



WORDS NORTH

Art Exhibit Call to Entry

Proudly Hosted By



PEACE LIARD
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Helen Knott

So maybe the house collapsed, maybe the tree
fell down
Maybe the cycle is stuck on repeat and the dog
ran away
But maybe things had to fall apart
So you could build something new
Cause no one rebuilds the foundation if it
doesn't come unglued
Maybe the endings are beginnings
And you are right where you are meant to be
So take some power, some light and love
And grow something
Remember
They tried to bury us and did not know we were
seeds

Jeanette Lynes

Alone with Walton's *The Compleat Angler*

(from *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems*,
Wolsak & Wynn, 2015)

Paper! But now too trouble-tethered
to scribble one stanza. Waited for a southern
wind just as Walton advised, still
nothing. The angle wrong.
Words are trout in night-time, deep-pooled,
hearing but biting not.
The finest canker flies, stone flies or moor flies
fail to lure them to the surface.
Trout seek lusty lives
far from my perusing pencil. And I
an honest poet, incomplete, swarmed
by silent blue. I do not ask so very much—
Only to send forth a rallying cry—
A fish! A fish
A poem! A poem!

Clea Roberts

How We Wake Somewhere Different

(from *Auguries*, Brick Books, 2017)

There is nothing lighter than the touch
That awakens. Morning brought a child

To my bedside. Fingertips touching my
cheek—

I did not ask for this blessing.

Is it love or bright dust

That we breathe? It will take the shape

Of anything, furring it with light.



Words North will take place from September 27-30th, 2018. Along with the Words North Art Exhibit, the festival will showcase diverse forms of writing and will be comprised of moderated panel discussions, presentations, workshops, readings and performances.

Visit www.peaceliardarts.org for full festival details.

About the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council serves six regional arts councils in the Peace Liard Region of northeast British Columbia.

Since its inception in 1989, the Peace-Liard Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) has sought to broaden the opportunities for the development of and networking in arts, culture and heritage for the people of northeast BC.

Contact: Donna Kane, Executive Director
Email: dkane@pris.ca
www.peaceliardarts.org

Criteria

- Work must be inspired by poems provided in this brochure (poems by Words North feature writers Helen Knott, Jeanette Lynes, Clea Roberts)
- Work can be inspired by one or a combination of provided poems
- All mediums, sizes, and forms of work will be accepted
- Open to artists (of all levels) in northeast BC
- Limit of THREE entries per artist

Exhibition Requirements

PRESENTATION

All work must be ready for hanging and/or suitably prepared for exhibition.

All specific exhibit instructions should be included with the work.

SHIPPING:

Shipping costs are the artists' responsibility. All work must be wrapped properly for shipping and labeled on the outside with the Title, your Name, Address and Phone Number to ensure return. Insurance for the work during shipping is the responsibility of the artist. The Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre has the right to refuse to handle any work that is not packaged properly.

SALE OF WORKS:

Please indicate if your work is for sale. The PLRAC will retain 25% commission on all work that is sold.

For further details, please contact the PLRAC:

Phone: 250-719-9225 Email: dkane@pris.ca

www.peaceliardarts.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

Monday September 7, 2018

Registration forms are available online at www.peaceliardarts.org

DELIVERY OF ARTWORK DEADLINE:

Monday September 17, 2018

Work can be delivered in person to the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre in Dawson Creek or mailed to Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre, 10401 10 Street, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3T8

OPENING OF ART EXHIBIT

Thursday September 27, 2018

Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre 7-9 pm



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



PEACE LIARD
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT



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An agency of the Province of British Columbia



KIWANIS
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTRE



idealos
PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

THE MIRROR

Alaska Highway News

Call for entries for literary fest art exhibit

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council is looking for artists to create visual responses to three poems at the upcoming Words North literary festival.

Artists can submit up to three pieces based on works from Helen Knott, Jeanette Lynes, and Clea Roberts.

Call for entries close Sept. 17. Visit peaceliardarts.org for the poems and registration info.



