



Media Release

September 21, 2023

**Re: 2023 Alberta Book Publishing Awards Winners**

**Edmonton** – The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) is pleased to announce the winners of the [2023 Alberta Book Publishing Awards](#). These awards celebrate the essential role Alberta book publishers play in supporting authors and telling Alberta's Story. As the critical middle piece of the storytelling process, Alberta book publishers enrich and sustain the cultural and social landscape of our province and we are proud to highlight their achievements.

The awards gala was hosted at the [Matrix Hotel](#) in Edmonton, and over 130 delegates from across Canada gathered to celebrate the Alberta book publishing industry. At this year's gala, we presented George Melnyk, former publisher at NeWest Press, with a Lifetime Achievement in Publishing Award for his long standing contributions to Alberta's literary and publishing community. We also presented the Special Achievement in Publishing Award to Anna Boyar, Heather Lohnes, and Karyn Wisselink for contributing to the creation and success of the [Read Alberta website](#). These three truly exemplify the spirit of the Alberta book publishing community, and have left an enduring legacy for Alberta's publishing landscape.

NeWest Press was awarded the Mel Hurtig Publisher of the Year Award and was also the inaugural winner of the Mystery & Thriller Book of the Year Award for *To Those Who Killed Me* by J.T. Siemens. A total of 17 awards were presented and we would like to congratulate all of the winning and shortlisted publishers, authors, and designers.

Thank you to our funders, in particular the Government of Alberta and the Canada Book Fund, and our award sponsors whose contributions helped to make this event possible. For those that were unable to attend, a recording of the awards gala will be available on the [BPAA YouTube Channel](#) in a few weeks. Please subscribe to our channel to be notified when it is released. We look forward to next year's awards and the continued growth of the Alberta book publishing industry.

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# 2023 ALBERTA BOOK PUBLISHING AWARDS

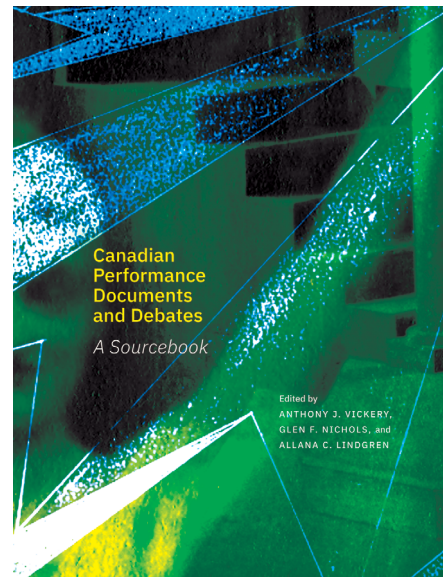
## Learning Book of the Year



UNIVERSITY of ALBERTA PRESS

### *Canadian Performance Documents and Debates*

edited by Anthony J. Vickery, Glen F. Nichols, and Allana C. Lindgren



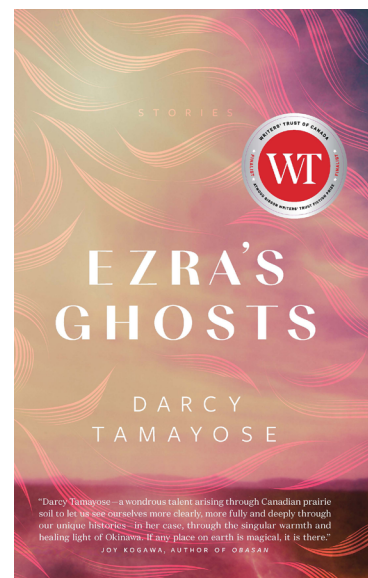
## Douglas Barbour Award for Speculative Fiction



