



PRESS RELEASE

**CANADIANS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR COMMITMENT
TO KEEPING OUR HISTORY ALIVE**

*The Governor General's History Awards celebrate
the excellence of innovative history projects across the country*

OTTAWA, November 8, 2017 – Cultural organizations, teachers, students, and community groups will be honoured for their exemplary work in promoting the exploration of Canada's history. The prestigious Governor General's History Awards—recognizing the excellence of innovative projects and encouraging the dissemination and learning of the history of Canada among its citizens—will be presented at Rideau Hall on November 22, 2017. Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette, Governor General of Canada, will preside over the award ceremony in the presence of the winners from communities across the country.

"I am deeply touched to see just how much our history arouses the interest of teachers, young students, academics, writers, community institutions, and museums. All demonstrate a real passion that is expressed through a desire to share the memory of places, people, and events. In turn, these award winners become witnesses who offer concrete reflections of our past. And since history also happens in the here and now, it is being made today by these Award winners from across the country. I offer them my most sincere congratulations," states Janet Walker, President and CEO of Canada's History, which administers the awards.

The Governor General's History Awards are given out in the following five categories:

Excellence in Community Programming – recognizes unique local and community history projects (awarded by Canada's History). The winners are:

- The Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke for its *History Goes to the Market* event; Sherbrooke, QC
- The Exploration Place Museum and Science Centre and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation for the new *Hodul'eh-a: A Place of Learning* gallery; Prince George, BC

Excellence in Teaching – recognizes eight exemplary teachers or teams of teachers who are "leaders" in the classroom (awarded by Canada's History, with the support of TD Bank and EF Educational Tours). The winners are:

- Marc Mailhot and Lynda Brown, Montgomery Village Public School; Orangeville, ON
- Janet Ruest, Chemainus Secondary School; Chemainus, BC
- Rob Flosman, Waterdown District High School; Waterdown, ON
- Armand Doucet, Riverview High School; Riverview, NB
- Naomi Fortier-Frêçon and Leia Laing, Multi-school project; Regina, SK
- Glen Thielmann, D.P. Todd Secondary School; Prince George, BC

Scholarly Research: The Sir John A. Macdonald Award – recognizes the best Canadian history book produced in the academic milieu (awarded by the Canadian Historical Association, with the support of Manulife Financial). The winner is:

- Sarah Carter, of the University of Alberta, for her book *Imperial Plots: Women, Land, and the Spadework of British Colonialism on the Canadian Prairies*, published by University of Manitoba Press,

2016.

Excellence in Museums: The History Alive! Award – recognizes institutions that demonstrate excellence in the presentation, preservation, and interpretation of history (awarded by the Canadian Museums Association, with the generous support of Ecclesiastical Insurance Ltd.).

- The Manitoba Museum, for the creation of the *Spirit Lines* educational kit.

Popular Media: The Pierre Berton Award – recognizes exceptional achievement in books, film, television, and new media (awarded by Canada’s History). The winner is:

- Daniel Francis, historian and author; North Vancouver, BC

In addition to the presentation of the Governor General’s History Awards, recipients of the following prizes will also be honoured at Rideau Hall:

Indigenous Arts and Stories – encourages indigenous youth to excel in the fields of writing and visual arts (awarded by Historica Canada). The winners are:

- Mackenzie Anderson; Winnipeg, MB
- Alexander Angnaluak; Cold Lake, AB
- Julia George; Kuujjuarapik, QC
- K. Dawn Martin; Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, ON

Kayak Kids’ Illustrated History Challenge – fosters artistic talents and historical knowledge among students between the ages of 7 and 14 (awarded by Canada’s History, with the support of TD Bank). The winners are:

- Isaac Landry; Murdochville, QC
- Elly Hooker; Winnipeg, MB

Experiences Canada History Award – encourages group organizers to incorporate creative and innovative activities relating to history and heritage into their interprovincial exchanges. The winner is:

- Denise Lipscombe; Inuvik, NT

The Governor General’s History Awards are administered by Canada’s History. Support for certain programs is made possible through the contribution of other invaluable partners and sponsors. **For more information on this year’s award recipients, please visit CanadasHistory.ca/Awards**

About the Governor General’s History Awards

The Governor General’s History Awards were established in 1996 to recognize excellence in teaching Canadian history. In partnership with Canada’s leading national history organizations—including the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Museums Association, Historica Canada, and Experiences Canada—, Canada’s History has worked to expand the awards to recognize the many different ways history is taught, communicated, and celebrated by Canadians. The Governor General’s History Awards now provide an annual opportunity to bring together students, teachers, historians, museums, community organizations, writers, and media producers to celebrate Canadian history and to learn from one another.

About Canada’s History

Canada’s History is a national charitable organization whose mission is to promote greater popular interest in Canadian history, principally through its publishing, education, and recognition programs. In addition to administering the Governor General’s History Awards and publishing *Canada’s History* magazine (formerly *The Beaver*) and *Kayak: Canada’s History Magazine for Kids*, Canada’s History produces a number of educational and online programs to further encourage the exploration and understanding of our shared culture and history.

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