



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## *Creative Disruption*



### Learn More:

Throughout this report, we invite you to click the hyperlinks to learn more.



SASKATCHEWAN  
FOUNDATION  
FOR THE **arts**

Established in 2005, the Foundation is a registered charity that supports the arts & artists of Saskatchewan in perpetuity.

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## ABOUT US

In 1999, The Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts (SFFA) was formed by an Act in the Legislature after extensive consultations with arts patrons, the arts community, and the public. During those discussions, people expressed a keen interest in a public foundation dedicated solely to supporting the arts and artists in this province.

In May 2005, the Board of Trustees was appointed. In April 2006, the Foundation became a registered charity.

The Foundation made its first awards in 2007.

The Foundation was established to support the arts and artists of Saskatchewan in perpetuity. The Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts creates an opportunity for private individuals, businesses, and corporations to build permanent and stable resources for the arts.

## OUR PURPOSE

- To create a legacy of financial support for the arts and artists in Saskatchewan.
- To receive donations, bequests, and other planned gifts from individuals and corporations.
- To hold, manage, and invest endowment funds, and disburse the interest earned on these funds to activities in the arts that benefit the people of Saskatchewan.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Gursh Barnard (Chair), Glen Berger (Treasurer), Jocelyn Souliere (Secretary),  
Ray Bailey, Scott McGillivray, Chris Stoicheff

We acknowledge that we are on traditional territories of the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Saskatchewan whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this land. In our work, we commit to advancing reconciliation and partnering with Indigenous peoples.

Cover Artwork by Gabriela García-Luna. 2023 Award Recipient.

## Creative Disruption

The past several years have presented unprecedented challenges for the arts sector in Saskatchewan. The prolonged impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with instability in global investment markets, placed considerable strain on artists, cultural workers, and the organizations that sustain them. Throughout this period, the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts (SFFA) has remained steadfast in its mandate. The Board of Trustees worked to ensure that annual awards were maintained, providing much-needed support to Saskatchewan artists when it was most urgently required.

These circumstances reaffirmed the essential role of stable and reliable funding in enabling artists to continue their practice. Despite considerable obstacles, Saskatchewan artists demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a commitment to producing work that reflects and enriches our province.

In 2023, the Foundation advanced its mission by strengthening partnerships across the cultural and creative industries, expanding outreach to artists, and broadening awareness of the Foundation's work. Central to these efforts was deepening our engagement with donors and supporters. Their generosity is not only the financial foundation of our awards program but also a powerful expression of confidence in Saskatchewan's artistic community. Donor support creates the conditions in which artists can take risks, pursue excellence, and give voice to the lived experiences of our province.

The Board of Trustees is continually inspired by the vitality and achievements of Saskatchewan's artists. Their creativity, sustained by the generosity of our donors, contributes immeasurably to the cultural identity and vibrancy of this province. For this reason, we extend our profound gratitude to donors whose continued investment in the arts ensures that Saskatchewan artists are able to thrive.

We also acknowledge the contributions of our colleagues in arts and cultural funding agencies, as well as the many creative professionals who dedicate themselves to strengthening Saskatchewan's cultural fabric. Together, we are building an ecosystem in which artists are supported to innovate, to create, and to succeed.

**Gursh Barnard**

*Chair, Board of Trustees*



## TRUSTEES' GREETINGS

I believe that performance, visual and literary arts enrich our lives. By supporting established and emerging artists, the Foundation contributes to the richness of our cultural fabric by enabling artists to produce new works to provoke thought and challenge our senses.

I first became aware of the Foundation in 2011 through an art sale fundraiser, where my husband I purchased a couple of pieces, thus making our first donation. Later, I became a Trustee of the Foundation almost by accident. I've remained committed because I have seen first-hand the impact its work has on the artistic scene in Saskatchewan.

I have been a board member for a wide variety of national, provincial and local organizations, ranging from professional associations to charitable pursuits. What inspires me about the Foundation is its history - a group of Saskatchewan arts lovers and supporters coming together to create an opportunity to help artists directly. These visionaries were successful in establishing a private fund that has so far granted in excess of \$400,000. To me, that's a remarkable way to make a difference to individual artists who might otherwise not have the capacity to complete and share their work. We are all richer for it!

The Foundation is supported by private donations from corporations, legacy gifts and large and small individual donations. While some donors establish endowed funds or designate specific uses, others choose to allow the Foundation to direct their contributions to the areas of most need. These undesignated funds enable the Foundation to retain professional staff, utilize social media to create awareness of the Foundation and of course, continue to raise funds to support Saskatchewan artists. As a donor and Trustee, I'm confident the Foundation will make the right decisions about all contributions - after all, the Foundation has over a decade of success to celebrate.



