



MEDIA RELEASE

TIFA ANNOUNCES WINTER/SPRING 2020 SEASON OF TORONTO LIT UP BOOK LAUNCH EVENTS

The first of 14 free public events will take place January 9, 2020

Toronto, January 9, 2020 – The **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)** today announced the winter/spring 2020 lineup of **Toronto Lit Up** book launch events, a multi-year joint initiative with the **Toronto Arts Council**. Between January to June 2020, Toronto Lit Up will deliver 14 free public events across the city to celebrate the release of 17 new books featuring 22 Toronto authors.

The winter/spring 2020 season of Toronto Lit Up will celebrate the launch of the following books:

- *Please Stand By* by **Carolyn Bennett** (Now or Never Publishing)
- *Sea Glass Circe* by **Irina Moga** (self-published)
- *Were There Gazelle* by **Laura McRae** (Pedlar Press)
- *BIG: Stories About Life in Plus-Sized Bodies*, featuring works by **Emily Allan, Shadoe Ball, Elizabeth Cook, Jo Jefferson, Heather M. Jones, Tara Mandarano, Amanda Scriver** and more (edited by Christina Myers, Caitlin Press)
- *Bloom* by **Kenneth Oppel** (HarperCollins Publishers)
- *I Am a Beaver* and *I Am a Polar Bear* by **Paul Covello** (HarperCollins Publishers)
- *Lake Effect* by **Dayle Furlong** (Cormorant Books)
- *I Overcame My Autism and All I Got Was This Lousy Anxiety Disorder* by **Sarah Kurchak** (Douglas & McIntyre)
- *Choosing Hope: 1 Woman, 3 Cancers* by **Munira Premji** (Mawenzi House)
- *On the Job: A Firefighter's Life* by **Bryan Ratuszniak** (Cormorant Books)
- *Bones* by **Tyler Pennock** (Brick Books)
- *Take Back the Tray: Revolutionizing Food in Hospitals, Schools, and Other Institutions* by **Joshna Maharaj** (ECW Press)
- *Field Notes from an Unintentional Birder: A Memoir* by **Julia Zarankin** (Douglas & McIntyre)
- *Filthy Sugar* by **Heather Babcock** (Inanna Publications)
- *A Diary in the Age of Water* by **Nina Munteanu** (Inanna Publications)
- *Radiant Shards: Hoda's North End Poems* by **Ruth Panofsky** (Inanna Publications)

The first event of the Toronto Lit Up winter/spring 2020 season will celebrate the release of Carolyn Bennett's *Please Stand By*, on **Thursday, January 9 at 7pm** at [Hirut Café and Restaurant](#). More event times and locations will be announced over the coming weeks. Visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/Events](#) to RSVP and to learn more.

"The Toronto Lit Up programme helps boost Toronto authors by providing valuable support to help launch their work," says **Alison Jones**, Toronto Lit Up committee member. "Toronto Lit Up book launches also give local readers the chance to get to know their local writing community up close and in person, and discover new books of various genres. The best part is that Toronto Lit Up events take place across the city all year long, they are open to the public and are completely free to attend," she says.

The Toronto Lit Up Committee is composed of **Ayesha Chatterjee** (past president, League of Canadian Poets), **Alison Jones** (*Quill and Quire*) and **Hazel Millar** (Literary Press Group).

The submission period for the next season of Toronto Lit Up, taking place in summer/fall 2020, will open on January 20, 2020.

ABOUT TORONTO LIT UP

Toronto Lit Up is a multi-year initiative, started in 2016 by the Toronto International Festival of Authors and the Toronto Arts Council, to spotlight Toronto writers and empower local artists with career-building opportunities. Between April 2016 to December 2019, Toronto Lit Up has hosted 92 events to launch 112 books by 159 Toronto authors. Launches are open to the public and free to attend. To find events and RSVP, visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/events](#). To learn more, visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/TorontoLitUp](#).

ABOUT TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas. Since 1974, it has hosted over 9,500 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates and countless other award winners. Mandated to advance the art of literature, TIFA connects curious readers of every kind with leading authors and provides forums to showcase Canadian talent to the world. TIFA presents events and programmes all year round and will celebrate the 41st edition of the Festival October 22 – November 1, 2020. Based at Harbourfront Centre. To learn more, visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca](#).

The Toronto International Festival of Authors gratefully acknowledges the support of Canadian Heritage – Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, the Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Creates, the Toronto Arts Council, and its venue partner Harbourfront Centre.

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