WORDS NORTH

Words North Program

A Celebration of Writing

September 27-30, 2018

Dawson Creek, BC



PEACE LIARD
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

www.peaceliardarts.org / dkane@pris.ca

WORDS

***The PLRAC acknowledges Treaty 8
on whose traditional territory we reside.***

***Welcome to the First Annual Words
North Art Exhibit & Writing Festival!***

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) is proud to host the first Words North Art Exhibit (featuring the work of artists who have created pieces inspired by this year's feature writers—**Helen Knott, Jeanette Lynes, Jasmine Netsena, and Clea Roberts**) and to showcase these writers along with dozens more from across northeast BC. From song writing to science fiction, from writers as young as 13 to those who have been creating for decades, Words North hopes to encourage our region's writers to share and to learn and in so doing broaden PLRAC's mandate to provide opportunities for arts and culture and heritage for the people in northeast BC.

This year's theme is *Writing to Engage Community*. We hope the panel discussions, presentations, readings and performances will inspire you to reflect on how each of us uses the words we do to connect with each other.



Mary Mottishaw

The PLRAC thanks its many sponsors, volunteers, and all the writers who have made the 2018 Words North possible.

—Donna Kane, Executive Director, PLRAC

NORTH

***Thursday September 27
Opening Night
(free to all community members)***

***4 pm – 7 pm / Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre
Registration for Words North and Welcome***

***7 pm – 8 pm / KPAC Foyer
Words North Art Exhibit Opening***

Visual artists from across the region have created work inspired by the words of our feature writers. The opening will take place in the foyer of the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

***8 pm – 10 pm / KPAC Theatre
Coffee House (hosted by the Peace Songwriters)***



B. Munro L. Studley D. Gardiner W. Ezeard FHTNKD J. Brooks



I. Smith D. Braun D McGowan J. Lindgren B. Studley

WORDS

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

9 am – 10 am / KPAC Theatre

Continental Breakfast (included in ticket price)

10 am – 12 pm / KPAC Theatre

The Publishing World – Traditional, DIY, Self-Publishing, Agents and More!

Four regional writers (Tracy Krauss, Pat Ferris, Ronnie Roberts, Rebekah Rempel) will share their experiences in and knowledge of the publishing world.



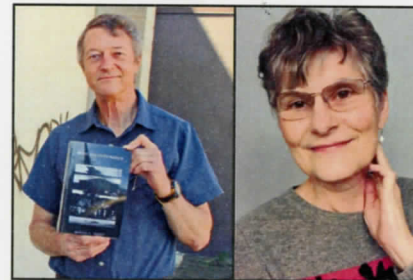
First up will be **Tracy Krauss**. An established author and playwright with more than 20 published titles, Tracy will share her experiences working with a literary agent, with larger publishing houses and small

independent presses in the United States, with traditional publishers, fee-for-services (otherwise known as vanity presses), the explosion of DIY options and delving into self-publishing through her own imprint, Fictitious Ink. “There are pros and cons to every avenue,” says Krauss, “so come with an open mind! No one method is best – only what is best for each individual.” In her presentation, Tracy will focus on the following:

NORTH

(Publishing Presentation Cont'd)

- Why bother? What can an agent do for me?
- Finding an agent that is the right fit: it's all in the relationship
- Limitations of the agent relationship
- Pros and cons of 'traditional' publishing deals
- Variety as a business plan



Next up will be **Pat Ferris and Ronnie Roberts** who will present an informative and entertaining presentation on Indie vs. traditional publishing. Ronnie and Pat are local writers who have written 17 books between them and have been there in the trenches. “We will lay out the facts about writing and publishing in today's market, possibly saving you months, even years, of research, thousands of dollars in costs and help you make the best choice for you as a writer,” says Ronnie. “Want the skinny on what's happening in publishing today? Come to Words North and take in Friday's presentation. You'll be glad you did.”

WORDS

(Publishing Presentation Cont'd)



Finishing off the two-hour publishing session will be **Rebekah Rempel**, a Dawson Creek writer who has many publishing credits to her name in both traditional literary journals and in literary anthologies. “Most writers will agree that submitting to literary journals, magazines, and traditional publishers can be frustrating and discouraging—so why bother at all?” Rebekah will discuss the various rewards, incentives, and opportunities that go along with the challenges of traditional publishing. She will also provide an overview of the process for those who are new to the publishing world and are interested in starting to submit their own work. These steps will include preparing your work for publication, selecting journals or publishers that are a good fit for your work, submitting your work, and dealing with acceptance or rejection.

Time will be given after each presentation for questions from the audience.

