



GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

Press Release

Trustees:

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

2023 CANADIAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE WINNER

The Big Melt • Emily Riddle Nightwood Editions

TORONTO – May 17, 2023 – The Griffin Poetry Prize is pleased to announce that **Emily Riddle**, author of *The Big Melt*, is the winner of the 2023 Canadian First Book Prize. She will receive C\$10,000 in prize money together with a six-week residency in Italy, in partnership with the Civitella Ranieri Foundation.

Judges Nikola Madzirov (Macedonia), Gregory Scofield (Canada), and Natasha Trethewey (USA) each read 58 Canadian First Book Prize entries.

Trustees Emeriti:

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

Emily Riddle will be invited to participate in the 2023 Griffin Poetry Prize Readings, to read from her winning book *The Big Melt*.

The Readings will be held at Koerner Hall on Wednesday, June 7 and the evening will include a selection of readings by the six finalists, and this year's Lifetime Recognition Award recipient. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased at the box office of Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor Street West, or online at <https://rcmusic.com/events-and-performances/2023-griffin-poetry-prize-readings>.

General Admission, with 2023 Anthology – \$30.00
Senior/Student, with 2023 Anthology – \$25.00

The Griffin Poetry Prize was founded in 2000 to encourage and celebrate excellence in poetry.

NOTE TO BOOKSELLERS:

Griffin Poetry Prize book stickers are supplied free of charge. Please contact Ruth Smith to place an order.

Media Inquiries:

Melissa Shirley
Tel: (647) 389-9510

✉ publicity@griffinpoetryprize.com

General Inquiries:

Ruth Smith, Executive Director
Tel: (905) 618-0420

✉ info@griffinpoetryprize.com

Canadian First Book Prize Winner's Publisher:

Nightwood Editions: nightwoodeditions.com

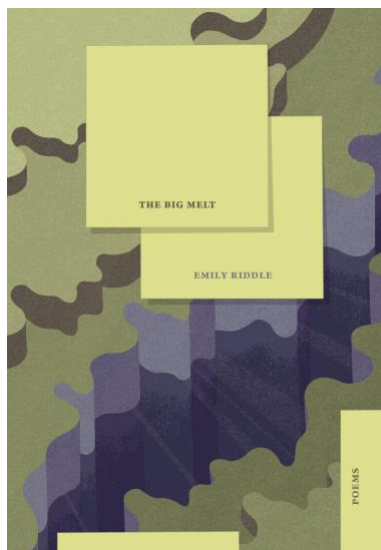
Photograph Credits:

Madison Kerr (Emily Riddle)



GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

2023 CANADIAN FIRST BOOK PRIZE WINNER



The Big Melt • Emily Riddle Nightwood Editions

Biography: Emily Riddle is nêhiyaw and a member of the Alexander First Nation in Treaty Six Territory. A writer, editor, policy analyst, language learner, and visual artist, she lives in amiskwaciwâskahikan. She is the senior advisor of Indigenous relations at the Edmonton Public Library. Her writing has been published in *The Washington Post*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Teen Vogue*, *The Malahat Review*, and *Room Magazine*, among others. In 2021 she was the recipient of an Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund award. Emily Riddle is a semi-dedicated Oilers fan and a dedicated Treaty Six descendant who believes deeply in the brilliance of the Prairies and their people.

Judges' Citation: "Emily Riddle's *The Big Melt* is nêhiyaw governance, Cree governance, at its single most personal form of self-autonomy. The governance of heart and history, language and landscape, nêhiyaw-askiy, Cree earth/land, is embedded in these warrior-women poems. If there is a trail back to our ancestors and forward to ourselves, these poems call us to be still, and to listen to a new generation of storytellers."