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Press Release

League of Canadian Poets announces shortlists for three book awards, celebrating 16 poets

May 27, 2026

TORONTO - The League of Canadian Poets is excited to announce three book award shortlists featuring 16 books of poetry published in 2025. Each award carries a \$2,000 prize for the winner, which will be announced on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award, for a debut book of poetry, is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized authors' tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers.

The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is awarded in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. As a women's prize, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award is inclusive of cis women, trans women, and non-binary writers who feel comfortable being recognized by a women's prize.

The Raymond Souster Award, which celebrates a new book of poetry by a League member, honours Raymond Souster, a founder of the League.

Award winners will be announced on June 3. An online reading will be held on Tuesday, June 2 at 8 p.m. ET to celebrate the shortlisted poets.

Graphics, author photos, and author bios can all be found at poets.ca/shortlist-2026.

Shortlist details follow.

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Gerald Lampert Memorial Award shortlist celebrates 6 debut books of poetry from 2025

May 27, 2026

TORONTO - The League of Canadian Poets is excited to announce the 2026 Gerald Lampert Memorial Prize shortlist, celebrating debut books of poetry published in 2025.

The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award, for a debut book of poetry, is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized authors' tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers. The award carries a \$2,000 prize for the winner, which will be announced on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

2026 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award shortlist:

Non-Prophet by Qurat Dar (Goose Lane Editions)

i cut my tongue on a broken country by Kyo Lee (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Gone Gone by Todd Meyers (Duke University Press)

Revolutions by Hajer Mirwali (Talonbooks)

Contraband Bodies by Jide Salawu (NeWest Press)

Familial Hungers by Christine Wu (Brick Books)

Graphics, author photos, and author bios can all be found at poets.ca/shortlist-2026.

The League of Canadian Poets is Canada's only national professional poetry organization. The League's mandate is to elevate the cultural significance of poetry and champion the role of poets. Working to nurture and expand poetry communities and audiences, the organization cultivates the local, national, and international publication, performance, and recognition of poetry. The League supports equitable and inclusive artistic practice through poetry education and development.

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Pat Lowther Memorial Award shortlist celebrates 7 women poets

May 27, 2026

TORONTO - The League of Canadian Poets is excited to announce the 2026 Pat Lowther Memorial Prize shortlist, celebrating books of poetry authored by women and published in 2025.

The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is awarded in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. As a women's prize, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award is inclusive of cis women, trans women, and non-binary writers who feel comfortable being recognized by a women's prize. The award carries a \$2,000 prize for the winner, which will be announced on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

2026 Pat Lowther Memorial Award shortlist:

Uiesh / Somewhere by Joséphine Bacon, translated by Jessica Moore (Talonbooks)

Long Exposure by Stephanie Bolster (Palimpsest Press)

How I Bend into More by Tea Gerbeza (Palimpsest Press)

antibody by Rebecca Salazar (McClelland & Stewart)

Wellwater by Karen Solie (House of Anansi)

procession by katherena vermette (House of Anansi)

Graphics, author photos, and author bios can all be found at poets.ca/shortlist-2026.

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Raymond Souster Award shortlist celebrates 6 new books of poetry

May 27, 2026

TORONTO - The League of Canadian Poets is excited to announce the 2026 Raymond Souster Award shortlist, celebrating new books of poetry authored by League members and published in 2025.

The Raymond Souster Award, which celebrates a new book of poetry by a League member, honours Raymond Souster, a founder of the League. The award carries a \$2,000 prize for the winner, which will be announced on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

2026 Raymond Souster Award shortlist:

Shadow Price by Farah Ghafoor (House of Anansi)

Crowd Source by Cecily Nicholson (Talonbooks)

Contraband Bodies by Jide Salawu (NeWest Press)

antibody by Rebecca Salazar (McClelland & Stewart)

The Garbage Poems by Anna Swanson, illustrations by April White (Brick Books)

An Orange, A Syllable by Gillian Sze (ECW Press)

Graphics, author photos, and author bios can all be found at poets.ca/shortlist-2026.

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