NORTH

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

12 pm – 1 pm / KPAC Theatre
Lunch (included in ticket price)

1 pm – 2 pm / KPAC Theatre
Presenter: Clea Roberts
Speaking the Unspeakable



What does it mean to “speak the unspeakable”? How do we articulate a life-changing time or event (and the associated joy or grief) when words are not adequate? How do we access the truth that the unspeakable contains and how does this access change us? In her book, *Auguries*, **Clea Roberts** writes about the decade in which she became a mother and lost a mother. Clea will speak about this time in her life, and how attempting to speak the unspeakable influenced her writing. Join her to explore how the reading and writing of poetry can plumb our depths and help us to navigate our own unique psychological landscape to arrive at a place of greater understanding and connection.

WORDS

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

2 pm – 3 pm / KPAC Theatre

Presenter: Jeanette Lynes

***Getting Back to the Heartland, Re-Obsessing, the
Anti-Twitter Talk***



Has social media kidnapped your writing practice? Do you look up a word in your thesaurus and find yourself on Facebook? Have you become a hash tag? Have you been counting 'followers' instead of words? Are you distracted and having trouble concentrating? If so, you're not alone. While this presentation fully acknowledges the importance of the promotion and marketing side of writing and publishing, there are times when we as writers need to power off, and return to the heartland – craft. Writing is a meditative art. It demands a level of obsession, an inward-looking stance. This presentation will offer some tips on how to go back home, to the things that matter: the words, the sentences, the lines of poetry, the turns of story. More than ever our attention is compromised; how do we stay true to what really matters? Discussion and lively debates will be encouraged.

NORTH

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

3 pm – 4 pm / KPAC Theatre

**Presenters: Rob Brown and Matt Preprost, moderated by
Judy Kucharuk
*Stop the Presses***



Rob Brown



Matt Preprost



Judy Kucharuk

Do newspapers have a future? It depends on who you ask, but a pair of Peace region ink-slingers will say the business of selling stories is alive and well. With more than 30 years of newspaper experience between them, Matt Preprost, editor of the Alaska Highway News, and Rob Brown, editor of the Dawson Creek Mirror, will share stories of humour and horror and will provide insights to writers who wish to join the conversations in their respective pages. Stop the Presses will be interactive, taking in questions from columnist and session moderator Judy Kucharuk, as well as from the audience.

WORDS

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

4 pm – 6 pm
Dinner Break

6 pm – 6:45 pm / Bin Top, Dawson Creek Art Gallery
Presenters: Rob Brown and Matt Preprost
Table Reading



Rob Brown



Matt Preprost

Join Rob Brown and Matt Preprost in the Bin Top of the Dawson Creek Art Gallery for an interactive table talk on the creation of a sci-fi film script and pitch concept.

NORTH

*Friday September 28
(Ticket Holders Only)*

7 pm – 10 pm / Dawson Creek Art Gallery

Feature Reading by Clea Roberts



Followed by performances by regional poets and songwriters.



Eileen Bassett

CC Brooks

Iyan Bruvold



Theresa Gladue



Tracy Krauss



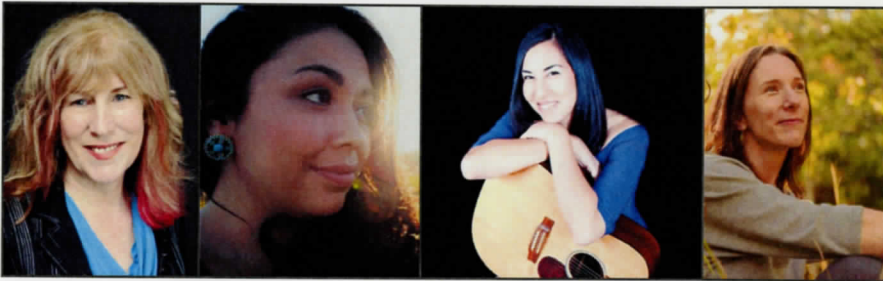
Judy Kucharuk

WORDS

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

9 am – 10 am / KPAC Theatre
Continental Breakfast (included in ticket price)

10 am – 11 am / KPAC Theatre
Writing to Engage Community
Panel Discussion with Feature Writers



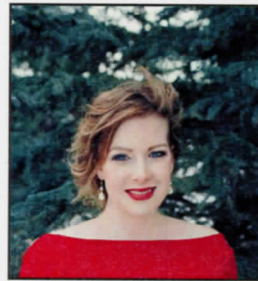
Jeanette Lynes Helen Knott Jasmine Netsena Clea Roberts

In this moderated panel discussion, our feature writers will discuss how their use of subjects ranging from grief to activism work to engage community.

NORTH

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

11 am – 12 pm / KPAC Theatre
The Poetic Line
Presenter: Rebekah Rempel



The line is one of the defining characteristics of poetry. Many elements help to shape and control the poetic line, but the line break is perhaps the most crucial. Line breaks have the potential to transform the reader's experience of a poem, as well as the poem's overall meaning, so every line break should be a conscious choice made by the writer. From controlling the pacing of the poem, to enhancing the emotion of the speaker, to creating double meanings, line breaks are exciting and versatile tools in poetry. This workshop will explore various line-break techniques and their impact on the poem.

12 pm – 1 pm / KPAC Theatre
Lunch (included in ticket price)

WORDS

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

12 pm—1 pm / KPAC Theatre

Note: this will be an informal lunch hour session taking place at Jenna's table in the theatre.

Twitter Pitch Party!

Presenter: Jenna Morland



There are many ways to reach agents and publishers, but have you tried a Twitter pitch party? That's how YA author Jenna Morland's most recent manuscript, *Empress Unveiled*, was picked up by Oftomes Publishing. In this noon hour table presentation, Jenna will explain the twitter pitch party and provide insights on how to craft your own one tweet pitch to pique the interest of agents and publishers. Jenna will also share her thoughts on which agents to follow, which pitch parties to enter and how to create an engaged community of readers through social media marketing and "building your brand." Learn all of this and more from someone who grew their social media following from 0 to 17,000 in just one year!

NORTH

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

1 pm – 2 pm / KPAC Theatre
Show and Tell with Songs

Presenters: Iyan Bruvold and Naomi Shore



In this presentation, Iyan and Naomi will share a few of their original songs, taking participants from first inspirations through to the process of writing the songs and, finally, to performing them. A question and answer period will follow.

WORDS

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

2 pm – 3 pm / KPAC Theatre
From Hard Lines to Heart Lines
Presenter: Helen Knott



Writing uncomfortable truths that make people squirm in their seats is never the ultimate dream of writers. Hard lines are words written from the crossroads of injustices and oppression that often provide insight and build understanding. Heart lines are words that have evolved from human experiences that are emotionally charged with "the feels." Often hard lines and heart lines are intertwined and can be utilized to not only provide powerful social commentary, but to deepen our abilities to connect to each other as human beings. Helen will discuss how she has used writing to heal from oppression and to illuminate social injustices. Discover the power that is in the uncomfortable and often avoided hard and heart spaces.

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*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

3 pm – 4 pm / KPAC Theatre
Writing as Ceremony
Presenter: Jasmine Netsena



What helps you to find your writing flow? How does routine and ritual help us write? Some writers go for a drive or a walk. Some ski. Sometimes a simple "change of scene" can get your writing juices flowing. Where does motion and writing meet? Join Jasmine in this discussion around writing, ritual and movement. Participants will also engage in some writing exercises, so don't forget your notebook and pen (as if you would:)).

WORDS

*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

4 pm – 5 pm

Songwriting – Down to Earth and Personal

Presenter: Peace Songwriters



A panel of local songwriters will draw upon their skills, experience, and knowledge to answer questions posed by workshop attendees. From finding your inspiration to registering with SOCAN, you will get answers, guidance, advice, and support from members of the Peace Songwriters, a group that has been mentoring and supporting local songwriters/musicians for nearly 20 years.

5 pm – 7 pm

Dinner Break

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*Saturday September 29
(Ticket Holders Only)*

7 pm – 10 pm / KPAC Theatre

The night will begin with readings by regional writers.



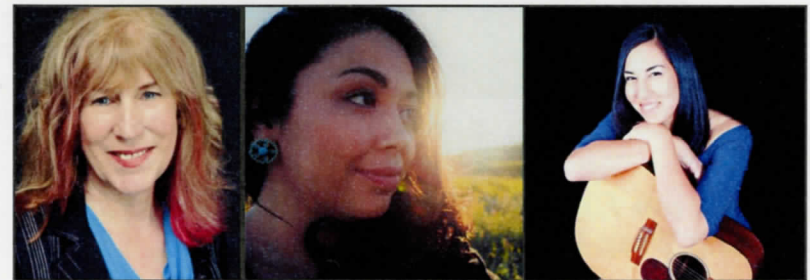
M. Belak

B. Neil

R. Rempel

D. Mattson

**Followed by feature writer Jeanette Lynes
and a collaborative performance by feature writers
Helen Knott and Jasmine Netsena.**



J. Lynes

H. Knott

J. Netsena

WORDS

Sunday September 30th
(free to all community members)

10 am – 12 pm / Dawson Creek Public Library
Student Reading Emceed by Jeanette Lynes,
Coordinator of the MFA Program in Creative Writing at
the University of Saskatchewan.