**Jocelyn Souliere**  
*Trustee, Board Secretary*

As a member of the Board of Trustees of the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts, I am deeply honored to help oversee the awards that are given in accordance with the wishes of our donors and which support emerging and mid-career artists in our province. Having been an actor, writer, and singer, I truly appreciate the value that the arts provide us all. The endowment funds we manage, such as the Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund and the Jane Turnbull Evans Fund for the Arts, play a crucial role in providing emerging and mid-career artists with the financial resources they need to pursue their creative passions. I am also very proud to be part of a Foundation that strives for fair and equitable representation--for instance, half of our awards support Indigenous artists.

Witnessing the transformative impact of these awards on the lives of Saskatchewan artists and our broader community is incredibly fulfilling. Artists face numerous challenges, from financial constraints to limited opportunities for exposure. Our endowment funds help to alleviate these burdens, enabling artists to focus more on their work and achieving their full potential. These funds often serve as a springboard for further opportunities, such as exhibitions, publications, and collaborations, which are vital for building sustainable careers in the arts.

Beyond individual success, supporting emerging and mid-career artists contributes to a vibrant and dynamic arts community in Saskatchewan. These artists enrich our cultural landscape, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative ideas that inspire and educate others. Their work fosters cultural understanding and social cohesion, making our community stronger and more connected.

The involvement of individuals, businesses, and organizations in supporting these funds demonstrates the power of collective effort. When we come together to support young talent, we create a legacy of cultural richness and innovation that will benefit future generations. It is immensely gratifying to be part of a Foundation that champions the growth and development of emerging and mid-career artists, knowing that such efforts have a lasting impact on the cultural fabric of our province.



**Christopher W. Stoicheff**  
*MA, MPPGA  
Trustee*

**2007-2023**  
**\$410,500 awarded**  
**to 75 artists.**

## PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS

\* **Featured Artists** [Learn More](#)

### 2023

Sharon Butala*	Glengarry Book Award
Iryn Tushnabe*	Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund
Landon Walliser*	Harry Nick Kangles Fund
Négar Devine-Tajgardan*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Audie Murray*	Shurniak Fund
	Dick & Jane Fund
Elaine McArthur*	Indigenous Literary Award
Annie Brass*	Indigenous Traditional Craft Award
Geanna Dunbar*	Indigenous Multi-Media Language Arts Award
S.E. Grummett*	LGBTQ2S+ Artist/Art Award
Gabriela García-Luna*	Female Arts Entrepreneur Award
Karlie King*	Prairie Folk Arts/Craft Award

### 2022

Guy Vanderhaeghe*	Glengarry Book Award
Tara Gereaux*	Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund
Joely BigEagle-Kequahtoway*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Kristine Alvarez*	Harry Nick Kangles Fund
Bonnie Conly*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Stacey Fayant*	Shurniak Fund
Lorne Kequahtoway*	Cameco Endowment

### 2021

Dianne Warren*	Glengarry Book Award
Nathan Coppens*	Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund
Ayesha Mohsin*	Harry Nick Kangles Fund
Zoë Schneider*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Jinglu Zhao*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Patrick Fernandez*	Shurniak Fund
Jeff Nachtigall*	Shurniak Fund
Melanie Rose*	Cameco Endowment

### 2020

Deferred due to Covid-19

### 2019

Carla Harris*	Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund
Jewel Charles*	Dick and Jane Fund
Judy Wensel*	Harry Nick Kangles Fund
Jessica Morgun*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Amalie Atkins*	Shurniak Fund
Krystle Pederson*	Cameco Endowment

### 2018

Carol Rose Goldeneagle*	Colleen Bailey Memorial
Dakota Ray Hebert	Dick and Jane Fund
Kelley Jo Burke*	Harry Nick Kangles Fund
Laura Payne*	Jane Turnbull Evans Fund
Louisa Ferguson*	Shurniak Fund
Jackie Latendresse*	Cameco Endowment

### 2017

Floyd Favel*	Cameco Indigenous Artist Award
Todd Gronsahl	Visual Arts Endowment
Anne Lazurko*	Colleen Bailey Memorial Award
Laura Pettigrew*	Harry Nick Kangles Award
Laura St. Pierre	Jane Turnbull Evans Award

### 2016

Sheri Benning	Literary Artist
Donna Rose Langhome*	Indigenous Artist
Joey Tremblay	Regina Artist
Zane Wilcox*	Male Visual Artist
Carol Wylie*	Female Visual Artist

### 2015

Ned Bartlett*	Visual Arts
Johanna Bundon	Dance
Sylvia Legris	Writing
Barbara Meneley	Intermedia
Kara Uzelman*	Visual Arts
Janine Windolph	Interdisciplinary

### 2014

Heather Benning	Visual Arts
Catherine Blackburn*	Visual Arts
Adam Pottle*	Writing
Michele Sereda	Performing Arts
Sean Weisgerber	Visual Arts

### 2013

Kelley Jo Burke*	Theatre
Rosemarie Froese	Visual Arts
Jay Kimball*	Ceramics
Rowan Pantel*	Visual Arts

### 2011

Michael Bradford	Writing
Olga Dermendji	Visual Arts
Carmela Laganse	Ceramics
Marie-Claire Marcotte	Theatre

### 2010

Tyler Brett	Visual Arts
Mark Caesar	Music
Kelly-Anne Riess*	Writing
Tamara Rusnak	Visual Arts

### 2007

Devin Krukoff	Writing
Megan Morman	Visual Arts
Sharon Nowlan	Performing Artist
Rah Rah	Music
Jennifer Still	Writing

**The Foundation's commitment to all award recipients extends beyond the receiving of funds.**  
**Our ongoing support includes Featured Artist profiles on our website.**  
**We encourage our supporters to learn more about these artists and support them.**

Every recipient is offered the opportunity to present as a Featured Artist.  
 Biographies, photographic materials, and digital links are provided by the artist.

