



## ***Canada, Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2020***

### **Canada FBM2020 – Members of the Literary Programming Committee**

**Quebec City, 12 April 2019** – Today at the Salon international du livre de Québec, Canada FBM2020 is revealing the names of the Literary Programming Committee members who will develop, plan and coordinate our literary activities in Frankfurt and Germany in 2020. Canada FBM2020 is an organization working in close collaboration with key partners from the federal government and the book industry to present the major components of Canada’s Guest of Honour program.

#### **The Literary Programming Committee**

For its presence as the Guest of Honour in 2020, one of Canada’s principal commitments to the Frankfurt Book Fair is to present a literary program involving the participation of at least 80 Canadian writers and illustrators in activities related to that presence. The Department of Canadian Heritage has entrusted Canada FBM2020 with the responsibility to plan and implement this literary program, and out of concern for impartiality toward the industry, the organization decided to work with a dedicated Literary Programming Committee to deliver an outstanding and diverse program that is representative of authors and illustrators across Canada.

The committee’s mandate is to plan and coordinate a literary program that represents Indigenous, Francophone and Anglophone literature, writing and literary expression in Canada, and that includes not only books but slams, and storytelling, among other art forms, at the 2020 Fair itself and across Germany, Austria and Switzerland throughout the entire year. The three-person committee answers to Canada FBM2020’s sub-committee for Literary Programming under the supervision of its Board of Directors, and it will work in close collaboration with members of the Canadian publishing industry, partners within the Government of Canada, and with others involved such as partners in the German-language territories.

“The 2020 Frankfurt Book Fair will promote our creators and creative industries, who have so much to offer the entire world,” said the Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism. “We are proud of the leadership that Canada FBM2020 and the publishing industry have demonstrated in implementing this major project, and we also applaud the creation of the literary programming committee.”

#### **Committee Members**

Following an open call for applications and rigorous selection process, the Literary Programming sub-committee chose the following individuals as committee members:

### **Heather Kanabe**

Heather Kanabe is an arts leader with over 15 years' experience working with cultural and corporate partners. For over four years, she was the Festival Director of The Word on the Street Toronto, Canada's largest book and magazine festival. She is the General Manager of the Hamilton Fringe Festival and provides consulting services to such not-for-profit arts organizations as Telling Tales, the children's book festival. Prior to receiving her MBA, she was the Programming and Business Affairs Manager at Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T), where she developed an annual programming schedule of over 600 hours of creative and business training. Heather holds an Honours BA from the University of Toronto in Arts Management, with a specialization in Art History, and an MBA from the HULT International Business School in Dubai.

### **Claudia Larochelle**

Claudia Larochelle is a Québécois writer, journalist and media personality. Having hosted the television program “LIRE” on ICI ARTV for four seasons, she is now presenting their web clips and also the on-line LIRE book club to several thousand members who make it the largest Francophone club in North America. She makes regular appearances on the French-language network ICI Radio-Canada, and contributes to ICI Première radio network's *Plus on est de fous plus on lit* [The crazier we are the more we read]. Every week she writes columns on culture and society for Avenues.ca. A dedicated volunteer, she acts as a spokesperson for Vues et Voix, an inclusive social economy digital audio organization that produces audiobooks for everyone. She is a member of the Union des écrivaines et des écrivains québécois (UNEQ), the Quebec writer's union; the Fédération professionnelle des journalistes du Québec (FPJQ), the province's professional journalist's association; and the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television.

### **Hal Wake**

Hal Wake has been active in Canada's literary community for more than 30 years. For the past 12 years, he has been the Artistic Director and Co-Leader of the Vancouver Writers Fest (VWF). Under his leadership, the VWF has been recognized as one of the world's finest literary festivals. It presents more than 100 writers in 90 events annually, as well as an extensive schools program. He has conducted hundreds of on-stage interviews across Canada as well as in New York, London, Sydney, Melbourne and Auckland. As the book producer of CBC Radio's “Morningside”, he researched, organized and supervised hundreds of interviews, readings and panel discussions featuring Canadian books and writers. He has contributed to Canada's cultural life as a journalist, teacher, volunteer, workshop leader, and moderator of public discussions and forums. He is an honorary member of the Writers Union of Canada.

### **About Canada FBM2020**

Canada FBM2020 was established in collaboration with the Association of Canadian Publishers (ACP) and the Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (ANEL) to manage, in both official languages, the role and involvement of the Canadian book industry in the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2020. Canada FBM2020 receives financial support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the federal department responsible for the general administration of the country's appearance as Guest of Honour at the 2020 Frankfurt fair. Canada FBM2020 works under the strategic supervision of an executive committee that includes representatives of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, Global Affairs Canada and Telefilm Canada. As a not-for-profit organization, Canada FBM2020 is supported by an independent board of directors, and works with key partners from the Government of Canada and the book industry to deliver the major elements of the Guest of Honour program. Canada FBM2020 is an entity that uses the two official languages to represent members of the publishing industry from across Canada.

### **About the Concept of Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair**

Each year, the Frankfurt Book Fair names as its guest of honour a country whose literature and culture are showcased during the entire period of the fair itself in October, as well as in the preceding months. The Guest of Honour country, or region, thus participates during the entire year in various events and many cultural projects in Frankfurt and in Europe's German-speaking regions. It also organizes a wide variety of literary activities, art and culture exhibitions, and music, dance, theatre and film programs to celebrate the talent and diversity of its creators.

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#### Sources:

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