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2018 High Plains Book Awards Finalists Announced

12 Canadian Authors from Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Saskatoon Named as Finalists.

The High Plains Book Awards have been established to recognize regional authors and/or literary works that examine and reflect life on the High Plains including the states of Montana, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas. The Canadian Provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are also represented. 2018 marks the twelfth year for the awards which are all sponsored by local organizations and individuals.

The 33 finalists in the 12 categories are from Montana, Colorado, Texas, Indiana, Michigan, Maine, Illinois, Pennsylvania; the four Canadian provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario. The first book award finalist from outside of North America, Sebastian Barry is from Ireland.

Three books are recognized in multiple categories. *Strangers, Book 1 of The Reckoner Trilogy* by David A. Robertson is a finalist in both Indigenous Writer and Young Adult. *The Widow's Guide to Edible Mushrooms* by Chauna Craig is a finalist in both Short Stories and First Book. *The Patch: The People, Pipelines, and Politics of the Oil Sands*, by Chris Turner is a finalist in Medicine and Science, and Nonfiction.

Returning finalists from previous years include two Canadian writers Leah Marie Dorion and David A Robertson.

Link to the 2018 finalists <https://www.highplainsbookawards.org/2018-finalists-2/>

Art & Photography: Lindsey V. Sharman (Calgary), *The Writing on the Wall: The Work of Joane Cardinal Schubert*; Rick Newby, *Theodore Waddell: My Montana*; Trevor Herriot (Saskatchewan), *Islands of Grass*

Children's Book: Caroline Stutson (deceased), *Blue Corn Soup*; Ellen Horowitz; *What I Saw in Glacier*; Julie Gilum Lue *What I Saw in Grand Teton*

Creative Non-Fiction: Bill Jones, *Homestead Soldiers*; Doug Ammons, *A Darkness Lit by Heroes: The Granite Mountain- Speculator Mine Disaster of 1917*; Robert Rebein, *Headlights on the Prairie: Essays on Home*

Fiction: Jamie Ford, *Love and Other Consolation Prizes*; Jamie Harrison, *The Widow Nash*; Sebastian Barry, *Days Without End*

First Book: Becky L. Mandelbaum, *Bad Kansas*; Chauna Craig, *The Widow's Guide to Edible Mushrooms*; Davie Orr (Edmonton), *Encountering Riel*

Indigenous Writer: David A. Robertson (Saskatoon), *Strangers, Book 1, the Reckoner trilogy*; Leah Marie Dorion (Winnipeg), *Metis Christmas Mittens*; Rosalyn R. LaPier, *Invisible Reality: Storytellers, Storytakers, and the Supernatural World of the Blackfeet*

Medicine and Science: Chris Turner (Ontario), *The Patch: The People, Pipelines, and Politics of the Oil Sand*; Dale Leckie, *Rocks, Ridges, and Rivers: Geological Wonders of Banff, Yoho, and Jasper National Parks*; Todd E. Harburn, *A Surgeon with Custer at the Little Big Horn: James DeWolf's Diary and Letters, 1876*

Nonfiction: Chris Turner (Ontario), *The Patch: The People, Pipelines, and Politics of the Oil Sand*; Jane Little Botkin, *Frank Little and the IWW: The Blood that Stained the American Family*; John Clayton, *Wonderlandscape: Yellowstone National Park and the Evolution of an American Cultural Icon*

Poetry: Emily Ursuilak (Calgary), *Throwing the Diamond Hitch*; Greg Kuzma, *Hose and Iron: Selected Poems*; Randall Gloege (deceased), *The Bunch Grass Motel: The Collected Poems of Randall Gloege*

Short Stories: Aaron Parrett, *Maple & Lead*; Chauna Craig, *The Widow's Guide to Edible Mushrooms*; Giano L. Cromley, *What We Build Upon the Ruins*

Women Writers: Katherena Vermette (Winnipeg), *Pemmican Wars, Vol 1, A Girl Called Echo*; Marlis Wesseler (Winnipeg), *The Last Chance Ladies' Book Club*; Sherri Smith (Winnipeg), *Follow Me Down*

Young Adult: Colleen Nelson (Toronto), *Blood Brothers*; David A. Robertson (Winnipeg), *Strangers, Book 1, The Reckoner trilogy*; Matthew P. Mayo, *Stranded: A Story of Frontier Survival*

Each nominated book was read and evaluated by community volunteers in the first round of the selection process. The three finalists' books in each category will be judged by writers who have significant connections of the High Plains region, many of whom have won previously in the category they will be judging.

Winners in each category will receive a \$500 cash prize at the Awards Banquet on Saturday October 20, 2018 at the Yellowstone Art Museum. More information is available at www.highplainsbookawards.org

The High Plains BookFest is held on October 18, 19 and 20 prior to the Awards Banquet. For more information, contact Corby at corby@skinnerbenoit.com.