# ENDOWMENT FUNDS

## The Glengarry Book Award

Established in 2021 by Claire Kramer, this endowment supports the Glengarry Book Award, a \$20,000 (CAD) prize awarded for the first edition of an English novel or book of short fiction. Award is open to established professional writers of fiction with a significant body of published work, recognition, and awards. Authors from across Canada may apply but must be able to describe their connection to Saskatchewan.

## The Colleen Bailey Memorial Fund

Established by Colleen Bailey, Yorkton businesswoman, art collector, and supporter of the arts. This endowment support an award that supports and assists emerging Saskatchewan writers in developing their craft.

## The Dick & Jane Fund

Established by Richard Spafford and Jane Turnbull Evans, lifelong supporters of the arts. Richard was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts. This endowment supports 6 awards: Literary, Indigenous Traditional Craft, Indigenous Multi-Media Language Arts, Multidisciplinary LGBTQ2S+ Artist/Art, Female Arts Entrepreneur, and Prairie Folk Arts/Craft.

## The Harry Nick Kangles Fund

Established in memory of Harry Nick Kangles, a Regina businessman, art collector, and supporter of the arts. This endowment supports an award for established artists living in Regina who are working in the visual arts, musical theatre, or performance arts.

## The Jane Turnbull Evans Fund for the Arts

Established in memory of the late Jane Turnbull Evans, an artist, arts educator, and arts administrator. This endowment supports an award for emerging Saskatchewan artists working in the visual arts. The award is restricted to women emerging artists only.

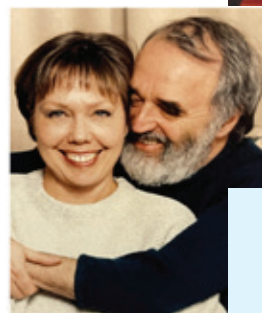
## The Shurniak Fund

Established by William (Bill) Shurniak, S.O.M., M.S.M., LL.D. (Hon.), prominent businessman, arts patron, and founder of the Shurniak Art Gallery in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan. This endowment supports an award for emerging Saskatchewan artists working in the visual arts.

## The Cameco Endowment for Indigenous Artists

Award is available for emerging or established Indigenous artists in any arts discipline. This endowment supports and award for arts activities that are causally related to the costs of the art project or practice and activities that reflect Cameco's values: safety & environment, people, integrity, and excellence.

**Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts Operating Endowment Fund** Established in 2007, this endowment provides funds for the ongoing operations and administration of the Foundation.



## DONOR PROFILE

# The Baileys' dynamic contributions to the betterment of Saskatchewan through art are truly inspiring.

**Colleen Bailey (1939-2006)**

**Allan Bailey (1932-2023)**



Colleen and Allan Bailey were Yorkton residents and business owners and were very proud of their community and their province. They volunteered their time and talents in many community organizations and cultural activities.

They loved and appreciated all types of art especially visual arts, ceramics, music and literature. Music, visual arts and in particular, literature, enriched their lives. They enjoyed everyone that appreciated art, created it and help to support it in any way. Colleen and Allan felt that Saskatchewan was very blessed with so many creative and vibrant people. It was important for them to support and encourage this in any that they could.

The art they collected and enjoyed was made even more special by the relationships they had with so many artists in our province. Colleen especially was very supportive of self taught and emerging artists.

This fund was established in memory of Colleen Bailey. She served as Chair of the Saskatchewan Arts Board and numerous other arts and cultural organizations in Saskatchewan. Both Colleen and Allan helped to support the Film and Video Festival in Yorkton for many years as well as many other activities and events in their community. In addition to the many organizations they volunteered with Allan served as a Councillor and Mayor for the City of Yorkton and was very active in forming a Regional Library for the Yorkton area.

Colleen and Allan believed in supporting arts and culture as a way to enrich our community and the lives of everyone in it. They believed everyone should try to give back to their community as best they could. With their time and efforts and by being as generous as they were able to.

While serving as Chair for the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Colleen served on the first Board for the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts. During that time she learned of the vision of the founders of the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts and the importance of creating permanent, stable funding for artists in our province.

Allan also saw the potential for the Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts and chose to leave a lasting gift to a community and province that was very supportive of him. Following Allan's death in 2023, this award was renamed to include his passion for literature and to acknowledge the legacy gift left in his estate.

Being part of endowed funds the gift Colleen and Allan have left will remain intact and will continue to provide lasting impacts year after year.



