



THE LEAGUE OF
CANADIAN POETS

**FEMINIST
CAUCUS
REPORT**

2020-2021



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The League of Canadian Poets would like to acknowledge that this organization is situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, and the Métis Nation. The treaty that was signed for this particular parcel of land is collectively referred to as the Toronto Purchase and applies to lands east of Brown's Line to Woodbine Avenue and north towards Newmarket. The League of Canadian Poets recognizes the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.



ABOUT THE FEMINIST CAUCUS

Founded in 1981, the Feminist Caucus is a Standing Policy Committee of the League of Canadian Poets.

Membership is open to any League member who shares the goals and objectives of the Caucus. All League members may participate in the annual business meeting as well as the annual open reading. Find out more about the history of the Caucus [here](#)! Join the Caucus and receive email updates by signing up [here](#). For questions about or interest in the Feminist Caucus, email litfeminist@poets.ca.



ANNUAL REPORT

BY AYESHA CHATTERJEE

Dear League and Feminist Caucus members, And just like that, another strange year has passed, in a rubbery, elastic-band sort of way. I hope you have been safe and that you've been writing, despite these difficult times.

My last report focused on the findings of a Feminist Caucus review committee that reached out to assess how the Caucus is currently viewed by our members and how to extend our equitable support, especially with respect to our revised mandate. The Caucus was founded with courage and foresight, and it's been inspiring to see how this drive for equity and positive change continues, decades later. We have not yet been able to implement some of the smaller steps that we'd hoped to embark upon this past year, such as regular online regional meetings, but our focus groups have had a much larger impact than we had hoped for—in a review of governance change at the League level. As we'd reported last year, Caucus members consistently asked for better representation through their own committees, and the League is taking our findings into account in their wider governance assessment. Here is a quote from the League's Executive Director, Lesley Fletcher:

"The Feminist Caucus Review provided the League immense insight into the power of Committees, and how we can better serve poets across Canada. The League is in the process of undertaking a governance review, and many of our plans are based on the work of the Feminist Caucus, and the information discovered in the past two years.

In our new governance model, we will be creating space for many more committees to exist just like the Feminist Caucus."

It is a powerful thing to know that the Caucus continues to stand up and make space for voices that are not being heard, and to initiate change.

The Feminist Caucus in Conversation Series

In 2020, as we were unable to host our usual live annual Feminist Caucus panel, we launched the digital Feminist Caucus in Conversation Series, an audio and chapbook project which we hope to continue to hold annually. The intention is to allow a wider audience to hear discussions on their own time and across the country. The 2020 series was led and edited by Shazia Hafiz Ramji who asked the participating poets their thoughts on decolonizing feminism as a starting point for discussion.

Our inaugural series featured three sets of terrific poets with fierce and fearless voices: Sadiqa de Meier in conversation with Shazia Hafiz Ramji, Jónína Kirton with Joanne Arnott, and Andrea Thompson with Valerie Mason-John. Each poet was invited to contribute to an accompanying 2020 chapbook titled *What Has Been Left Out*. I would like to add that the design for the chapbook was carried out by Nic Brewer and is absolutely beautiful.

You can listen to the conversations and order a copy of your chapbook at www.poets.ca/feministcaucus

I can't wait to see what this year's series will bring.

Yours in solidarity,

Ayesha Chatterjee
Chair of the Feminist Caucus



Established in 1966, the League of Canadian Poets is a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting poets, building poetic communities, supporting inclusive and equitable free expression, and promoting Canadian poets and Poetry.

2 Carlton Street, Suite 1519,
Toronto ON,
M5B 1J3