

## Finalists announced for 2015 BMO Winterset Award

March 2, 2016 (St. John's, NL) – ArtsNL is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2015 BMO Winterset Award are Stan Dragland, Sara Tilley, and Leslie Vryenhoek. The award celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. The winner will be announced at Government House on Thursday, March 24.

The three finalists are:

- Stan Dragland, for: *Strangers & Others* (Pedlar Press), St. John's, NL
- Sara Tilley, for: *Duke* (Pedlar Press), St. John's, NL
- Leslie Vryenhoek, for: *Ledger of the Open Hand* (Breakwater Books), St. John's, NL

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

Books in any genre published in 2015 were eligible for the award. A total of 31 works by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native-born or resident) were submitted by publishers from across the country. The jury consisted of Chris Brookes, Megan Coles, and Randy Street.

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's 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: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, at The Rooms (in the Theatre), 9 Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's.