NEWEST PRESS

### *Ezra's Ghosts*

by Darcy Tamayose

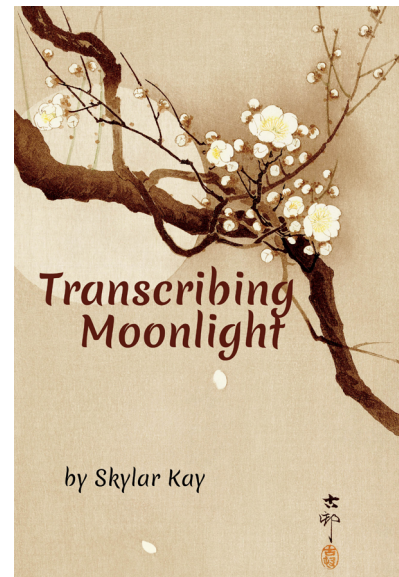


## Robert Kroetsch Award for Poetry



### *Transcribing Moonlight*

by Skylar Kay

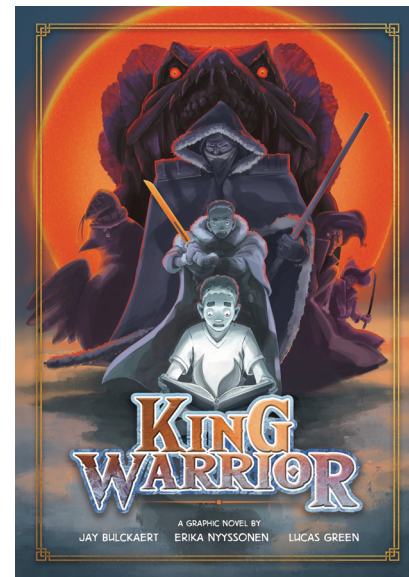


## Graphic Novel of the Year

### **RENEGADE** ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

#### *King Warrior*

by Jay Bulckaert, Erika Nyyssonen,  
and Halima Muhamud  
illustrated by Lucas Green



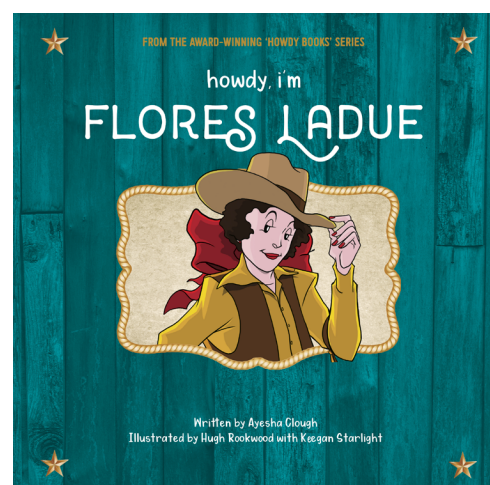
## Children's & Young Adult Book of the Year



