

Jury announced for 2014 BMO Winterset Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2014 (St. John's, NL) – The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) is pleased to announce that **Mark Callanan, John Crosbie, and Marie Wadden** will form the 2014 BMO Winterset Award jury.

The award encourages and promotes excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador writing. It was established in 2000 by author and journalist Richard Gwyn. It honours the memory of his late wife, Sandra Fraser Gwyn who was a social historian, prize-winning author, and passionate promoter of Newfoundland and Labrador arts. Winterset was the name of the historic house on Winter Avenue in St. John's where she grew up. In 2010 BMO Financial Group partnered with the NLAC and the Sandra Fraser Gwyn Foundation to sponsor the award.

The winner of the 2014 BMO Winterset Award will be announced at a ceremony in the spring of 2015. Three finalists will be announced in advance of the presentation. The winner will receive \$10,000 and the two finalists will receive \$2,500.

The jurors:

Mark Callanan is the author of two poetry collections and a poetry chapbook. *Gift Horse*, his most recent collection, was finalist for the 2011 BMO Winterset Award and the E.J. Pratt Poetry Award, and won the Heritage and History Book Award. It was included on the *National Post's* Best Poetry of 2011 list. Callanan's poems, essays and reviews have appeared in *Canadian Notes & Queries*, *Globe & Mail*, *Quill & Quire*, *The Telegram*, and *The Walrus*. He was a founding editor of the St. John's based literary journal *Riddle Fence*. With James Langer, he edited *The Breakwater Book of Contemporary Newfoundland Poetry*. He lives in St. John's with his wife and four children.

John Crosbie P.C., O.C., Q.C., B.A., LL.B. studied political science and economics at Queen's University in Kingston, ON and law at Dalhousie in Halifax, NS before being called to the Newfoundland Bar in 1957. He was first elected to the House of Assembly in 1966 as a Liberal but in 1971 he was re-elected to the as a Progressive Conservative. Crosbie then moved to federal politics in 1976 to represent St. John's West until 1993. In 1994 he was installed as Chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland and served in that position until becoming the 12th Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2008. He has received many honours, most notably, Officer of the Order of Canada in 1998. Crosbie has been heavily involved with the *Home from the Sea Sealers Memorial Campaign* in Elliston as its Honourary Patron and the interpretation centre will be named for him. He is the author of a political autobiography *No Holds Barred* published in 1997 by McClelland & Stewart Inc.

Marie Wadden is a St. John's based writer, producer and editor. She won the Edna Staebler award for Creative Non Fiction for her first book *Nitassinan; the Innu Struggle to Reclaim their Homeland* in 1991, and was finalist for the Winterset Award in 2008 for *Where the Pavement Ends, the Aboriginal Recovery Movement and the Urgent Need for Reconciliation*, which was also shortlisted for the Writers Union of Canada political writing award. She has been a judge for the National Newspaper Awards since 2011, and has taught writing at Memorial University. In June 2014 her documentary, *Atlantic Kon Tiki* was recognized with a New York World's Best Radio award.

The NLAC is now accepting submissions for the 2014 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 2014; submissions must be made by a publisher by December 31, 2014, and must include five copies of each submitted work. Submissions should be made c/o Reg Winsor, Executive Director, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council, 1 Springdale Street, P.O. Box 98, St. John's, NL, A1C 5H5.

Media Contacts:

Joshua Jamieson
Communications Officer
Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council
Phone: (709) 726-2212
Toll free: 1 (866) 726-2212 (NL only)
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 grant 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 p