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PWAC Launches Major New Writing Prizes

The Professional Writers Association of Canada has launched two major new writing awards.

The awards, which will be judged by a panel of some of Canada's leading writers, are open to PWAC members and non-members. The deadline for entries is March 19.

Awards will be given for feature-length stories (over 1,200 words) and shorter pieces (1,200 words and less).

"These awards will showcase the excellence of Canadian writers," said PWAC President Tanya Gulliver. "Our goal is for these awards to eventually become some of Canada's premier prizes for writing. PWAC is Canada's largest organization representing freelance writers, and our awards will celebrate that."

Entries must have been published in a paying Canadian print or web media outlet in 2009. The first prize in each category has a \$500 value, including a free PWAC membership for a year (if eligible).

The judges in the two categories are:

- **Stephen Kimber:** the author of a novel and seven books of non-fiction; Stephen is the Roger Communications Chair at the University of King's College in Halifax.
- **Elaine Kalman Naves:** the Montreal-based award-winning author of six books and more than 500 articles and stories in a variety of Canadian and international periodicals and scholarly works.
- **Bilbo Poynter:** executive director and founder of the Canadian Centre for Investigative Reporting and a Hamilton-based investigative reporter for the CBC.
- **Maxine Ruvinsky:** associate professor and chair of the School of Journalism at Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, B.C.; Maxine also holds a PhD in comparative literature and authored *Investigative Reporting in Canada* and *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource*.
- **Eric Siblin:** the Montreal-based author of *The Cello Suites: J.S. Bach, Pablo Casals, and the Search for a Baroque Masterpiece*, which won the QWF Mavis Gallant Prize for Non-Fiction and the QWF McAuslan First Book Prize and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction.
- **Jennifer Walker:** senior content editor at Best Health magazine and the winner of PWAC's Best Editor Award in 2009.

Entry requirements are available at www.pwac.ca/eventsandresources/pwacawards.

PWAC, established in 1976, is the national organization representing over 600 freelance writers and journalists in Canada.

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