



**IMPACT
REPORT
2022**





ABOUT THE IVAS

The Indigenous Voices Awards (IVAs) were established in 2017 to honour the sovereignty of Indigenous creative voices, and support and nurture the work of emerging Indigenous writers in lands claimed by Canada. The IVAs hold up and celebrate Indigenous literary production in all its diversity and complexity.

The IVAs reject cultural appropriation, respecting the integrity of Indigenous voices, and affirming the ongoing significance of Indigenous Peoplehood.

To date the IVAs have dispersed a total of \$143,000 (CAD) in literary awards for published and unpublished writing in English, French, and Indigenous languages. The diversity of rotating categories, including poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, and graphic novels helps transcend the individualism of prize culture and encourages community building. In 2023 the IVAs also partnered with the Blue Metropolis Festival to award the 2022 Blue Metropolis First Peoples Prize (\$5,000) to the acclaimed Haisla/Heiltsuk author, Eden Robinson.

The IVAs foster community among Indigenous writers at all phases of their career by facilitating mentorship and professionalization opportunities, and creating networks of support among established and emerging literary artists.

The IVAs are currently administered by Dr. Deanna Reder (Cree-Métis), with settler scholars Dr. Sophie McCall of Simon Fraser University.

2022 Highlights

- 23 emerging Indigenous writers chosen as finalists from coast-to-coast-to-coast, with published work from 12 different publishers;
- Honouring Eden Robinson with Montreal’s Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival prize for an established Indigenous author, supported by the IVAs;
- An online celebration of finalist readings and awards on Indigenous Peoples Day, hosted by Richard Van Camp;
- \$29,000 in prize money given to 7 emerging Indigenous writers;
- National media coverage including features from CBC, Quill & Quire, plus local outlets.

Mentorship and Professional Development

Our Mentorship and Development program, supported by Penguin Random House Canada (PRHC) included:

- Online development sessions hosted by PRHC, offered exclusively to 2022 and past IVAs recipients, applicants and finalists;
- 1:1 mentorship sessions for the IVAs finalists with IVAs jurors Joanne Arnott and Richard Van Camp.

Brian Thomas Isaac, Selina Boan and Aimée Craft among winners for 2022 Indigenous Voices Awards



[CBC Books](#) · Posted: Jun 22, 2022 8:44 AM ET | Last Updated: June 22



Brian Thomas Isaac, left, Selina Boan and Aimée Craft have won 2022 Indigenous Voices Awards. (Touchwood Editions, Kayla McInnis, aimeecraft.ca)

“The IVAs are one of the most important happenings in the Canadian lit world right now.”

-Billy-Ray Belcourt

*Award-winning writer and scholar from Driftpile Cree Nation,
past IVAs recipient, recent IVAs juror*

IVAs Impact

Over the course of five award periods (2017-2022) the IVAs have had a significant impact on the Canadian literary landscape, elevating and championing the work of over 100 emerging Indigenous writers, and building a community of supportive authors, publishers, academics, teachers, and readers.

Impact Highlights (2017-2022):

- \$143,000 in award money dispersed to emerging Indigenous writers;
- Over 100 emerging writers shortlisted from Indigenous Nations across Turtle Island;
- A Read Indigenous online resource currently listing over published works from past IVAs shortlists, and published work from IVAs jurors;
- Shortlists included early work from now-celebrated authors Joshua Whitehead, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Tanya Tagaq, Carleigh Baker, Tasha Spillett, Naomi Fontaine, Jesse Thistle, and Phyllis Webstad;
- Previous IVAs finalists in unpublished categories who went on to publish work include Francine Cunningham, Marie-Andrée Gill, Elaine McArthur, Smokii Sumac, Francine Merasty, and, most recently, Cody Caetano.

Until 2021, the IVAs were the only literary prizes for Indigenous writing in French in Canada, and indeed the world. Supporting writing in Indigenous languages and Indigenous writing in French are key priorities of the IVAs and areas for growth in future.

In 2023 the IVAs will again partner with the Blue Metropolis Festival in Montreal, this time to award two prizes worth \$5,000 each to established Indigenous authors, one in English and one in French.

In May 2023 an anthology of selected work by Indigenous Voices Awards finalists (years one through five) is set to be published by Penguin Random House Canada, co-edited by Jordan Abel, Carleigh Baker, and Madeleine Reddon. More details to come.