**Ray Bailey**

*Trustee, Board of Trustees*

# 2023 ENDOWMENT AWARDS

## Jury Chair's Report

It was a great pleasure to serve as Endowment Jury Chair for the 2023 awards at the invitation of board chair, Gursh Barnard. The Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts and the awards that it administers have been gaining prominence in the arts community of Saskatchewan for some time. To gain a greater understanding of the SFFA as a working artist and educator in my role as jury chair was enlightening and rewarding. The great range of artistic practices, entrepreneurial spirit, and the significant number of applicants is an indication of a vibrant and growing cultural community in Saskatchewan. This is a dedicated and responsive organization that we have in the SFFA.

Jurors for the Endowment Awards were selected based on their wide-ranging knowledge of the arts in Saskatchewan as well as their particular area of expertise. Once selected, they were apprised of their duties, the criteria for grading each application, and given a period of time in which to consider each submitted for merit and eligibility. After reviewing more than 100 applicant packages for the 2023 awards, we were able to engage in a very productive day of deliberations to determine the 10 award recipients.

Confidentiality was emphasized and respected at all times, and any perceived conflict of interest was addressed. Jurors recused themselves when necessary. The professionalism and collegiality demonstrated by our jury made for what I believe were good choices from an exceptionally fine pool of applicants. This was conducted within the parameters of the SFFA award eligibility criteria. It was expressed many times in our lively discussions,

that the breadth of interest and ambition of our artists and arts entrepreneurs were truly remarkable. The best that can be said of an awards jury is that the quality of the pool of applicants made it very difficult to decide on the award recipients. Congratulations to all who submitted.

As noted by last year's Endowment Awards Jury Chair, Peter Sametz, a jury's conclusion and the announcement of the awards is only a beginning. Once received, the recipients go on to produce works that engage and inspire us all.

Much gratitude to the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts, the staff, volunteers and the donors, for their efforts in enriching our lives by supporting our artists and arts professionals.

A special thanks to SFFA Board of Trustees Chair, Gursh Barnard, for her dedicated and tireless efforts as observer. She ensured that the process of determining award recipients was conducted with absolute integrity.



**Grant McConnell**

*Jury Chair,  
Endowment Awards 2023*



Learn more about the  
origins of the Foundation



## Endowment Awards Jury

### The following artists made up the 2023 Endowment Awards Jury:

**ANTHONY BIDULKA** has dedicated his career to writing traditional genre novels in an untraditional way, developing a body of work that often features his Saskatchewan roots and underrepresented, diverse main characters. His works have been shortlisted for numerous awards including the Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence, the Lambda Literary Award, and the Saskatchewan Book Awards, and won the Independent Publisher Book Award as the Canada West Best Fiction Gold Medalist and the Crime Writers of Canada Award of Excellence for Best Crime Novel. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Bidulka loves to travel with husband Herb, collect art, and is known to throw a great party.

**JESSE CAMPBELL** From her home in Prince Albert SK, Jesse writes, curates, and manages a wide variety of arts projects dedicated to enriching the cultural life of Saskatchewan. With an M.A. in art history from Universiteit Utrecht, Netherlands and having served as director/curator of the Mann Art Gallery in Prince Albert, she brings a worldly view to her professional engagements in our province and beyond. Her primary research and curatorship specific to the Saskatchewan visual art community is widely known and respected. Jesse shares a passion for music, tennis and cross-country skiing with her young family.

**CAROL GREYEVES** From Muskeg Lake Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, Carol Greyeyes was the first Indigenous Arts Advisor for the Saskatchewan Arts Board. She is the former Artistic Director of the Centre for Indigenous Theatre (CIT) and the founding principal of the Indigenous Theatre School in Toronto, Canada. She has directed and taught in theatres all over Canada and the USA and has acted in film, television, radio and on the stage. As an assistant professor in the Department of Drama at the University of Saskatchewan, she established the wîchêhtowin: Aboriginal Theatre Program, and became its first program coordinator. Carol is renowned for her omnivorous appetite for all things cultural, and her sense of humour.

**GRANT MCCONNELL** Saskatoon artist and educator Grant McConnell studied at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick, and at the University of Saskatchewan where he received an MFA. He is known primarily for his varied studio practice deriving from an ongoing investigation of things social, historical, and political. McConnell has served on numerous boards including CARFAC Canadian Artists' Representation /Le Front des artistes canadiens, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, Access Copyright, and most recently the Remai Modern Art Gallery, Saskatoon. He teaches studio and art history at St. Peter's College in Muenster, Sk., and studio, Canadian and Modern Art History at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, SK. Jawing with friends, peddling and paddling are consuming interests.

# RECIPIENT APPRECIATION



“

I'm deeply honoured and grateful to be this year's recipient of the Colleen & Allan Bailey Memorial Fund, which supports emerging Saskatchewan writers. An emerging writer is one still growing into their path, perhaps still uncertain about the title of Writer.

"Sometimes the vocation seems like a luxury we cannot afford. This award gives me the permission to say, **"I'm writing a collection of stories,"** and the confidence & legitimacy to go ahead and do exactly that.

