

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Five Alberta authors vie for \$10,000 award

Voting for Alberta Readers' Choice Award begins May 1

EDMONTON, AB, April 11, 2012 – Albertans will have their say at the polls in May to award one of Alberta's richest literary prizes.

Now in its third year, the Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award – presented annually by the Edmonton Public Library – underwent a facelift this year. The eligibility requirement changed from an Alberta-based publisher to an author residing in Alberta.

“This change makes EPL's ARC Award truly an Alberta award,” said Linda Cook, CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. “We heard from many authors living in Alberta who were quite disappointed they were not eligible for the award because their books were published outside the province. The new eligibility recognizes the exceptional writing talent in Alberta and encourages readers to support Alberta authors.”

The selection committee narrowed down a list of 10 titles to come up with the year's top five books:

- *Fall From Grace* by Wayne Arthurson, published by Forge Books
- *Freddy's War* by Judy Schultz, published by Brindle & Glass
- *In the Suicide's Library* by Tim Bowling, published by Gaspereau Press
- *Nobody Cries at Bingo* by Dawn Dumont, published by Thistledown Press
- *The Antagonist* by Lynn Coady, published by House of Anansi Press

“It was exciting to debate the long list, which has a lot of stimulating aspects,” said Anna Marie Sewell, ARC Award jury member and Edmonton's Poet Laureate. “The list is a fascinating snapshot of the cultural moment here in Alberta.”

From May 1 to 31, the public can go online at www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice to cast their votes. The winner of the 2012 ARC Award will be announced on June 9 at the 2012 Alberta Book Awards Gala in Calgary.

About the Alberta Readers' Choice Award

The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is presented annually by the Edmonton Public Library (EPL). Currently in its third year, the ARC Award promotes literacy and reading to Albertans by highlighting the unique and talented writers residing in our province. The \$10,000 prize, sponsored by EPL, goes to the author of the winning title as chosen by the reading public. The ARC Award is one of the largest literary prizes offered in Alberta and is comparable to many national literary awards. For more information about the ARC Award, visit www.epl.ca/alberta-readers-choice.

About the Edmonton Public Library

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. Every year, we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits across our 17 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere - in the library, at home or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value - that is today's EPL. Spread the words. www.epl.ca.

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