

Law, Legislative Services & Security Report to
Public Hearing Meeting of Council
2024 April 09

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2024-0370

2024 Calgary Awards Recipient – W.O. Mitchell Book Prize

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the 2024 Calgary Awards W.O. Mitchell recipient in keeping with Council's *Recognitions by Council Policy*, CP2018-2. The Calgary Awards program aims to recognize exemplary achievements and contributions by Calgarians.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is a part of the Calgary Awards program as approved by Council in the *Recognitions by Council Policy*, CP2018-2, on 2018 April 23.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council:

1. Ratify the 2024 Calgary Awards Recipient for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize as recommended by the selection jury (Attachment 1); and
2. Direct that Attachment 1 remain confidential pursuant to Section 17 (Disclosure harmful to personal privacy) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until after the Calgary Awards ceremony on 2024 June 12.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Solicitor and General Counsel concurs with this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Calgary Awards are The City of Calgary's ("The City") highest honour. Thirteen different Calgary Awards celebrate and recognize outstanding achievements and contributions made by Calgarians.
- On 2024 March 19 at the Regular Meeting of Council (C2024-0117), 11 of the 13 Calgary Awards Recipients were ratified. The final Calgary Awards recipient to be ratified is for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize.
- Members of the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Jury ("the Jury") received the book submissions to read in 2023 December, then met on 2024 March 6 to make their decision. Information about the Jury is provided in Attachment 3.
- The Jury received 55 nomination submissions and of those nominated the Jury chose their top three submissions: "Cantata and the Extinction Therapist" by Clem Martini, "It Begins in Salt" by Natalie Meisner, and "The Bittlemores" by Jann Arden. The Jury selected the Calgary Awards W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient as listed in confidential Attachment 1.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? The Calgary Awards are an opportunity for Calgarians to nominate deserving individuals, businesses, and organizations to be recognized by The City.

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- Why does this matter? The W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is awarded in honour of acclaimed Calgary writer W.O. Mitchell and recognizes literary achievement by Calgary authors.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Guiding Principles: Strengthen Relationships with Calgarians.

DISCUSSION

Section 5.7.3 of Council's *Recognitions by Council Policy*, CP2018-2, requires that Calgary Awards "recipients are to be selected by a jury from amongst nominations and ratified by Council."

The W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is coordinated through a partnership between The City and the Writers' Guild of Alberta, which administers the Award as part of the Alberta Literary Competitions. A total of 55 submissions were accepted from 2023 September 11 to December 1.

Members of the Jury received the book submissions to read in 2023 December, then met on 2024 March 6 to make their decision. The Jury selected the Calgary Awards W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient as listed in confidential Attachment 1. Information about the Jury is provided in Attachment 3.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Following Council ratification of the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient, the City Clerk's Office will notify the recipient and prepare for the announcement and presentation of the Calgary Awards in 2024 June. A list of the three finalists for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize was published on calgary.ca/calgaryawards on 2024 April 1. More information about external engagement and communications for the W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is outlined in Attachment 4.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Calgary Awards demonstrate Council's commitment to recognizing those who contribute to the community.

Environmental

No environmental impacts were identified.

Economic

No economic implications were identified.

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Service and Financial Implications

Existing capital funding - base

No financial impact. The Calgary Awards costs are included in the City Clerk's Office budget.

RISK

If the ratification of the award is delayed, it may impact notification and preparation for The Calgary Awards announcement and presentation.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. CONFIDENTIAL – Calgary Awards W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient
2. W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Nominees
3. Calgary Awards W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Jury Members
4. Calgary Awards External Engagement and Communications

Department Circulation

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