"It is a privilege I will never take for granted."

**Iryn Tushabe**

2023 RECIPIENT  
COLLEEN & ALLAN BAILEY  
MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

**Gabriela García-Luna**

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts and its generous donors for their valuable initiatives and contribution in opening more opportunities for artists in our province.

"By investing in the arts, you are investing in the well-being and vitality of our society as a whole."

2023 RECIPIENT  
DICK & JANE FUND  
FEMALE ENTREPRENEUR AWARD



“

I am truly honoured and grateful to be chosen to be this year's recipient. As a writer and artist, this will help me to spend more time completing this graphic novel.

"It has been in the works for 2 years, writing, editing and struggling to find the financial means to complete it."

**Elaine McArthur**

2023 RECIPIENT  
DICK & JANE FUND  
INDIGENOUS LITERARY AWARD





"As an Indigenous artist, receiving this award gives me hope for the future of other artists like me, that come from similar backgrounds. **It's a gift to be able to put your work out there for others to experience**, to share knowledge, art and stories from history, family and communities.

"I appreciate these platforms and the work that goes into selecting artist recipients. Thank you to all SFFA staff for your hard work and every funder that commits to uplifting the arts."

**Geanna Dunbar**

**2023 RECIPIENT**  
DICK & JANE FUND  
INDIGENOUS MULTIMEDIA LANGUAGE AWARD



“

As an artist and entrepreneur, it is difficult to find enough money to acquire all the materials for Regalia.

I want to thank the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts for their generous support. This is the first and only grant I have ever received in the 40 years of being an artist!

I am grateful to be selected as this year's recipient of the Indigenous Traditional Crafts Award. I look forward to working with my son to create this Regalia and pass on my cultural knowledge and experience!"

**Annie Brass**

**2023 RECIPIENT**  
DICK & JANE FUND  
INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL CRAFT AWARD



"I would like to thank the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts for making these awards possible. To be selected as a recipient of this award is to **become another link in a long line of artists and patrons working together to enliven and enlighten the land of living skies**. I am so proud that "Annette!", both the production and the character, will

forever be a part of Saskatchewan's artistic tapestry representing our province's kindness, curiosity, endurance, humour, and hope."



**2023 RECIPIENT**  
REGINA ARTIST AWARD  
HARRY NICK KANGLES FUND



**Landon Walliser**

**"My sincere and whole-hearted thank you goes out to the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts and its donors.**

The more I evolve and mature as an artist, the more I realize how utterly altruistic it is of donors and foundations such as the SFFA to give the resources they do to artists for the overall development and evolution of arts in our community. It is very generous. Thank you so much!"

**2023 RECIPIENT**  
DICK & JANE FUND  
PRAIRIE FOLK ART AWARD

**Karlie King**



**"Thank you for supporting Saskatchewan artists, particularly queer and trans voices. It's a very scary time to be trans in this province.**

I hope that together, **we can create meaningful change**, to make our stages, rehearsal halls and cities a welcome place for queer voices, aesthetics and stories."

**S.E. Grummett**



**2023 RECIPIENT**  
DICK & JANE FUND  
MULTIDISCIPLINARY LGBTQ2S+ ARTIST/ART AWARD

**Négar Devine-Taigarden**

**"I'm so honoured to be selected by the jury and I would like to say a big thank you to all the donors.**

**Because of your generosity, the Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts can support artists and writers in Saskatchewan."**

**2023 RECIPIENT**  
VISUAL AWARD FOR FEMALE ARTIST  
JANE TURNBULL EVANS FUND



**"I want to express my gratitude to the donors and Foundation for their generous support. Your investment in the arts has already had a profound impact on my artistic journey, particularly in bringing to life my project exploring Indigenous perspectives through glass bead cake sculptures.**

Your belief in the transformative power of the arts has not only provided essential financial support but has also validated and amplified the artistic vision of many. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to further my creative exploration and contribute to meaningful conversations within the artistic community."

**Audie Murray**

**2023 RECIPIENT**  
SHURNIAK FUND  
FEMALE ARTIST AWARD

# GLENGARRY JURY CHAIR'S REPORT

The Glengarry Book Award is an annual award for a first edition English language novel or book of short fiction, and vision of donor Claire Kramer, patron of the arts, booklover and founding trustee of Saskatchewan Foundation for the Arts (SFFA).

The award is inspired by Saskatchewan's rich literary culture. It is open to professional writers of fiction with a significant body of published work, recognition, and awards. Launched by the SFFA in 2021, the annual \$20,000 (CAD) is Saskatchewan's largest literary award.

The jury praised the compelling strength of the writing in *Leaving Wisdom*. The writing is rock solid and stays true to the character all the way through the book. The scope of the topics of aging, loneliness, vulnerability, and longing, combined with the messiness of the main characters life, and being true to one's own understanding of the world, while not joyful, are universal issues that resonate across generations. The jury felt that this book demonstrated the strongest craft of writing which positioned it as the final selection for the award.

