

Media Release

For Immediate Release:

Five finalists announced for \$10,000 literary award Public voting for Alberta Readers' Choice Award opens May 1

EDMONTON, AB, April 29, 2014 – It is time for Albertans to have their say in who will win one of the province's richest literary prizes.

Sponsored by the Edmonton Public Library, the Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is awarded annually for the best fiction or non-fiction book written by an Alberta author. The \$10,000 prize, now in its fifth year, recognizes exceptional writing in our province and encourages readers to support local authors.

"Our jury must have had a tough job creating this short list of five finalists," said Linda Cook, CEO of the Edmonton Public Library. "The talent of Alberta authors and the quality of their work shone through in the submissions from throughout the province again this year. This is a great selection of titles and I'm excited to see which one Albertans pick!"

The five finalists for the 2014 ARC Award are:

- *Come Barbarians*, by Todd Babiak (Published by Harper Collins)
- *Pilgrimage*, by Diana Davidson (Published by Brindle & Glass)
- *The Dilettantes*, by Michael Hingston (Published by Freehand Books)
- *The Unfinished Child*, by Theresa Shea (Published by Brindle & Glass)
- *Almost a Great Escape*, by Tyler Trafford (Goose Lane Editions)

Over 40 titles were submitted for the award, a list which was trimmed to 10 by Alberta libraries before a jury narrowed that down to five. This year's jury included Anne Bailey, Senior Issues and Communications Manager for University Relations at the University of Alberta; Amanda Connolly, reporter with CBC Calgary; Deb Isbister, Youth Services Librarian with the Red Deer Public Library; Breanna Mroczek, freelance writer and magazine publisher; and Christine Sheppard, Executive Director of the Library Association of Alberta.

"It was exciting to have the opportunity to read the top 10 books and debate them with the other jurors," said Mroczek. "I'm passionate about supporting local writers, and am not surprised by the remarkable talent in our province. I wish Albertans luck in picking one favourite!"

The public can vote online at <http://www.albertareaderschoice.ca> from May 1-31. The winner of the 2014 Alberta Readers' Choice Award will be announced on June 6 at the 2014 Alberta Book Awards Gala.

Spread the words.

About the Alberta Readers' Choice Award

The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is presented by the Edmonton Public Library (EPL). Currently in its fifth 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 voted on 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

From March 2013 to March 2014, the Edmonton Public Library (EPL) is celebrating 100 years of service to our great city. We've come a long way since 1913 when books were all you could find on our shelves... and we're just getting started! Today 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. The second most visited place in Edmonton, 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. EPL is a registered charity and relies on donations to enhance services. Spread the words. www.epl.ca/donate.

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