### *Howdy, I'm Flores LaDue*

by Ayesha Clough, illustrated by Hugh  
Rookwood with Keegan Starlight

*Award sponsored by Marquis*





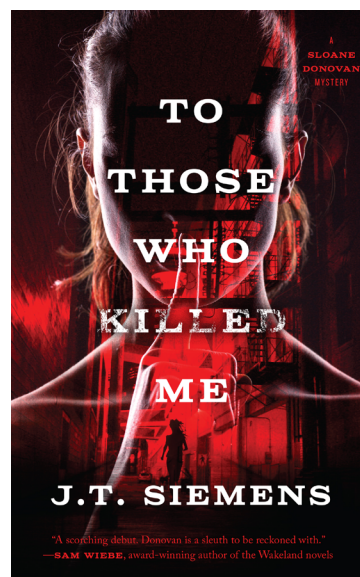
## Mystery & Thriller Book of the Year



NEWEST PRESS

### *To Those Who Killed Me*

by J.T. Siemens

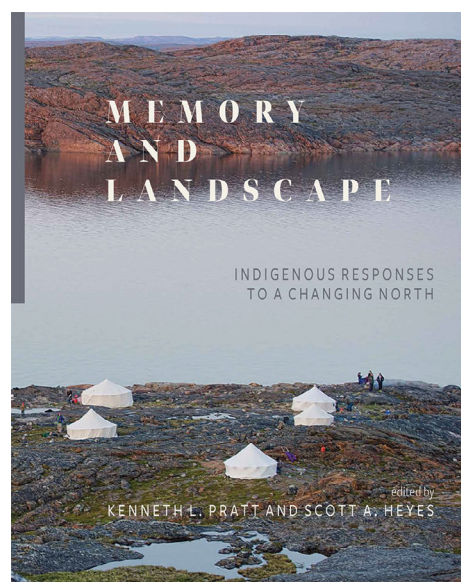


## Scholarly & Academic Book of the Year



### *Memory and Landscape*

edited by Kenneth L. Pratt and  
Scott A. Heyes



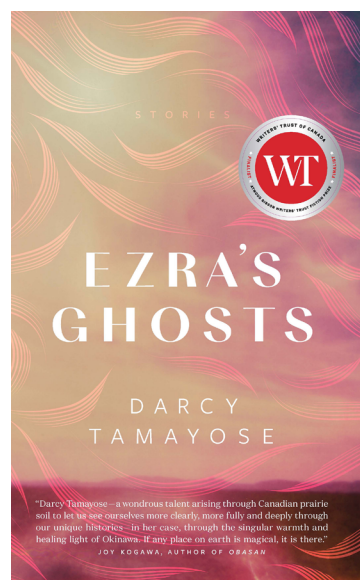
## Trade Fiction Book of the Year



NEWEST PRESS

### *Ezra's Ghosts*

by Darcy Tamayose





## Trade Non-Fiction Book of the Year



***Modern Fables***

by Mikka Jacobsen

*Award sponsored by Houghton  
Boston Printers*



## Regional Book of the Year



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
Press**

***A Stunning Backdrop***

by Mary Graham

*Award sponsored by Alberta Counsel*



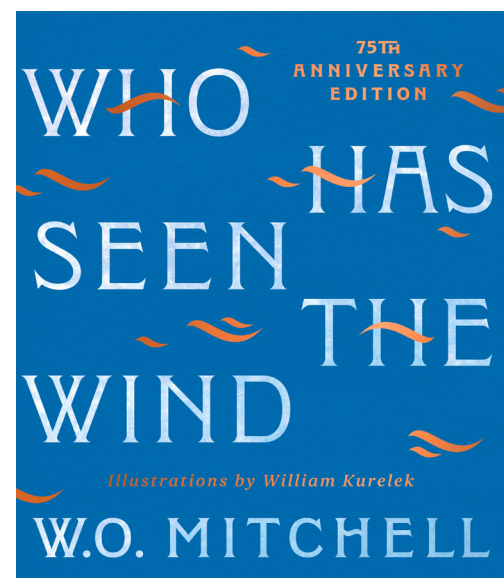
## Book Cover Design



***Who Has Seen the Wind***

by W.O. Mitchell  
book cover design by Natalie Olsen  
(Kisscut Design)

*Award sponsored by Friesens*



## Book Illustration

# RENEGADE

ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

## Alberta Comics: Home

edited by Alexander Finbow, Shea  
Proulx, and Emily Pomeroy  
illustrated by various artists

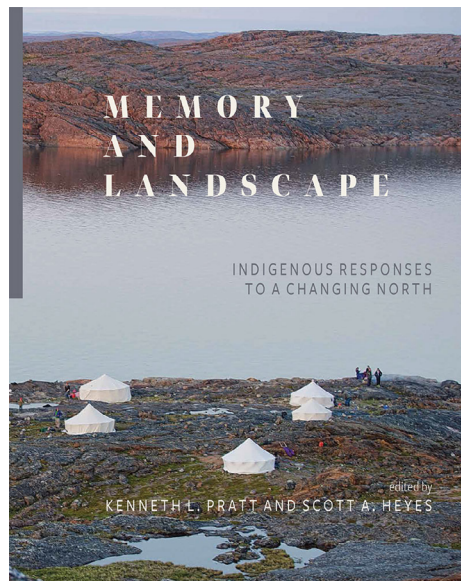


# Book Design



## Memory and Landscape

edited by Kenneth L. Pratt and Scott A. Heyes  
cover design by Marvin Harder  
interior design by Natalie Olsen  
(Kisscut Design)

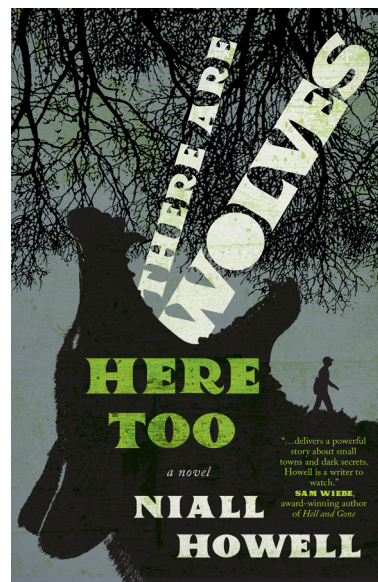


## Lois Hole Award for Editorial Excellence



## ***There Are Wolves Here Too***

by Niall Howell  
edited by Claire Kelly



## **Mel Hurtig Publisher of the Year**



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## **Special Achievement in Publishing Award**



**Anna Boyar**



**Heather Lohnes**



**Karyn Wisselink**

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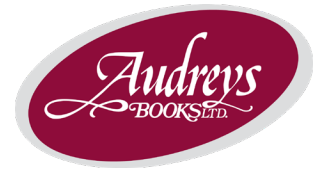
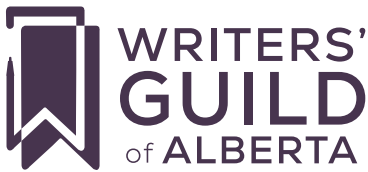
## **Lifetime Achievement in Publishing Award**



**George Melnyk**



## Awards Sponsors



## Funders



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada

Funded by the Government of Canada  
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada

