THE BLUE METROPOLIS FOUNDATION WILL ANNOUNCE, ON MARCH 31, 2021,
THE WINNERS OF $6,000 IN GRANTS FOR STUDENTS IN INDIGENOUS STUDIES

The Excellence Awards in Indigenous Studies are a joint project of the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival of Montreal and the McConnell Foundation. Grants are awarded to two students, one francophone, one anglophone, enrolled in a program of Indigenous studies or literature, or in an Anthropology program with an indigenous studies component.

TWO GRANTS OF $3,000
The award seeks to highlight Indigenous studies programs offered in several Canadian universities, to encourage academic excellence and to reward dynamic young people whose work and charisma spark change in their communities. Each of the two laureates will receive a $3,000 grant and be invited to participate in Montreal’s Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival (live or online).

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR OUR TWO WINNERS
Half of each candidacy’s grade (50%) is attributed to the assessment of a judge, an imminent and respected Indigenous community member, based on the following criteria:
/ depth, coherence and innovative qualities of the reflection
/ strength of the recommended works
/ persuasiveness of the candidate
/ quality and rigor of the presentation

Public engagement (the number of views on our platforms for each video) will make up the other half (50%) of the grade.

ABOUT THIS YEAR’S ENTRIES
Students answered 4 questions in relation to their vision for a better and more inclusive world. The video presentations will be online till March 24 at https://bluemetropolis.org/firstpeopleawards/.
The questions addressed were:
1. What utopian idea of today may well be the reality of tomorrow?
2. If you could introduce a single, major change in society, however radical, what would it be?
3. Speaking personally, where do you find peace in your life?
4. What book, comic, or song best expresses your hope for a better world?

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AS PART OF ITS SOCIAL INNOVATION AND FIRST NATIONS PROGRAMMING

The Blue Metropolis Awards for Excellence in Indigenous Studies are an initiative of the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and the McConnell Foundation. They are part of an expansive social innovation program dedicated to the promotion and bolstering of Indigenous values and cultures. The program includes the First Peoples Prize, a prize awarded yearly to an Indigenous author of international renown, an Indigenous storytelling series for children and parents alike, professional meetups focused on the publishing of Indigenous works, and the Awards for Excellence.

The Awards, an important part of this programming, recognize two students, one anglophone and one francophone, studying or holding a degree in Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Literatures, or anthropology with a link to Indigenous Studies. The student candidates presented here have been recruited by seasoned professors at participating universities, and each candidate for the awards presents their strong vision for a better, further inclusive, and further responsible world.

We are thrilled to give them this public platform. Moreover, should safety measures permit it, the 2021 winners will be invited to the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival, to be held in Montréal April 28 to May 2, 2021.

PRESENTING PAST LAUREATES

2020 EDITION

PEYTON JUHNKE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Regarding her essay, *Indigenous Freedom*, judge Darrel J. McLeod wrote: “In a few paragraphs Peyton was able to establish a clear and compelling voice, to articulate a powerful and clear vision of hope for Indigenous peoples, persuading the reader that there could indeed be a more just life for Indigenous people in Canada if each of us, Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike, steps up and does his or her part.”.

ÉMILIE SARAH CARAVECCHIA
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Regarding her essay, *Que veut dire une société juste?*, judge Rodney St-Éloi wrote: “Fluid, powerful and well-researched, this short essay by d’Emilie Sarah Caravecchia provides a condensed history of Canadian injustice toward the First Peoples. Caravecchia shows the power of the inertia that characterizes the different Canadian governments, from Pierre Trudeau to Justin Trudeau, and the necessity, now, of achieving a decolonial awareness in order to build a more just and egalitarian society in which co-existence between Canadians of European origin and Indigenous people will be possible.

2019 EDITION

MATTHEW JOHN MICHEAL LEBLANC
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Matthew John Micheal Leblanc, member of the Natoaganeg Nation and undergraduate student in Nursing at the University of British Columbia, for his essay titled *Understanding the Indian Condition*.

COLINE SOUILHOL
UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Coline Souilhol, a master’s student in English Studies at the Université de Montréal, for her essay titled *La responsabilité du conteur d’histoire face aux perceptions historiques*.

