



# News Release

## Saskatchewan's biggest literary festival celebrating 25 years

*Moose Jaw, SK, July 6*— The Saskatchewan Festival of Words kicks off its 25<sup>th</sup> annual literary festival in Moose Jaw next week with online and in-person events. Events include writing workshops, author readings, Q&As, book discussions and more presented by 21 published Canadian authors. The festival runs Thursday, July 15, to Sunday, July 18, and passes are sold at a pay-what-you-can price.

“One of the things that makes our festival so fun for patrons is the community feel and being able to share their experience with other book-lovers after events,” said Interim Executive Director Amanda Farnel. “We’ve added several online features so people can get that same intimate experience even if they’re joining us online.”

The festival is using YouTube to live stream events, where patrons can have discussions and ask authors questions in the live chat. They can also cast the events to a TV rather than watching on a computer. At the end of each day, they can join Zoom video calls to share their thoughts with others face-to-face or join smaller breakout rooms for discussing specific topics.

The festival chose to offer passes at a pay-what-you-can price to ensure anyone could attend this year without worrying about the cost.

“We don’t want people to feel obligated to pay,” said Farnel. “As long as people can enjoy the festival, we’re happy.”

The festival is the biggest of its kind, with approximately 3000 patrons attending last year, and strives to feature a diverse lineup of authors and poets who come from various backgrounds.

“Writing is so personal in the way it affects people,” said Farnel. “Different things will speak to people in different ways, and we make sure we have voices and events that everyone can connect with and others can learn from.”

Some of this year’s presenters include best-selling novelist Wayne Arthurson, award-winning fantasy novelist C.L. Polk, Indigenous poet Tenille Campbell, award-winning Saskatchewan writer Guy Vanderhaeghe, and Canada Reads finalist Craig Davidson, whose book, *Rust and Bone*, was the inspiration for a Golden Globe-nominated film.

See the full festival lineup at [festivalofwords.com/2021-presenters](https://www.festivalofwords.com/2021-presenters) and the full events schedule at <https://www.festivalofwords.com/schedule>

### **About the Saskatchewan Festival of Words**

*The Saskatchewan Festival of Words (established in 1996) is a registered charity and non-profit organization that holds an annual literary festival on the third weekend in July, with more than 50 events over 4 days, in and around historic downtown Moose Jaw. The festival showcases literary talent from all over Canada including many award winners. Our year-round programming includes the monthly Performers Café open mic night, Cineview series (independent and foreign film), musical performances, workshops, author readings, as well as the Writers in Schools program. Find out more at [festivalofwords.com](http://festivalofwords.com)*

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