A. Crandall

Z. Ernst

E. Van Oort

12 pm – 1 pm / Dawson Creek Public Library
Lunch and Wrap-Up of Festival

NORTH

Meet the Writers

Eileen Bassett was born in Colorado, but has lived in Dawson Creek for many years. She married Richard Bassett when she was 17 and continues to live on the farm they created. When Richard required home dialysis, Eileen served as his primary caretaker. During those years, Eileen began a memoir. While working on the memoir, Eileen also wrote short stories. In 2008, the Edmonton Journal published one of those, titled "The Last Ride." The story remained on the Edmonton Journal's website for six weeks during the time in which Edmonton played host to the Canadian Finals Rodeo. Eileen entered the 77th Annual Writers Digest Competition with a short story in the Inspirational Writing Category, titled "The Seventh Commandment." The competition attracted over 17,000 entries, and her short story was awarded an Honorable Mention, placing her story in the top 100 stories submitted. The editor wrote, "Your success in the face of such formidable competition speaks highly of your writing talent, and should be a source of great pride as you continue in your writing career." Eileen draws much courage from that sentence as she continues writing her memoir. When her husband passed away in 2013, she found that she couldn't write at all, and only recently feels that she can return to her memoir, which will have a much different ending than first planned. Eileen will read from her work on Friday night at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery starting at 7 pm.

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Marilyn Belak lives in Dawson Creek. She has participated in the Moberly Lake Writing Retreats, Sage Hill Writing Experience, Banff Centre Wired Writing, The Vancouver Manuscript Intensive, MK Artists Camp and Enlichenment, Enlivenment & the Poetics of Place. Marilyn is published in Canadian literary journals including *The Malahat Review*, *The Antigonish Review* and *Northword*. Her work appears in the anthologies *The Enpipe Line – 70,000 kms of poetry written in resistance*, *Unfurled – Collected Poetry from Northern BC Women* and *Boobs – Women Explore What It Means to Have Breasts*. She has been featured online including in *Pandora's Collective*, *Treeline* and *Leaf Press Monday's Poem*. Marilyn will read from her work on Saturday evening at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Dori Braun is a singer/songwriter from the Dawson Creek area. She is a founding member of Peace Songwriters. She writes and sings about life's transitions and relationships intermixed with imagery of the Peace River Area's seasons and weather. Dori has always been a strong advocate of human rights, and her songs reflect her concerns of equality and fairness for all. Alongside her music, Dori is also a potter/ sculptor and has taught ceramics since the 1980's. She currently resides in Beaverlodge Alberta where she runs her own ceramic studio. Dori will be performing Thursday night with the Peace Songwriters.

Born Craig Cameron Brooks in Fort St. John B.C. on September 22nd. **C.C. Brooks** was immersed into the music world by his parents at the early age of seven. He toured extensively across Canada in the band Simon Kaos from the time he graduated until the late 90's when he returned to the Peace Country to raise his two children. Drawing inspiration from the likes of Bruce Springsteen, John Cougar, Kris Kristofferson and Lyle Lovette, his passion for songwriting and performing is evident with every note that he plays and sings on stage, bringing a vibrant intensity to each show with the help of a group of talented individuals known as *The Roadside Distractions*. Early in 2013 C.C. teamed up with award winning producer John Ellis (Ridley Bent, Doc Walker, Aaron Prichette, Tara Oram) to record his first solo effort . He continues to write and spends his time in his hometown of Fort. St. John and his new home in Nashville Tennessee where he performs live at writing "rounds" whenever time allows. Craig will perform his original music on Friday starting at 7 pm at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

James Brooks is a unique bass guitarist and songwriter living in the Peace region. Deeply rooted in both country and rock, his songs express the strong emotions of love, loss and the determination of relationships. Years of performing, in all genres of music, has inspired his rhythmic bass playing style. His rich vocals, often accompanied by his wife Kathy, leaves audiences hooked and humming along. At Words North. James will be performing as part of the Peace Songwriters Coffeehouse Thursday evening at 8 pm.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Since 2001, **Rob Brown** has received more than 20 AUNA, MCNA, CCNA, BNA, and other writing, photography, and media awards. He is part of an exclusive club with more than 10,000 news stories filed, for daily/weekly print products in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC. He's written 25-ish plays for the stage having roughly 10 produced thus far. He's a 2005 Alberta Centennial citizen of the year, and northern BC's 2017 culture ambassador. He has been writing daily since 1993. Thousands of poems. Rob will take part in *Stop the Presses* at 3 pm at KPAC and in the *Script Table Reading* at 6 pm at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, both on Friday.

