

Law, Legislative Services & Security Report to  
Regular Meeting of Council  
2025 April 29

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
C2025-0157

## The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient (2025)

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient for 2025 in keeping with Council's *Recognitions by Council Policy*, CP2018-02.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2025 March 18 at the Regular Meeting of Council (C2025-0071), Council ratified the Calgary Awards recipients recommended by juries for 2025, except for The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1. Ratify The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient for 2025 as recommended by The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Jury (Attachment 1);
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*; and
3. Direct the City Clerk to make The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient publicly available on The City's website following the Calgary Awards presentation on 2025 June 18.

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

The City Solicitor and General Counsel concurs with this report.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Established in 1996, The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is coordinated through a partnership between The City of Calgary and the Writer's Guild of Alberta, which administers the award as part of the Alberta Literary Competitions.
- The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient receives a \$5,000 cash prize.
- Information about The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Jury ("the Jury") is outlined in Attachment 3.
- What does this mean to Calgarians? The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recognizes literary achievement by Calgary authors and is awarded as part of the annual Calgary Awards program.
- Why does this matter? The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize forms part of the Calgary Awards program, which recognizes exemplary achievements and contributions by those who make Calgary a great place to live.
- Strategic Alignment to Council's Guiding Principles: Strengthen Relationships with Calgarians.
- Background and Previous Council Direction are included in Attachment 4.

### DISCUSSION

The Jury received 60 nominations for The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize. Among the nominees, the Jury selected their top three submissions: *Linguaphile* by Julie Sedivy; *All Our*

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*Ordinary Stories* by Teresa Wong; and *Limited Verse* by David Martin. Confidential Attachment 1 lists The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient recommended by the Jury for 2025.

Section 5.6 (c) of Council's *Recognitions by Council Policy*, CP2018-02, requires that Calgary Awards "recipients are to be selected by a jury from amongst nominations and ratified by Council."

### **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 type="checkbox"/>            | Public communication or engagement was not required |

Promotion of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize nominations included social media posts, news release and City employee communications. In addition, Writers' Guild of Alberta's 2025 Alberta Literary Awards included promotion and marketing about The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize among the literary community.

Following Council ratification of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize recipient, the City Clerk's Office will notify the recipient and prepare for the announcement and Calgary Awards presentation on 2025 June 18. The three finalist authors were published on The City's website on 2025 April 1.

### **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.

#### **Service and Financial Implications**

#### **Existing capital funding - base**

The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize and Calgary Awards Program expenses are funded by the Council and Committee Support service line, administered by the City Clerk's Office.

### **RISK**

If the ratification of The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is delayed, it may impact notification and preparation for The Calgary Awards announcement and presentation.

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**ATTACHMENTS**

1. CONFIDENTIAL – The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Recipient (2025)
2. The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Nominees (2025)
3. The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize Jury Members (2025)
4. Background and Previous Council Direction

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Jill Floen, City Solicitor and General Counsel	Law, Legislative Services and Security	Approve
Kate Martin, Director/City Clerk	Law, Legislative Services and Security	Approve

Author: Mary Kirk, City Clerk's Office.