



For Immediate Release

MIRIAM TOEWS NAMED RECIPIENT OF \$10,000 HARBOURFRONT FESTIVAL PRIZE

Toronto, September 22, 2016 — IFOA announced at a luncheon today that **Miriam Toews** is this year's recipient of the \$10,000 **Harbourfront Festival Prize**.

Toews of her win: "I'm thrilled to be chosen as this year's recipient of the Harbourfront Festival Prize! I saw the list of writers who've previously received this prize and it is truly an honour to be counted amongst those titans, people like Alice Munro, Nicole Brossard, Helen Humphreys and Margaret Atwood. I'm so grateful to the committee and the festival. Thank you!"

Miriam Toews was chosen by a jury composed of **Deborah Dundas** (Books Editor, *Toronto Star*), **Carol Off** (Host, CBC's *As It Happens*) and **Geoffrey E. Taylor** (Director, IFOA) who said:

"Miriam Toews has contributed so much to Canada's literary tradition through her own work, but also through the tireless (and often unsung) support she provides others. She is an advocate for the mentally ill, she is a stalwart support to young writers, often providing a place at her home for writers to stay. She makes it to book launches —not just for the big publishing houses but also for small independent presses. At home she is truly part of the writing community. She takes that commitment and translates it abroad: she travels the world taking part in writers' retreats, book fairs, readings, and other appearances — and in doing so becomes an ambassador for Canadian writing and culture."

Past recipients of the Harbourfront Festival Prize, which was established in 1984, include Avie Bennett, Dionne Brand, Austin Clarke, Margaret MacMillan, Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, Paul Quarrington, Seth and Jane Urquhart. **The Prize will be presented to Miriam during the International Festival of Authors on October 24, before the event celebrating the finalists for the Governor General's Literary Award for English-language Fiction at 8pm in the Fleck Dance Theatre.**

For more information about the Harbourfront Festival Prize and the International Festival of Authors, or to purchase tickets, call the **Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000** or visit ifoa.org.

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Since its inception in 1974, **IFOA** has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates. Our season runs from September to June and includes the annual International Festival of Authors (October 20-30, 2016), including YoungIFOA and IFOA Ontario, and the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2017).

MEDIA CONTACTS

Eirini Moschaki: emoschaki@ifoa.org; 416-973-5836

Catherine Coreno: ccoreno@ifoa.org; 416-973-4395

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