



## GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

### Trustees:

Mark Doty  
Carolyn Forché  
Scott Griffin  
Sarah Howe  
Paul Muldoon  
Karen Solie  
Aleš Šteger  
Ian Williams

### 2023 PRIZE RULES

#### 1. THE GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

- a. The international Griffin Poetry Prize, in the sum of C\$130,000, is awarded annually for a first-edition collection written in, or translated into, English by a living poet/translator from any country, including Canada.
- b. Should the prize-winning book be a translation, the prize is awarded 60% to the translator, and 40% to the original poet. If the original poet is dead, but his/her work is within copyright, 40% of the prize is given to the original poet's estate. Otherwise, the disbursement of that portion of the prize is left to the discretion of the judges.
- c. Translations are assessed for their quality as poetry in English; the focus is on the achievement of the translator.
- d. The Canadian First Book of poetry prize, valued at \$10,000 is for a first edition collection of poetry written in English by a living Canadian poet. A six-week Affiliated Fellowship with the Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Perugia, Italy, is offered in addition to the prize monies.
- e. In each category, the prize is for the best collection of poetry, published in English, during the calendar year preceding the year of the award.

### Trustees Emeriti:

Margaret Atwood  
Robert Hass  
Marek Kazmierski  
Michael Ondaatje  
Robin Robertson  
Jo Shapcott  
Colm Tóibín  
David Young

#### 2. THE TRUSTEES

- a. The trustees of the Griffin Poetry Prize are:  
Mark Doty  
Carolyn Forché  
Scott Griffin  
Sarah Howe  
Paul Muldoon  
Karen Solie  
Aleš Šteger  
Ian Williams
- b. Trustees do not participate in judging in any way.
- c. No trustee may participate in the selection of judges if he or she has a financial interest in a publishing house that issues contemporary poetry.\*

\* In May 2002, Scott Griffin purchased House of Anansi Press, a Canadian literary publisher. To preserve the integrity of the Griffin Poetry Prize, Scott Griffin is not part of the selection of judges, nor the judging process. On this basis, House of Anansi titles are deemed to be eligible for the Griffin Poetry Prize.



## GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

### 3. THE JUDGES

- a. The trustees select qualified judges annually.
- b. Judges may not be on salary at a publishing house that issues contemporary poetry.
- c. The judges will compile a longlist of ten outstanding books of poetry for the international prize, to be announced annually in March.
- d. The judges will then compile a shortlist of five outstanding books of poetry for the international prize, to be announced annually in April.
- e. From the shortlist, the judges will select the final winner, to be announced annually in June.
- f. The judges will choose one book for the Canadian First Book of poetry prize.
- g. The judges have absolute discretion in interpreting the rules, and their decision is final.
- h. All decisions of the judges will be unanimous.

### 4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Submissions must come from publishers, who may enter an unlimited number of titles.
- b. Only one title per author or translator may be entered for the current year.
- c. To be eligible for the international prize, a book of poetry must be a first-edition collection (i.e. not previously published in any country) written in, or translated into, English by a poet/translator from any country, including Canada.
- d. To be eligible for the Canadian First Book of poetry prize, a book of poetry must be a first-edition collection (i.e. not previously published in any country) written in English, by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- e. Winning the international prize (or any other prize) in previous years does not render a poet ineligible for the current year's prize.
- f. Only books of poetry written by poets or translators alive on the date of publication will be considered.
- g. Books written in English must be the work of one poet.
- h. Selected and Collected volumes are only eligible as translations into English.
- i. New and Selected volumes are only eligible as translations into English.
- j. A book of translation by two translators is eligible if they have collaborated throughout. A book of translation by various hands is not eligible.
- k. A book by a current trustee or current judge is not eligible.



## **GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE**

- l. No self-published book is eligible. A self-published work is one for which the author has paid for and managed any aspects of producing the work, including, but not limited to, the creative work, the work's editing, physical and/or digital production, marketing and promotion, and distribution.
- m. Books only available in digital form are not eligible.
- n. Chapbooks are not eligible.
- o. The judges' decision as to a book's eligibility is binding.
- p. All books must carry an ISBN.
- q. A book is defined as having at least forty-eight pages. The page count does not include blank pages or a book's front and end matter, such as table of contents, introduction, or acknowledgements.

### **5. CONDITIONS OF THE PRIZE**

- a. A book which is entered for the international prize, or the Canadian First Book of poetry prize, will not qualify for the award unless the publisher agrees to:
  - i. prepare and encourage its nominated poet(s) to participate in all reasonable publicity associated with the Griffin Poetry Prize;
  - ii. sticker copies of the shortlisted and winning books with the Griffin Poetry Prize seals (provided in hard copy or digital format); and
  - iii. comply with Rule 6 (f) and (g).
- b. Poets and publishers agree to permit the Griffin Poetry Prize to include selections from the shortlisted works, and the Canadian First Book of poetry prize winner, in the Griffin Poetry Prize, and the Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie, Anthologies.

Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie is a national, bilingual, high school poetry recitation competition founded by The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry, in 2010. A one-time permission fee of C\$200 will be paid to each originating publisher of the poems published in the Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie Anthology.

### **6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES**

- a. Works published between January 1 and June 30 are to be submitted and postmarked no later than June 30. Submissions must be received by July 7.
- b. Works published between July 1 and December 31 are to be submitted and postmarked no later than December 31. Submissions must be received by January 7.
- c. The Griffin Poetry Prize may, at any time, call in a book that has not been submitted. In that event, the publisher will be required to forward an Entry Form, along with four copies of the book, to the

Griffin Poetry Prize, and to comply with all other rules and regulations.



## GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

- d. The Griffin Poetry Prize will acknowledge receipt of submissions to publishers only.
- e. No books will be returned.
- f. Four copies of each book must be submitted to Ruth Smith at the address shown in #8 below.
- g. Each submission must include an Entry Form, a current biography of the author and/or translator and a high-resolution digital photograph of the author and/or translator, and a high-resolution digital version of the book jacket. Digital images should be of 300 dpi or, preferably, greater, and in a JPEG or TIFF format. Digital images should be emailed to [info@griffinpoetryprize.com](mailto:info@griffinpoetryprize.com).

## 7. LONGLIST AND SHORTLIST

- a. The international **longlist** (10 books) will be announced annually in March.
- b. The international **shortlist** (5 books) will be announced annually in April. Publicity promoting the shortlisted books and poets will begin after the announcement and continue until after the winner is declared.
- c. C\$10,000 will be awarded to each international shortlisted poet, conditional upon the poet attending and participating in the readings event. The winning international poet's \$10,000 is included in the \$130,000 international prize.
- d. The readings, and award presentations to the international prize winner, Canadian First Book of poetry prize winner, and Lifetime Recognition Award recipient will be held in Canada annually in June.
- e. The Griffin Poetry Prize will bear the cost of travel and overnight accommodation for authors who live outside Toronto, Canada.
- f. The judges will select the international longlist, shortlist, the international winner, and the Canadian First Book of poetry prize winner in private deliberations. Publishers will not receive advance notice of the nominees or the winners.

## 8. FURTHER INFORMATION

All enquiries should be directed to:  
Ruth Smith  
Executive Director  
Griffin Poetry Prize  
363 Parkridge Crescent  
Oakville, Ontario L6M 1A8  
Canada

Email: [info@griffinpoetryprize.com](mailto:info@griffinpoetryprize.com)