



CBC/Radio-Canada Fact Sheet

CBC/Radio-Canada: Supports Canadian Literary Expression

Audiences across Canada and around the world enjoy and learn about our nation's emerging and seasoned creative talents, including Canada's literary contributors, through CBC/Radio-Canada programming. Here are some of the ways we seek to electrify, enrich and encourage Canada's literary community.

Showcasing Arts and Culture

CBC/Radio-Canada exists to connect Canadians to one another, and to reflect Canada's regional, cultural and linguistic diversity to Canada and the world through the creation and broadcasting of distinctly Canadian programming.

CBC/Radio-Canada is committed to providing Canadians with a medium to showcase their talent.

Celebrating Canada's Literary Wealth

CBC/Radio-Canada's Arts and Culture programming celebrates talent from across the country and helps Canadians stay abreast of developments in the arts. Arts and culture content is available across all of our services, but especially our dedicated arts and culture platforms - the Chaîne culturelle, CBC Radio Two and the Arts sections of *cbc.ca* and *radio-canada.ca*. We are also a major shareholder in the specialty arts channel, ARTV, which showcases the art and artists of French-speaking Canada.

Our Arts and Culture programming includes both special programming and a wide range of daily and weekly shows that celebrate Canada's literary wealth.

In programs such as *Christiane Charette en direct* and *Bibliotheca*, La Télévision de Radio-Canada regularly presents Canadian literary works for enjoyment and discussion.

Our English Television services devote many hours of programming to literary arts. Programs like CBC Television's *Mary Walsh: Open Book*, and CBC Newsworld's *Hot Type* offer discussion about classic and contemporary bestsellers and thought-provoking conversations with leading Canadian writers. This year, CBC Television broadcast the 10th anniversary celebration of the Giller Prize, highlighting the literary achievements of such Canadian authors as Margaret Atwood, John Bemrose, John Gould, Ann-Marie MacDonald, M.G. Vassanji and the late Carol Shields.

Our French Radio is no less attentive to the literary arts. The Chaîne culturelle features literary discussion and talents on programs like *Bouquinville*, *Aux arts, etc.*, *Devine qui vient nous voir ?* and *Les Décrocheurs ... d'étoiles*. The Première Chaîne's *C'est bien meilleur le matin*, *Indicatif présent*, and *Pourquoi pas dimanche ?* also feature literary content. Each year, both networks also offer coverage of special literary arts programming through events such as the *Salon du livre de Montréal*.

CBC Radio One and Radio Two promote Canadian literary talents through programming like *The Arts Today*, *Richardson's Roundup* and *Monday Night Playhouse*. Since its launch in September 2003, *Sounds Like Canada* has featured over 50 interviews with Canadian writers. *Writers and Company* recently originated six hugely popular live audience panels across Canada, featuring the works of Canadian novelists and writers. *Between the Covers* presents the best of new Canadian fiction. *Wordbeat* presents original Canadian spoken-word poetry performed live. *Radio Nomad* showcases a Canadian author presenting original prose meditations and music.

Through its *Poetry Plus* initiative, CBC Radio also commissions original Canadian poetry for broadcast on programs. The network has also commissioned award-winning productions of Canadian literary works as diverse as Margaret Atwood's *Blind Assassin*, and Djanet Sears' *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*.

In the Arts sections of *CBC.ca* and *radio-canada.ca*, Canadians can also find rich, in-depth content that enriches and builds upon our Radio and Television programming.

Competitions and Community Engagement

CBC/Radio-Canada also nurtures Canada's actors, writers, composers, musicians, dancers, comedians, orchestras, theatres, and film companies through a wide range of artistic competitions, commissions and community events. Many of these events are related to the literary arts.

Perhaps the best known is *Canada Reads*, an annual battle of books in which panelists defend a book they believe all Canadians should read. Broadcast on CBC Radio One and CBC Newsworld, it has proven to be hugely popular with audiences

and a great way to promote Canadian authors and literacy in general. In each of past three years *Canada Reads* has sent the chosen title to the top of the bestseller lists.

Building on this success, Radio-Canada has launched *Le Combat des livres*, a similar literary competition featuring francophone and translated works.

CBC Radio One's *Poetry Face-off* is a national competition developed to identify the best new Canadian poets. The audience-driven contest takes place in 14 locations across Canada and plays on all regional stations, culminating in four half hour national broadcasts during National Poetry Month.

Across Canada, our regional services engage aspiring writers in fun competitions at a local level. CBC Ottawa, for example, holds the *Screen Scribblers Writing Competition* for aspiring screenwriters. It also features the *Broken English Writing Competition*, which invites first generation Canadians to share their stories of traveling to and living in Canada.

CBC/Radio-Canada is proud to bring the *Blue Metropolis Montreal International Literary Festival* to national attention through *CBC Blue / Radio-Canada Bleu* (<http://montreal.cbc.ca/cbcblue/>), a series of 26 pre-recorded events and 11 live events during the Festival.