



Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council

Backgrounder: About the 2011 BMO Winterset Award finalists

Edward Riche, an award-winning writer for page, stage, and screen, was born in Botwood, on the Bay of Exploits on the northeast coast of Newfoundland. His first novel *Rare Birds*, was adapted into a major motion picture starring William Hurt and Molly Parker. *The Nine Planets*, his second novel, was a *Globe and Mail* Best Book of 2004 and won the Thomas Head Raddall Best Novel Award and the 2004 Winterset Award. Edward Riche lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Don McKay is a poet, teacher and editor. He has published about a dozen books in a career that spans four decades. He has twice won the Governor General's Literary Awards for poetry and the Griffin Poetry Prize for *Strike/Slip* in 2007. His previous essay collections include the GG-shortlisted *Vis à Vis: Field Notes on Poetry & Wilderness* and *Deactivated West 100*. McKay lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

Mark Callanan is the author of *Scarecrow*, a critically-acclaimed first book of poems, and *Sea Legend*, shortlisted for the bpNichol Chapbook Poetry Award. *Gift Horse*, his second full-length collection of poetry, was largely written following a near-fatal medical emergency in 2007. The poems offer up the story of a young man whose gratitude at being alive is undercut by Lazarus-like confusion and ambivalence. His poetry has appeared in several anthologies, including *Breathing Fire 2: Canada's New Poets*. He lives in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.