



## Alberta Readers' Choice Award Reveals 2011 Book Champions Panel

**EDMONTON, Alberta, January 18, 2011** – The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award committee is excited to announce its esteemed Book Champions panel for 2011:

- Sharon Budnarchuk, co-owner of Audrey's Books in Edmonton
- Ken Chapman, lawyer, social commentator, blogger and one of Alberta Venture Magazine's 50 Most Influential People of 2010
- John Estacio, award-winning Canadian composer and JUNO nominee
- Kirk Heuser, Edward R. Murrow Award-winning journalist, CBC News Calgary
- Janet Lane, Executive Director of Literacy Alberta

Each Book Champion will select one eligible title from the ten shortlisted books (as voted on by Alberta librarians), and advocate for his or her book respectively. Champions will base their individual selection on a range of criteria, from readability and literary merit to potential reader appeal. The public will then have the opportunity to vote for their favourite book from the Top 5 during the entire month of May.

The winner of the 2011 ARC Award – and a \$10,000 cash prize – will be announced on June 11 at the 2011 Alberta Book Awards Gala in Calgary.

“After a remarkably successful first year which saw exceptional participation from authors, publishers, Champions and the voting public, we are excited to see what the 2011 award has in store for us,” said Kieran Leblanc, Co-Chair of the ARC Award committee. “If the quality and diversity of both our Book Champions and shortlisted titles are any indication, we're in for another fun and energizing ride over the next few months. This is a great initiative that promotes the writing and publishing industry in Alberta.”

Book Champions will each choose and defend a single title from this year's ten shortlisted books:

- *The Grizzly Manifesto* by Jeff Gailus (Rocky Mountain Books)

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- *Myth of the Barrens* by Bren Kolson (Eschia Books)
- *Prodigal Daughter - A Journey to Byzantium* by Myrna Kostash (U of A Press)
- *Too Bad: Sketches Towards a Self-Portrait* by Robert Kroetsch (U of A Press)
- *Tangles - A Story About Alzheimer's, My Mother and Me* by Sarah Leavitt (Freehand Books)
- *Memory's Daughter* by Alice Major (U of A Press)
- *Cinco de Mayo* by Michael J. Martineck (Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)
- *Bitter Medicine* by Clem & Oliver Martini (Freehand Books)
- *Smoked - A Detective Lane Mystery* by Garry Ryan (NeWest Press)
- *Letters from the Lost - A Memoir of Discovery* by Helen Waldstein Wilkes (AU Press)

### **About the Alberta Readers' Choice Award**

The Alberta Readers' Choice (ARC) Award is presented by the Edmonton Public Library (EPL), in partnership with the Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA). Currently in its second year, the ARC Award promotes literacy and reading to Albertans by highlighting the unique literary and book publishing industry that exists in our province. The \$10,000 prize, which goes to the author of the winning title as voted on by the reading public, is one of the largest literary prizes offered in Alberta and is comparable to many national literary awards. For more information about the ARC Award, visit [www.albertareaderschoice.ca](http://www.albertareaderschoice.ca). Visit [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca) and [www.bookpublishers.ab.ca](http://www.bookpublishers.ab.ca) to learn more about EPL and BPAA.

### **About Book Publishers Association of Alberta**

The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) represents more than 30 Alberta publishers with a shared mission. BPAA publish books by local, national and international authors and provide significant cultural and economic benefits to this province. BPAA work with writers, printers, artists and other creative people to produce high quality books that are sold in Alberta and throughout the world. BPAA are leaders in Canada's best-developed knowledge-based industry and are one of the strongest communities of regional publishers in North America. Visit [www.bookpublishers.ab.ca](http://www.bookpublishers.ab.ca) for more information.

### **About the Edmonton Public Library (EPL)**

The Edmonton Public Library carries everything you care about. We are Edmonton's largest lender of all manner of information and entertainment. Our professionally trained staff take you beyond Google with the knowledge, discernment and desire to help you navigate a universe of information. Every year, we host over 14 million in-branch and online visits

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across our 17 branches and website. We deliver our incredible content to you everywhere - in the library, at home, or on your handheld device. Unmatched access and unrivalled value - that is today's EPL. Spread the words. [www.epl.ca](http://www.epl.ca).

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