



Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Finalists announced for 2011 BMO Winterset Award

March 6, 2012 (St. John's, NL) – The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) is pleased to announce the finalists for the 2011 BMO Winterset Award are Edward Riche, Don McKay, and Mark Callanan. The award celebrates excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. The winner will be announced at Government House on Thursday, March 22nd.

The three finalists are:

- Edward Riche, *Easy to Like*, Anansi Press, Toronto, ON
- Don McKay, *The Shell of the Tortoise*, Gaspereau Press, Printers & Publishers, Kentville, NS
- Mark Callanan, *Gift Horse*, Véhicule Press, Montréal, PQ

The winner will receive a prize of \$10,000 and the two finalists will each receive \$2,500.

Books in any genre published in 2011 were eligible for the award. A total of 39 works by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native-born or resident) were submitted by publishers from across the country. The jury consisted of Noreen Golfman, Kevin Major, and Lisa Moore.

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

The three finalists will read from their works and answer questions from the audience at a **public reading and reception: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 21, at The Rooms (in the Theatre)**, 9 Bonaventure Avenue in St. John's.

Media enquiries:

Joshua Jamieson
Communications Officer
Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council
Phone: (709) 726-2212
Toll free: 1 (866) 726-2212 (NL only)
<http://www.nlac.ca>
jjamieson@nlac.ca

The NLAC 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 Tourism, Culture and Recreation (non-voting). The NLAC receives an annual contribution of \$2.1 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.