



Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador

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MEDIA RELEASE

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CHANGES TO FREQUENCY OF FRESH FISH AWARD ANNOUNCED

(April 28, 2010 – St. John's, NL) Changes to the Fresh Fish Award for Emerging Writers have been announced by the Literary Arts Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador. Presented annually for the past four years, the Fresh Fish Award will now be presented every other year, in odd numbered years. Therefore, the next Fresh Fish Award is scheduled for 2011.

The change brings this award in line with the four Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards that LAFNL and WANL also co-present.

The Fresh Fish Award is given for the best unpublished manuscript by a promising Newfoundland and Labrador writer who has not published in book form before. Since its inception in 2006, there has been a gradual decline annually in submissions. The presenting organizations believe that an alternating-year formula will ensure both the number of entries and the quality of competing manuscripts will remain high in the coming years.

“This province has a thriving literary community, and there are so many talented emerging writers. However, developing that award-winning manuscript takes time. By presenting the

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award every other year, we can ensure there's lively competition to maintain the high standards of this prestigious award," explains Leslie Vryenhoek, president of the Literary Arts Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The lucrative prize, which puts \$4,000 in the winner's hands and offers \$1,000 toward professional editing, was created by author, film and TV producer Brian O'Dea. The O'Dea family has continued to support the award beyond the initial three year commitment. Greater long-term sustainable funding is now being sought to ensure the award can continue to inspire and recognize emerging writers.

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Established in 1987 to contribute to a supportive environment for writing in the province, the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador offers workshops, programs, and information to both professional and aspiring writers. <http://wanl.ca/>