"The process of song writing started after I bared my soul singing a song I wrote to a band member," says **Iyan Bruvold**. "He endorsed what he heard, and we started a band playing the songs we had until we disbanded in 1999. Since 2003, I felt the need to start a band which we did and because of that acquired the name Folky Strum Strum which I have toured with until now. Writing is an integral way of expression and I view it as necessary as the music itself when I listen and hear a song." Iyan will be presenting *Show and Tell with Songs* with Naomi Shore on Saturday at 1 pm at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. Iyan will also be showcasing his songs on Friday night at 7 pm at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

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Amy Crandall is a seventeen-year-old avid reader and novelist born and raised in British Columbia, Canada. She began writing in elementary school, publishing her first story on Wattpad.com at the age of 13. With the support of her loved ones and newfound friends on the site, Amy continued to share her thoughts and interests in the form of storytelling. Before her Wattpad.com days, she was published in *A Celebration of Poets – Summer 2012* (Creative Communication, 2012) for her poem "My Garden." That experience only drove her desire to further pursue writing. Her first full-length novel, *Delusions*, was a featured story on Wattpad.com, reaching #7 in the mystery/thriller genre, and surpassing 115,000 reads before it was published in 2018. When she isn't envisioning a new story plot, Amy can be found camping with loved ones, getting lost in a great read, jamming to her favourite tunes, or giving in to her craving of Timmies' iced lemonades. Amy will be reading at the Student Reading on Sunday starting at 10 am at the Dawson Creek Public Library.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

“From a young age I was always playing pretend with friends, pretending we were magical princesses or playing barbies,” says **Zoe Ernst**. “As I grew older, pretend play got me into reading and role playing online with people all over the world. My favourite literature has always been fantasy and mythology. My mind is filled with different, partly formed, stories. A couple years ago I started writing fan fiction for the many different fandoms I am in, but I never managed to find the motivation to finish them. This eventually moved me to write original stories. Most of the time I write fiction that is based off of real life with a few twists, but for short stories I use prompts I find online. One thing I always try to work into my stories, if I can, is a meaning. In fact, if I can, I work a meaning into all the stories.” Zoe will read from her work at the Student Reading on Sunday at the Dawson Creek Public Library beginning at 10 am.

Wayne Ezeard is a published author and poet, a performing songwriter with three CDs and two DVDs. Wayne wrote a weekly article for the local newspaper in the early 1990s and hosts a radio show on Peace FM every Saturday night. He and his wife Helen have lived in the Peace Country for many years. Much of Wayne’s inspiration has come from the area and the many different characters he has met along the way. At Words North, Wayne will be performing as part of the Peace Songwriters Coffeehouse Thursday evening at 8 pm.

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Fellers Heights Toast ‘n KD (FHTNKD) combines the soulful, torch burning vocal stylings and multi-instrumental talents of Northern B.C native Jodi Abel with the east coast feel of guitarist Troy Rushton to form a duet that explores various genres of music, writing original music and performing cover tunes in their own unique way with a healthy dose of foolishness and humor. At Words North, FHTNKD will be performing as part of the Peace Songwriters Coffeehouse Thursday evening at 8 pm.