The jury engaged in thoughtful debate, balancing diverse perspectives to reach a fair decision. Their independent, arms-length process from both the donor and Foundation upheld the credibility of the award.

The jury also shortlisted:

Dee Hobsbawn-Smith's *Danceland Diary*

Michael Afenfia's *Leave My Bones in Saskatoon*



**Valerie Creighton**

*Jury Chair,  
Glengarry Book Award 2023*

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## The Glengarry Book Award jury is selected from a pool of Canadian authors, Canadian literary publishers, and organizations.

The 2023 jury was composed of:

**MARINA EDICOTT**, is an award-winning novelist and creative writing teacher. Her works include *Good to a Fault* (2009 Commonwealth Writers' Prize winner), *The Little Shadows* (Giller finalist), and *The Difference* (Globe & Mail Best Book of 2019). She co-wrote the NFB documentary *Vanishing Point* and teaches at the Banff Centre and the University of Alberta.

**GLENDAC MACFARLANE**, is the Series Editor at Scirocco Books in Winnipeg. She is a writer, editor and teacher. Scirocco Books, is a Canadian literary imprint of J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing, one of the leading drama publishers in Canada. Glenda is a freelance writer, creates web content for iOPW on their client internet presence, has authored several books and is an instructor at the Toronto Film School.

**MAGGIE SIGGINS**, is an award-winning Canadian journalist and author. She won the 1992 Governor General's Award for *Revenge of the Land* and the 1986 Arthur Ellis Award for *A Canadian Tragedy*, both adapted into CBC miniseries. Her notable works include *Riel: A Life of Revolution* and *Bitter Embrace: White Society's Assault on the Woodland Cree*.

**VALERIE CREIGHTON**, C.M., S.O.M. is President and CEO of the Canada Media Fund, a founding trustee, and past Chair of the SFFA Board of Trustees. She led the formation of the jury and chaired the jury's deliberation of the 2022 entries. She has been invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Order of Canada, named one of the 20 most powerful women in global television by *The Hollywood Reporter* and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Regina, the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002) and Platinum Jubilee Medal (2022).

## 2023 GLENGARRY RECIPIENT



My father had a sawmill in the bush north of Garrick, Saskatchewan and my mother gave birth to the first four of the five of us in the hospital in Nipawin, then called the Lady Grey. I began life in what we called 'the wilderness': the sky full of stars, the stunning ballet of the northern lights, the soul-deep stirring from the howls of wolves, the steady threat of bears, the summer's damp rich green and winter's mountains of snow – these were my first understandings of what the world was.

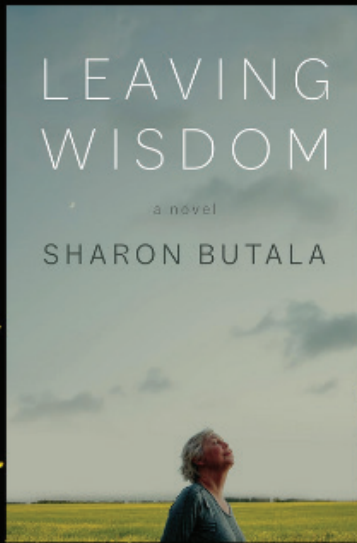
I never dreamt that I would become a writer, nor did anyone else in my life expect such a thing. What they did expect of me, other than marriage and children, I've no idea. Like so many Saskatchewan people of my age (born in 1940), I came out of poverty and a life

where the constant imperative was survival.

I had no idea myself what I wanted, but once in Saskatoon in the early fifties, in high school, I began to understand that above all, I wanted an education, one that would take me far beyond the basics; I began to see such an education as the element that would lead me to somewhere that mattered.

I wanted to know about the world, its past, the source and meaning of beauty, how people lived life; I didn't then think of education as the way to a career. At the University of Saskatchewan I became an art major, but when the specter of the poverty of the average artist presented itself, I was frightened enough to switch into Education where I became an English (and sometimes an art) teacher.

**"I had almost decided not to write anymore but I've been so excited and inspired by the Glengarry Book Award that, reinvigorated, I'll head back to my desk."**



**“We all owe [Claire] an enormous debt of gratitude for her generosity, her belief in us, and her foresight. Brava!”**

worked out of the home at the same time, I didn't do them particularly well. But when I saw the immense knowledge of true rural people about their world, and their huge competence in it, my respect for them, for their quiet dignity, and courage grew and I was determined to tell others about them and their lives in the landscape.

To do this, I had to know about the land as they did, and about its flora and fauna and the turning of the seasons; I had to try to comprehend the essence of our province. To my amazement, at forty, I discovered this was where I'd always been going: I was a writer.

A thousand thanks to Claire Kramer and her Glengarry Book Award which she has said [is] “in support of literary excellence from or influenced by living in our province,” in my experience a unique proviso for a literary award and one born of Claire Kramer's wisdom, generosity and love.