2018 EDITION

MELANIE MERCER
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Melanie Mercer, an undergraduate student in Indigenous Studies at Simon Fraser University, for her essay titled *Dearest Canada: A Letter from Your Daughter*.

To read essays of past laureates, go to: https://metropolisbleu.org/boursesautochtone/
BLUE METROPOLIS FIRST PEOPLE LITERARY PRIZE

Each edition of Blue Metropolis Festival includes an Indigenous Voices series which showcases the richness of this literature and its voices, which invite us to look at the world from a different perspective. These diverse voices contribute to a renewal of the literary landscape and speak of the beauty of life, of its grandeur and fragility. Blue Metropolis Festival is pleased to provide an opportunity for them to be heard. In addition, during each edition of the Festival the Blue Metropolis First Peoples Literary Prize is awarded. The aim of this prize, which was created five years ago, is to increase the national and international visibility of writers from Indigenous communities, be they novelists, non-fiction writers, playwrights or poets. The prize is awarded thanks to the sponsorship of the McConnell Foundation, the Chadha Family Foundation, Concordia University and the Cole Foundation.

For the past four years, the jury has been made up entirely of Indigenous writers, critics and academics. In 2020, the jury members were L. Rain Prud’homme-Cranford, Smokii Sumac and David Treuer.

PAST LAUREATES OF THE BLUE METROPOLIS FIRST PEOPLES LITERARY PRIZE


TERESE MARIE MAILHOT – 2019

In 2019, Blue Metropolis awarded the First Peoples Literary Prize to Terese Marie Mailhot, the author of Heart Berries: A Memoir. The award ceremony took place in Montreal, at HOTEL10, on Saturday, May 4, 2019, at 1 pm. The prizewinner took part in an onstage interview with CBC host Sonali Karnick, in addition to participating in a number of other events.

Terese Marie Mailhot is originally from Seabird Island, in British Columbia. She received a master’s degree in Creative Writing from the Institute of American Indian Arts. Her work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, The Rumpus, Carve Magazine, The Offing, The Toast and Yellow Medicine Review.

LEE MARACLE – 2018

In 2018, Blue Metropolis awarded the First Peoples Literary Prize to author Lee Maracle. The award ceremony took place in Montreal, at the McCord Museum, on Sunday, April 29, at 4 pm. The winner took part in an onstage interview with Métis artist Moe Clark, as well as in several other events.

Lee Maracle is the author of a number of award-winning and critically acclaimed literary works, including Sojourners and Sundogs, Bobbi Lee: Indian Rebel, Daughters Are Forever, Will’s Garden, Talking to the Diaspora, My Conversations with Canadians and, more recently, Hope Matters. She is also the co-editor of Telling It: Women and Language Across Cultures. Lee Maracle is published in anthologies and scholarly journals worldwide. She was born in Vancouver and is a member of the Stó:lō Nation.
DAVID TREUER – 2017
In 2017, Blue Metropolis awarded its First Peoples Literary Prize to author David Treuer. The award ceremony took place in Montreal, at the McCord Museum, on Friday, April 28, 2017, at 4 pm. The author participated in an onstage interview with CBC host Duncan McCue.

David Treuer is Ojibwe, from the Leech Lake Reservation, in Northern Minnesota. The author of several novels and works of non-fiction, he has also written for such prestigious publications as The New York Times, The Washington Post, Esquire and Slate. He has a PhD in Anthropology and teaches literature and creative writing at the University of Southern California.

THOMAS KING – 2016
In 2016, Blue Metropolis awarded the First Peoples Literary Prize to Thomas King. The award ceremony took place in Montreal, at McGill University’s Moot Court, on Friday, April 15, 2016, at 5:30 pm. The winner took part in an onstage interview with Rosanna Deerchild, author, poet and host of the CBC Radio program Unreserved.

Thomas King, who is of Cherokee and Greek descent, is a novelist, scriptwriter and photographer. In 2004, he received the Order of Canada. In 2012, his non-fiction book, The Inconvenient Indian, won the National B.C. Non-fiction Award and the Charles Taylor Prize. In 2014, he received the Governor General’s Literary Award for Fiction for Back of the Turtle.