2022 IVAs Finalists (Recipients Starred)

Published Prose in English (\$5,000)

- Sheryl Doherty (Saddle Lake Cree Nation), *Finding Izzy* (Wood Dragon Books)
- Brian Thomas Isaac (Syilx Nation), *All the Quiet Places* (TouchWood Editions)*

Unpublished Prose in English (\$2,000)

- David Agecoutay (Saulteaux), “It’s For the Best”
- Jenn Ashton (Skwxwú7mesh), “Hail Mary, Mother of Pearl”
- Bianca Martin (Mi’gmaq), “Paqt’sm / I Was Born with the Spirit of the Wolf”
- Leslie Butt (Innu), “Tanked”*

Published Poetry in English (\$5,000)

- Selina Boan (white settler/nehiyaw), *Undoing Hours* (Nightwood)*
- Tenille K. Campbell (English River First Nation), *nedí nezú* (Good Medicine) (Arsenal Pulp Press)
- Dallas Hunt (Wapsewsiipi, Swan River First Nation), *Creeland* (Nightwood)
- Diana Hope Tegenkamp (Métis), *Girl running* (Thistledown Press)

Unpublished Poetry in English (\$2,000)

- Brandi Bird (Cree, Saulteaux, Métis), “A Dawn”
- Meghan Eaker (Woodland Cree First Nation) “mistahi maskikiy”*
- Jacqueline Gibbon (Métis), “tante ohci kiya / Displaced Métis Iskwew”
- Samantha Martin-Bird (Peguis First Nation) “Poems for White Men”

Published Work in French (\$5,000)

- Édouard Itual Germain (Pekuakamiulnuatsh), *Ni kistisin / Je me souviens* (Éditions Hannenorak)*
- Andrée Lévesque Sioui (Wendat), *Chant(s)* (Éditions Hannenorak)
- Daniel Sioui (Wendat), *Indien stoïque* (Éditions Hannenorak)

Published Graphic Novels, Comics, and Illustrated Books (\$5,000)

- Lisa Boivin (Deninu Kuę First Nation), *We Dream Medicine Dreams* (Portage & Main Press/High Water Press)
- Aimée Craft (Anishinaabe/Métis), *Treaty Words For As Long As the Rivers Flow* (Annick Press)*
- Teoni Spathelfer (Heiltsuk) with Natassia Davies (Coast Salish) (illustrator), *White Raven* (Heritage House)

Published Work in an Indigenous Language (\$5,000)

- Jodie Callaghan (Mi’gmaq), with Georgia Lesley (illustrator) and Joe Wilmot (Mi’gmaq) (translator), *Ga’s / The Train* (Second Story Press)
- Brittany Luby (Anishinaabe), with Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Stecklyey (Anishinaabe) (illustrator) and Alvin Ted Corbiere and Alan Corbiere (Anishinaabe) (translators), *Mii maanda ezhi-gkendmaanh / This Is How I Know* (House of Anansi Press)*
- Sharon King, (Potawatomi, Wasauksing First Nation), *Amik* (Kegedonce Press)



2022 Acknowledgements

The IVAs started as a crowd-sourced fund and remain primarily funded through donations, which are facilitated by the Ontario Arts Foundation.

In 2022 the Indigenous Voices Awards received generous financial support from Pamela Dillon and the Family Gift Fund, and Penguin Random House Canada.

In addition, the IVAs chairs gratefully acknowledge support from Scholastic Canada, the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the countless supporters who have donated to the IVAs crowd-sourced fund over the past six years. In addition, the IVAs chairs gratefully acknowledge support from Douglas & McIntyre for its donation of a portion of its sales of Richard Wagamese's *What Comes From Spirit*.

The 2022 IVAs were produced with support from Dr. Sarah Henzi, Hannah Big-Canoe, Maisaloon Al-Ashkar, Yaser Nozari, Jaron Judkins, Katie Saunoris, Justine Crawford, and Michael Jenkins

The 2022 IVAs jurors were ordan Abel, Joanne Arnott, Carleigh Baker, Warren Cariou, J.D. Kurtness, Francis Langevin, Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill, Otoniya Juliane Okot Bitek, Eden Robinson, June Scudeler, Richard Van Camp, and Eldon Yellowhorn.



Support the Sixth-Annual Indigenous Voices Awards in 2023!

Further donations and partnership inquiries are always welcome and deeply appreciated: please contact **Deanna Reader** at dh@sfu.ca for more information or visit IndigenousVoicesAwards.org/donation.



Connect and Share

Twitter @IndigenousVAs
Facebook @IndigenousVoicesAwards
Instagram @IndigenousVoicesAwards
IndigenousVoicesAwards.org