Eventually, I moved into the Education of Exceptional Children, a field I enjoyed and in which I had some success, although it had never entered my head that this would be something I would do. In my mid-thirties, I left the university to marry a cattle rancher and went to live on his remote ranch in Saskatchewan's southwest corner where I stayed for thirty-three years until after his death.

What, in all of this, would turn me into a writer?

It was the province itself, the endless sky, the rolling fields of prairie grass and the animals that lived on it. It was the boreal forest where I first knew life, the birds and animals, the small rushing rivers and the fish in them. It was the air, the wind, the blizzards and startling cold, and the scorching prairie sun.

I was fascinated by, even awed at the lives of those who lived on the land as had their parents and before that, their grandparents. A girl raised in a houseful of girls, I knew only how to do the womanly things and as I'd always



**Sharon Butala**

*2023 Recipient  
Glengarry Book Award Prize*

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Discussion and Analysis Year ended December 31, 2023

Since the Foundation's beginning, benefactors have contributed endowments totaling \$2,673,529. The parameters of the awards programs are defined by the donors. The trustees undertake to manage the awards as directed. This money is held as permanent capital. Only the income is used for the awards. There is always a need to increase the Foundation's endowment funds due to the expansion of the awards program and growth of the Arts in Saskatchewan. Expanding the endowment base allows for greater potential support of the arts in Saskatchewan. The Foundation continues to seek financial gifts and is working with the investment advisors to ensure sufficient rates of return on the invested capital.

### Operations

The Foundation experienced its most significant awards year in 2023. Benefactors made possible \$70,000 of awards to Saskatchewan authors and artists. A special gift of \$30,000 from the estate of Richard Spafford was received in 2022 and was specifically designated for some special one-time awards. Along with the ongoing extraordinary support from the Kramer family for the Glengarry book award, and others, the Foundation had an exceptional year.

The Foundation has increased operational activity with website, media, artist and benefactor relations and of course, juries to adjudicate the outstanding work that was submitted. The significant increase in activity has required that the trustees increase the annual administrative charge on the endowment funds to 1.6% from 1%. The Foundation had not increased the administration charge since its inception.

The Foundation is grateful to donors who provided additional funds used primarily in updating the website, content creation and communications.

Donations and grants amounted to \$101,000 in 2023 revenues. This includes \$30,000 received in 2022 but was deferred to 2023 to match the 2023 awards made. The administration charge was \$45,783 which increased from \$28,546 in 2022 as a result of the rate increase, approved by the trustees, and

the recovery of investment value since 2022.

Administration and media costs increased by 5% to \$48,370. Administration and media costs for 2023 were 1.6% of the Foundation's endowment capital.

### Investment

Capital management is a critical element of the Foundation's operations. As reported in last years discussion, the Foundation experienced a significant drop in its investment performance, posting a loss of \$263,870 for 2022. The investments recovered \$230,457 of their market value in 2023. While not a complete recovery, it is still significant. As stated earlier, strong investment returns are key to realizing the goals set by the benefactors.

### Risk Assessment:

#### 1. Investment Market Volatility

The investments under management are the Foundation's largest asset. The capital is professionally managed by SEI Investments Company is an American institutional investment corporation with \$368 Billion of assets under its management.

SEI reports to the trustees quarterly on the performance of the funds. The trustees review the investment performance reports and check that the firm takes measures to limit volatility and exposure to loss.

Market volatility continues to be an issue with worldwide inflation, supply chain reorganization and the uncertainty caused by significant geopolitical events.

#### 2. Disbursement quota

The annual charity return filed with the Canada Revenue Agency contains a calculation referred to as a disbursement quota. The quota is calculated annually and dictates how much of a charity's revenue must be expended in charitable activities each year. The quota was increased in 2022 from 3.5% to 5% for assets over \$1,000,000.

As long as the return on investment exceeds the disbursement percentage, the Foundation can continue to grow the asset base and meet its statutory responsibilities. Failure to expend sufficient funds for charitable purposes can jeopardize the Foundation's charitable status.

Current operations require that the Foundation generate sufficient revenue to cover the costs of awards, juries, the website and now our paid staff member among other lesser costs.

The Foundation actively solicits donations that are not considered endowments to supplement operations. Increases in permanent capital

increase the scale of the issue of the disbursement quota. Investment returns in excess of 5% are helpful to meet the quota and the goals of the endowments. Unrestricted donations available for operational use provide needed cash without the risk of impairing the endowment capital base.



**Glen Berger**  
*Treasurer,  
Board of Trustees*

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"We make a living by what we get,  
we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill



# INVESTMENT REPORT

For our Foundation, donors and the investment portfolio are important partners, dancing together to create the masterpiece that supports artists across our province. One cannot function without the other, so working together in harmony is how we meet our goal to fund grants, helping artists accomplish their dreams, and enhancing the culture of our citizens.

Like donors whose contributions to the Foundation will vary from year to year, in some years the investment portfolio produces returns that support grants over and above the planned amounts, and in some years, the portfolio comes up short. But over the life of the Foundation, which is measured in decades, the portfolio will contribute positively to the funding of grants.

