

**KEGEDONCE PRESS PUBLISHER
KATERI AKIWENZIE-DAMM
NAMED THE 2025 IVY AWARD RECIPIENT**

**HARPER COLLINS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF JENNIFER LAMBERT
NAMED PACLA PERSON OF THE YEAR**

Also announced: 2025 International Visitors (IV) Programme Fellows



Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm

TORONTO, October 15, 2025 -- The **18th edition of the International Visitors (IV) Programme**, in association with the **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)**, today announced that **Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm** will be the 14th recipient of the **Ivy Award**, given annually to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to Canadian publishing. Akiwenzie-Damm will be honoured during the **2025 Ivy Award & Conversation** taking place at Victoria University in the University of Toronto during the Toronto International Festival of Authors on Wednesday October 29, at 2:00pm (ET). The event will also feature Keynote Speaker Louisa Joyner, Associate Publisher, Faber.

Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm is a publisher, writer, poet, spoken word artist, Indigenous arts activist, and Assistant Professor, Creative Writing, Indigenous Literatures and Oral Traditions at UofT, Scarborough. She is the publisher, art director, senior editor, and founder of Kegedonce Press.

Under her leadership, Kegedonce Press books have challenged public perceptions of Indigenous literatures, helped to advance Indigenous literatures and publishing, published trailblazing works by Indigenous writers, and won and been nominated for numerous regional, national, and international awards. Kegedonce Press is one of the oldest Indigenous publishing houses in Canada and is owned and led by First Nations women.

“Kateri’s work exemplifies editorial excellence, literary vision, and a steadfast commitment to amplifying Indigenous voices, and our literary landscape is much richer due to Kateri’s decades-long contribution,” said Carolyn Forde, co-chair of the IV Committee.

Past Ivy Award recipients include: Nicole Winstanley (2024); Alana Wilcox (2023); Iris Tupholme (2022); Errol Sharpe (2021); Nurjehan Aziz (2020); Anne Collins (2019); Brian Lam (2018); Phyllis Bruce (2017); Linda McKnight (2016); David Kent (2015); Dean Cooke (2014); Louise Denny (2013) and Scott McIntyre (2012).

This year’s Ivy Award jury is composed of Deborah Dundas, Opinion Editor, Toronto Star; Carolyn Forde, co-chair IV Committee, Partner & Senior Literary Agent, Transatlantic Agency; Nicole Winstanley, Simon & Schuster; Kyle Wyatt, Editor Literary Review of Canada, and TIFA Artistic Director Roland Gulliver.

PACLA (Professional Association of Canadian Literary Agents) Person of the Year Award

The PACLA (Professional Association of Canadian Literary Agents) Person of the Year award is awarded by the Canadian literary agent community to recognize and celebrate exemplary individuals in editing, publicity and marketing, or sales, who have gone above and beyond in the support of our author clients.

PACLA is delighted to announce that **Jennifer Lambert has been selected as the 2025 recipient of the PACLA Person of the Year Award.**

Jennifer Lambert is the Editor-in-Chief at HarperCollins Canada, overseeing the HarperCollins Canada editorial program and its editors. Her authors have been shortlisted for or won awards such as the Giller Prize, the Governor General’s Awards for Fiction and Non-Fiction, the National Book Award, the Women’s Prize for Fiction, and many more. Jennifer works closely on the UBC/HarperCollins Prize for Best New Fiction, is former Chair of the Writers’ Trust of Canada, sits on the Humber Creative Publishing Program Publishers’ Advisory Council and is co-chair of the International Visitors Programme committee for the Toronto International Festival of Authors.

“Jenn’s editorial eye, attention to detail, collaborative spirit and exceptional author care have positively contributed to the Canadian and International publishing landscape for decades. She works equally well with established authors, and debut writers, and has always helped to demystify and humanize the publishing process. Her genuine love for books, authors and how she works with them and us, as agents, makes her an ideal recipient of this award,” said Rachel Letofsky, former PACLA Secretary and Senior Agent at Transatlantic Agency.

