



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Finalists announced for 2019 BMO Winterset Award**

**March 4, 2020 (St. John's, NL)** – ArtsNL is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2019 BMO Winterset Award are Megan Gail Coles, Michael Crummey, and Tshaukuesh Elizabeth Penashue. The award celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. The winner will be announced at Government House on **Thursday, March 26, 2020**.

The three finalists are:

- **Megan Gail Coles**, *Small Game Hunting at the Local Coward Gun Club* (House of Anansi Press Inc.), Toronto, ON
- **Michael Crummey**, *The Innocents* (Doubleday Canada), Toronto, ON
- **Tshaukuesh Elizabeth Penashue**, *Nitinikiau Innusi: I Keep the Land Alive* (University of Manitoba Press), Winnipeg, MB

The winner will receive a prize of \$12,500 and two finalists will each receive \$3,000.

Books in any genre published in 2019 were eligible for the award. A total of 32 works by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native-born or resident) were submitted by publishers from across the country.

The Winterset Award honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn—St. John's-born social historian, prize-winning author, and passionate promoter of Newfoundland and Labrador arts. Her husband, journalist and author Richard Gwyn, established the award in 2000, which is managed by ArtsNL. It is

named after the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where Sandra grew up.

Finalists will read from their works and answer questions from the audience at a **public reading and reception, to be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 7 pm at The Rooms (in the Theatre), 9 Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's.**

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*The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (now known as ArtsNL) is a non-profit Crown agency created in 1980 by The Arts Council Act. Its mission is to foster and promote the creation and enjoyment of the arts for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The Council is governed by a volunteer board of 13 appointed by government, reflecting regional representation of the province. This includes 10 professional artists who provide sectoral representation of the arts community; one community representative (with an interest in the arts); one business representative (with an interest in the arts); and one representative of the Department of Business, Tourism, Culture and Rural Development (non-voting). ArtsNL receives an annual grant of \$2.9 million from the Province to support a variety of granting programs, program delivery, office administration, and communications. It also seeks support from the public and private sector. It supports the following artistic disciplines: dance, film, multidiscipline, music, theatre, visual art, and writing.*