At the Foundation, the stewardship of our donors' contributions is of paramount importance. Our reason for being is to grant, to encourage artistic growth in our province, and to support those artists who bring such joy to our communities. For this reason, we use a professional money manager with a strong global reputation and a long history of providing excellent returns, all with a measured amount of change from year to year. These managers are carefully selected, monitored regularly, and changed if they are not meeting expectations. This strong oversight gives us comfort that our duty to respect and steward our donations is met.

Even with this strong oversight, sometimes the market works against us, producing either very low returns, or in some years, we experience a temporary setback and the see the value of our portfolio decline.

Fortunately, that decline is seldom permanent and is recouped in future years. We have learned to live with that reality, and never

react to these fluctuations caused by external events. We carefully consider the advice of our money managers, overlay our knowledge and understanding and arrive at a rational decision. Performance numbers have shown us that positive returns outnumber negative returns over time.

In 2023, the returns on our portfolio was positive, buoyed by excellent returns in the 4th quarter. Our money managers expect a positive return in 2024 and have positioned our portfolio to address any risks they see coming this year. Every day, month and year has events that can cause a change in the value of our portfolio, but overall, they expect we will end the year on a positive note. We are optimistic the portfolio is structured to meet unexpected events, and to provide a reasonable return for the Foundation in 2024.



**Susan Milburn ICD.D**  
*Investment Advisor*

Year ended December 31, 2023,  
with comparative information for 2022  
(Not Audited)

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 9,844	\$ 97,204
Investments at market	3,101,444	2,870,987
	<u>\$ 3,111,289</u>	<u>\$ 2,968,192</u>

#### Liabilities and Fund Balances

Accounts payable	\$ 4,068	\$ 72,005
Operations fund	141,077	92,712
Endowment fund	2,966,144	2,803,475
	<u>\$ 3,111,289</u>	<u>\$ 2,968,192</u>

### Statement of Operations

#### Revenue

Donations	\$ 81,000	\$ 1,000
Grants	20,000	21,000
Administrative assessment on endowed funds	45,783	28,546
	<u>\$ 146,783</u>	<u>\$ 50,546</u>

#### Expenses

Communication, media and management	\$ 48,370	\$ 45,909
Awards	50,000	20,000
Banking	49	59
	<u>\$ 98,419</u>	<u>\$ 65,968</u>

#### Excess of revenue over expenditures

48,364 (15,422)

#### Balance, beginning of year

92,712 108,135

#### Balance, end of year

\$ 141,077 \$ 92,712

### Statement of Endowment

#### Endowment, beginning of year

\$ 2,803,475 \$ 3,097,842

#### Add:

Donations	10,995	36,348
Investment Income, net	230,457	(263,870)
	<u>241,452</u>	<u>(227,522)</u>

#### Deduct:

Awards and jury	33,000	38,300
Administrative assessment	45,783	28,546
	<u>78,783</u>	<u>66,846</u>

#### Increase (decrease) in cumulative excess

162,669 (294,367)

#### Endowment, end of year

\$ 2,966,144 \$ 2,803,475

# ***Join our team!***

*Get involved on a committee or as a Trustee.*



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Gursh Barnard (Chair)**

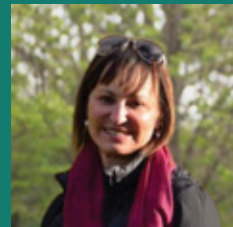
**Glen Berger (Treasurer)**

**Jocelyn Souliere (Secretary)**

**Ray Bailey**

**Scott McGillivray**

**Chris Stoicheff**



# Join our growing community of donors in support of the arts in Saskatchewan.

## What is an Endowment Fund?

An Endowment Fund is like an investment account for our community.

Gifts are permanently invested.

Annually, a portion of the earned income is distributed to artists.

Learn more about [Giving](#)

## 3 ways you can give (and make a difference!)

### 1. Donate to an existing endowment fund.

Choose to give a single donation gift or repeating gift to support any established endowment fund.

### 2. Create a new endowment fund.

Launching a new fund allows you to establish your unique focus for supporting artists. It can be named for an individual or an organization. A new fund requires a minimum initial donation. You can start the new legacy fund when you're ready, and continue to build it with additional donations in the future.

### 3. Create a legacy: that reflects your passion for the arts and artists of Saskatchewan.

A legacy gift is a future charitable gift. Choose your passion and how you want to help.

A legacy gift will fulfill your future wishes.

A gift of money is only one way to support the arts in Saskatchewan.

Please contact us to explore your options.

*"Giving liberates the soul of the giver."*

Maya Angelou

*You can make a Difference...*

For information & inquiries, contact:

Gursh Barnard, Chair

306-737-8980

[info@saskartsfoundation.com](mailto:info@saskartsfoundation.com)

Mail contributions to:

**The Saskatchewan Foundation For the Arts**

P.O. Box 32163  
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Regina, SK S4N 7L2



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FOR THE **arts**

[www.saskartsfoundation.com](http://www.saskartsfoundation.com)