MARIE ANNHARTE BAKER – 2015
In 2015, Blue Metropolis awarded the First Peoples Literary Award to poet Annharte, for her collection Indigena Awry. The award ceremony took place in Montreal, at HOTEL10, in Salle Godin, on Saturday, April 25, 2015, at 11 am. The winner was interviewed by writer, academic and activist Taiaiake Alfred.

Annharte, also known as Mary Baker, is Anishinaabe (Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Manitoba). In addition to Indigena Awry (2013), she has published three poetry collections, Being on the Moon (1990), Coyote Columbus Cafe (1995), Exercises in Lip Pointing (2003), and a work of non-fiction, AKA Inendagosekwe (2014).
Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 that brings together people from different cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing and encourages creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an annual literary festival of international calibre and offers a wide range of educational and social programs year-round, both in the classroom and online. Because reading and writing are more than entertaining pastimes, these programs use them as therapeutic tools, to encourage academic perseverance and fight against poverty and social isolation.

Blue Metropolis Festival is one of the largest multilingual literary festivals in North America. It brings together over several days, in Montreal, writers from a number of countries, including Quebec and Canada, offering onstage interviews, round-table discussions, talks, master classes, and reading and writing workshops, all for the pleasure of readers. Each year, the Festival is structured around several major themes, demonstrating a commitment to social issues and a keen interest for literature in its infinite variety.

**OUR IMPACT**

**DESPITE THE CRISIS**

195,760 FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS, IN PERSON OR ONLINE¹

MORE THAN 2,810,000 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH OUR ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS²

4 MAJOR ONLINE SERIES
SOCIAL INNOVATION FORUM, NATURE WRITING, MENTAL HEALTH AND LITERATURE, A LOOK AT GERMAN LITERATURE

41 ARTICLES POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE, 15 PERTAINING TO INDIGENOUS AUTHORS OR ISSUES

178 CANADIAN AUTHORS FEATURED ONLINE

71 CANADIAN PUBLISHERS SHOWCASED

6 TD BLUE METROPOLIS CREATIVITY WORKSHOPS

A MAJOR CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE READING — 2,107 PASSIONATE READERS MOBILISED BY OUR SPONTANEOUS BOOK CLUB

17 AUTHORS PERFORMING IN 4 LANGUAGES FOR THE COSY STORY HOUR ON FACEBOOK LIVE

245 YOUNG PARTICIPANTS IN OUR 5 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, 90,000 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH THE EXHIBITS AND VIDEOS PRODUCED WITHIN THESE PROGRAMS

¹ Number of active participants: views, shares on social media, likes, comments, pages read, participants of the Story Hour on Facebook Live and rebroadcasts, children in attendance at the TD Blue Metropolis Children’s Festival before cancellation due to COVID-19.

² Le Droit, online and paper editions. The Gazette, online and paper editions, as well as paid advertising on social media as of May 15, 2020.
2019 FESTIVAL

230 EVENTS IN 17 LANGUAGES

275 ARTISTS, AUTHORS AND HOSTS FROM 25 COUNTRIES

OVER 120,000 VISITS¹

232 ARTICLES AND REPORTS IN THE MEDIA
133 JOURNALISTS (61 PARTICIPATED IN THE FESTIVAL; 72 WROTE ABOUT IT)

BOOK SALES: $60,308*

THE FESTIVAL’S CLIENTELE IS WELL-EDUCATED (85% ARE UNIVERSITY GRADUATES) AND IS MADE UP OF ANGLOPHONES (45%), FRANCOPHONES (47%) AND ALLOPHONES (8%)

¹ Overall direct and indirect attendance, including visitors to Blue Metropolis Festival (adult and children’s programming) and to our affiliated partners’ exhibitions and activities.
* Sales at the official Festival bookstore (Paragraphe Books), as well as at the Festival’s partner bookstores.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SINCE 2000

19,050 PARTICIPANTS (STUDENTS AND SENIORS)

926 INSTITUTIONS VISITED (SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY CENTRES)

57 PROGRAMS DEVELOPED

PRESENTED IN 15 OF QUEBEC’S 17 ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS AND 8 OF CANADA’S 10 PROVINCES

BLUE METROPOLIS FESTIVAL
1 TO MAY 6, 2021

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