. Gottfriedson also achieved an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Northern British Columbia and a Doctor of Letters from the Thompson Rivers University. Gottfriedson has thirteen published books, including *Skin Like Mine*, *Clinging to Bone* (Ronsdale Press, 2010; 2019) and, most recently, *Bent Back Tongue* (Caitlin Press, 2022), and has presented his work across Canada, United States, South America, New Zealand, Europe, and Asia. Gottfriedson's work unapologetically unveils the truth of Canada's treatment of First Nations. His work has been anthologized and published nationally and internationally, with a forthcoming book to be published in Spanish.

Nathanael Jones was born in Montreal, Canada, and studied art and literature at NSCAD University (BFA 2014) in Halifax, Canada, and at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (MFA 2017) in Chicago, United States. He is the author of two chapbooks: *ATG* (HAIR CLUB, 2016) and *La Poésie Caraïbe* (Damask Press, 2018). He has exhibited and performed at galleries, performance venues, and alternative spaces in Canada, the United States, and the U.K., and his work has been published online and in print with *Aurochs*, *DREGINALD*, *Infinity's Kitchen*, *Parallax*, *Ghost Proposal*, *Present Tense Pamphlets*, *Funny Looking Dog Quarterly*, *Partial Press*, *Heary Feather Review*, and *TIMBER Journal*. He is a recent recipient of a Canada Council for the Arts grant.

jaz papadopoulos (they/them) is an interdisciplinary writer, educator and video artist. They hold an MFA from the University of British Columbia and are a Lambda Literary Fellow. A self-described emotionalist and avid Anne Carson fan, jaz is interested in media, horticulture, lyricism, nervous systems, anarchism and erotics. Originally from Treaty 1 territory, jaz currently resides on unceded Syilx lands. *I Feel That Way Too* is their debut poetry collection.

Melanie Siebert is the author of *Deepwater Vee*, a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry. Her nonfiction book *Heads Up: Changing Minds on Mental Health* won the Lane Anderson Award for best science writing for young readers in Canada and was a finalist for the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize. Melanie grew up in Treaty 6 territory in Saskatchewan, raised as a white, third-generation settler of European/Mennonite heritage. She now lives in the Pacific Northwest on the beautiful homelands of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nations and the Lək̓ʷəŋən Peoples of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Melanie practices attachment-focused and nature-based therapy in Victoria, BC.

Rob Taylor is the author of four previous poetry collections, including *Strangers* and *The News*, which was a finalist for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. He is also the editor of *What the Poets Are Doing: Canadian Poets in Conversation* and *Best Canadian Poetry 2019*. He lives with his family in Port Moody, BC.

Barbara Tran's poetry collection *Precedented Parroting* was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award; shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Award and the Gerald Lampert Award; and selected for the CBC's Best Books of 2024. Barbara authored the titular character's narration of *Madame Pirate: Becoming a Legend*, a short, virtual reality film, which was nominated for Best VR Story at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival. Her writing has been recognized with awards and fellowships from the Lannan Foundation, MacDowell, Ontario Arts Council, Pushcart Prize Fellowships, and the Canada Council for the Arts. Barbara is a member of *She Who Has No Master(s)* and *AfroMundo* collectives. Much of her writing is conceived while walking, playing, or sharing a tasty morsel with a rescue dog.

Chimwemwe Undi is a poet, editor and lawyer based on Treaty 1 territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her debut full-length collection, *Scientific Marvel*, won the 2024 Governor General's Literary Award in Poetry. Having been an active member of Manitoba's poetry community for more than ten years, Ms. Undi is the recipient of a CBC Manitoba "Future 40" award and a Winnipeg 150 Medal, among other awards. Her writing explores questions of identity, belonging, climate change, justice and the limits of language. Ms. Undi is an advocate in many senses. From 2023 through 2024, she served as the third Winnipeg Poet Laureate. In addition to her work in the literary world, she is a lawyer at Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP, where her practice is focused on professional regulation, labour and employment. Prior to studying law, Ms. Undi received undergraduate and graduate degrees in linguistics from the University of Manitoba and York University in Toronto. She lives in Winnipeg with a cellist, a kitten and a mutt.

shō yamagushiku's work is grounded in a diasporic okinawan consciousness. He writes from the homelands of the Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples (Victoria, BC). His first poetry collection, entitled *shima*, reflects ancestors, violence, and tradition.