

Paul Rowe wins the 2016 BMO Winterset Award

March 16, 2017 (St. John's, NL) – Paul Rowe is the winner of the 2016 BMO Winterset Award for his book *The Last Half of the Year*. The award, which celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing, was presented today at a ceremony at Government House in St. John's.

The two other finalists were Robert Chafe for *Two-Man Tent* (Breakwater Books, St. John's, NL) and Michael Crummey for *Little Dogs* (House of Anansi Press, Toronto, ON).

The BMO Winterset Award is composed of a partnership between the BMO Financial Group and those involved from the start - ArtsNL and the project's founder, writer Richard Gwyn, OC. The prize awarded to the annual winner is \$12,500, while the finalists each receive \$3,000. It is one of Atlantic Canada's richest literary prizes.

The Last Half of the Year (Creative Book Publishing, St. John's, NL) was one of 37 works by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native-born or resident) that were submitted by publishers from across the country. Books in any genre, published in 2016 were eligible. The jury consisted of Susan Chalker Browne, Alison Dyer, and Berni Stapleton.

The BMO Winterset Award honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn, St. John's-born social historian, prize-winning author, who did so much to promote a national awareness of the arts of this province. Her husband, journalist and author Richard Gwyn, OC, established the award in 2000. It is named after the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where Sandra grew up.

Paul Rowe is a writer, actor, and teacher born in Point Verde, a small coastal community on Newfoundland and Labrador's Avalon Peninsula. He has written, directed, and performed extensively during a theatre career spanning three decades. In 2015, he was a member of the acting company at the Stratford Festival. *The Last Half of the Year* is his second novel. His first novel, *The Silent Time*, was a finalist for the 2008 BMO Winterset Award. Paul lives in St. John's, NL.

The BMO Winterset Award is managed by ArtsNL.

<http://www.artsnl.ca>