Previous winners of the PACLA Person of the Year Award include author and festival director, Jael Richardson (2022), and Simon & Schuster editor, Brittany Lavery (2023).

The 2025 International Visitors (IV) Programme Fellows

The International Visitors Programme, now in its 18th year of hosting publishing professionals from around the world for cultural exchange and industry networking, will welcome 11 fellows to the Toronto International Festival of Authors this year.

The 2025 IV Programme Delegates are: Boluwatito Sanusi, Cassava Republic Press, Nigeria; Yasmin Santos, Companhia das Letras, Brazil; Bénédicte Lombardo, Editions du Seuil, France; Barbara Cichy, Jagiellonian University Press, Poland; Emeline Colpart, Fleuve Editions - Univers Poche, France; Anna Mioni, AC² Literary Agency, Italy; Nestoras Poulakos, Vaxkikon Publications, Greece; Suvi Salmela, Bazar Kustannus, Finland; Eve Gleichman, Liz Gately Book Scouting, USA; Andrea Walker, Harper Collins, USA; Loan Le, Simon & Schuster, USA.

The 2025 Canadian IV Programme Fellows are Norman Nehmetallah of Invisible Publishing and Maxime Raymond of Les éditions de ta mère. Author Richard Armitage joins the 2025 IV Programme as a Distinguished Guest. The IV Programme is supported by the Canada Book Fund and Ontario Creates.

About the IV Programme

The International Visitors (IV) Programme provides a valuable cultural and economic exchange between Canada’s publishing community and some of the most influential publishing figures from around the world. Since 2008, it has generated visibility and marketability for Canadian literature abroad, by acting as a Canadian rights fair, introducing international publishers to the Canadian literary scene, and strengthening relationships with international counterparts that have led to new business development initiatives and the creation of new literary works. Organized by a committee of Canadian book industry representatives, the IV Programme takes place every fall during the Toronto International Festival of Authors. Its selected fellows participate in structured inter-industry dialogue and activities led by distinguished professionals. Over 300 fellows have taken part in the Programme since its inception.

About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) inspires, empowers and connects through the art of stories, offering book lovers a breadth of bold, ambitious and accessible literary experiences. The charitable organization provides engaging opportunities to meet, hear and learn from the world's best contemporary writers and thinkers, and to celebrate the power of stories. Since 1974, TIFA has presented thousands of authors, including 22 Nobel Laureates, who represent diverse perspectives and a range of literary genres for all ages. The 46th edition of TIFA's flagship festival will take place October 29 – November 2, 2025. TIFA is grateful for the support of the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage; the Canada Council for the Arts; Ontario Creates; the Ontario Arts Council; and Toronto Arts Council; as well as the generous support offered by our many Patrons, donors and supporters.

About Louisa Joyner, Keynote Speaker, 2025 Ivy Award & Conversation

Dr. Louisa Joyner began her career at Atlantic Books. There, her publishing included *Call Me by Your Name* and *Bitter Fruit*, Achmat Dangor's Booker-shortlisted debut novel. Since then she has travelled from Random House, where her publishing included books by Jay-Z and Stephen Sondheim, to HarperCollins, and she acquired Nathan Filer's Costa Award-winning *The Shock of the Fall* in a fourteen-way auction. She then returned to independent publishing at Canongate, and joined Faber in 2016. In 2018 she published the Booker-winning *Milkman* by Anna Burns, which has sold over 750,000 copies and in 2023 Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*, which won the Women's Prize for Fiction. Her authors include Tsitsi Dangarembga, Samantha Irby, Andre Aciman, Akwaeke Emezi, Leone Ross, Helen Oyeyemi, Nathan Filer, Louise Doughty and Jo Browning Wroe. She is currently Associate Publisher at Faber where she oversees the Fiction, crime and audio lists.

Event Details

2025 Ivy Award & Conversation

Wednesday, October 29th, 2:00PM

Isabel Bader Theatre

Victoria University in the University of Toronto

93 Charles St West, Toronto, ON

Free as part of the Toronto International Festival of Authors

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