

## **BMO Financial Group renews sponsorship of the ArtsNL managed BMO Winterset Award**

**October 13, 2015 (St. John's, NL) – BMO Financial Group has renewed its commitment to support the BMO Winterset Award with a five-year sponsorship worth \$100,000, or \$20,000 annually. The company initially partnered with ArtsNL and the Sandra Fraser Gwyn Foundation to sponsor the award, which celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing, in 2010.**

**Included in this new commitment is an annual increase of \$2,500 for the top prize, raising the award amount to \$12,500. The prize for each of the remaining two finalists will grow to \$3,000 from \$2,500 and the \$1,500 juror honourarium moves up to \$2,000, recognizing their diligent efforts to read upwards of 30 publications before making their difficult decision.**

**“We couldn’t be happier about the continuation of our great partnership with BMO Financial Group,” says Reg Winsor, Executive Director of ArtsNL. “The BMO Winterset Award holds an important place in our provincial and national literary landscape. As the managing partner of it, ArtsNL is pleased that it will not only continue on for the next five years, but also increase in value thanks to the generosity of our presenting corporate partner.”**

**The award honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn, the St. John’s-born social historian, and prize-winning author who was a passionate promoter of Newfoundland and Labrador arts. It was established in 2000 by her husband, author and journalist Richard Gwyn. Winterset was the name of the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John’s where Sandra grew up.**

**“BMO is proud to continue its support of literary excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador, through its sponsorship of the Winterset Award, and a thriving community of writers who share their creativity and passion and bring the Newfoundland and Labrador experience to Canada and the world,” said Jim Fallon, Regional Vice President, Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, BMO Financial Group.**

**The 2015 BMO Winterset Award will be presented at a ceremony at Government House in March 016. Three finalists will be announced in advance of the presentation.**

**The BMO Winterset Award is managed by ArtsNL. Works are submitted by publishers from across the country. Submissions are now being accepted for the 2015 BMO Winterset Award. Literary works in any genre, written by native-born Newfoundlanders and Labradorians or residents of the province, are eligible for consideration. Works must have been published in 2015; submissions must be made by a publisher by December 31, 2015, and must include at least five copies of each submitted work. Submissions should be made c/o Reg Winsor, Executive Director, ArtsNL, P.O. Box 98, St. John’s, NL, A1C 5H5.**