Patrick D. Ferris is an author of five novels including the romance/cycling series *Gypsies* featuring the enduring and patient character, Giselle Barnett. His latest *Disciples* series features character Terry Reid investigating murder in a politically charged futuristic America. An avid cyclist, Ferris worked the oil fields before returning to his first love—a local bike shop. He lives in the wilds of northern B.C. with his wife Patricia and Kirby the Wonder Dog. At Words North, Pat will be sharing his knowledge as part of the Publishing Presentation Friday at 10 am at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Inspired by early French-Canadian folk melodies and French ballads her mother sang in her beautiful soprano voice, **Denise Gardiner** has been making up stories and songs since she was very little. In the Maritimes, there was music everywhere and she still has fond memories of Aunt Marthe's kitchen parties in her ancient farmhouse. Many evenings also included story telling and reciting poetry. Denise's father had an extensive memorized repertoire of poems. Kids were encouraged to participate and there was often healthy competition between siblings and cousins. Then, from the age of seven, Denise immersed herself in classical Romantic music. Today, it still influences her melody crafting. Mother Nature and family and community activities are also a never-ending source of inspiration both for the music and the written words. Denise is on a journey, all absorbing, never ending, with no boring moments where every success and failure hopefully leads her up higher, closer to excellence, and if she can touch the listener's soul and awaken emotion, she considers it "work well done." Denise will be performing Thursday night with the Peace Songwriters.

NORTH

Theresa Gladue is an outstanding member of the Dawson Creek community and an important advocate for Indigenous people in the area. She has been awarded many distinctions — she was the first Indigenous person to receive Dawson Creek's Citizen of the Year and the first Indigenous Councillor for the City of Dawson Creek. Co-founder of the Aboriginal Women's Awareness Resource Society and founder of Ōma Productions (a group that brings together all community members who share an interest in providing entertainment through the arts), her success in recruiting, retaining and rewarding volunteers has greatly enhanced arts and culture in the community. Theresa's extraordinary ability to mobilize and inspire dedication from community members is evident in everything she does. Theresa has played an instrumental role in helping the community to better understand racism and other important social issues. Theresa is also a well known playwright and producer of plays and concerts which address cultural diversity. She created a drumming song for the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council's 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway Theme Song CD. At Words North she will provide the Welcome and will read from her work on Friday night at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Helen Knott is a Dane-zaa and Nehiyawak writer, spoken word poet, and advocate from the Prophet River First Nations living in Fort St. John, BC. Currently completing a Masters in First Nations Studies at UNBC, Helen was recently named one of 16 Nobel laureate-honoured world activists and one of 150 Indigenous Canadian artists honored with the Hnyatyshyn Foundation REVEAL Indigenous Art Award. She has published short stories and poetry in the *Malahat Review*, *Red Rising Magazine*, *CBC Arts*, the *Surviving Canada* anthology, alongside many other publications and poetry video productions. Helen has forthcoming academic pieces that focus on connecting violence against Indigenous lands and bodies. Her first book is a memoir that weaves in poetry entitled, *In My Own Moccasins Now*, to be released in Fall 2019 by the University of Regina Press. At Words North, Helen will be taking part in the panel discussion, *Writing to Engage Community* at 10 am, giving a presentation, *From Hard Lines to Heart Lines*, at 2 pm and a collaborative performance with Jasmine Netsena at 7 pm, all on Saturday at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Tracy Krauss is a multi-published novelist, playwright, and artist with several award winning and best selling novels, stage plays, devotionals and children's books in print. Her work strikes a chord with those looking for thought provoking faith based fiction laced with romance, suspense and humor – no sugar added. She holds a B.Ed from the U of S and has lived in many remote and interesting places in Canada's far north. She and her husband currently reside in beautiful BC where she continues to pursue all of her creative interests. At Words North, Tracy will be sharing her knowledge as part of the Publishing Presentation Friday at 10 am at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. She will also be reading from her work Friday evening at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

NORTH

Judy Kucharuk is a published nonfiction author, as well as a weekly columnist for the Dawson Creek Mirror and the Alaska Highway News. Every week she submits her column from *The Desk of the Green-Eyed Girl* and tackles subjects from family life to politics and beyond – sharing her perspective and voice. Judy's first book, *Naked Tuesday*, was released in 2016 and has been described as “a tender and wickedly funny book that grapples with addiction, depression, aging and everything else life throws our way.” Kucharuk is currently finishing her second book, *Lowered Expectations*. This newest work of creative nonfiction will contain the same signature self-deprecating whimsy and biting satire as *Naked Tuesday* and Kucharuk hopes that it will be just as relatable to her readers. Judy is also an accomplished TEDx Speaker and an on-air columnist for CBC Radio Daybreak North. Judy will be serving as moderator at Words North for *Stop the Presses* which takes place at 3 pm Friday at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre and reading that evening at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

For **Jeannie Lindgren**, writing is a compulsion. Once a poem or essay begins in her mind it will not leave her alone until she acknowledges it and records it somehow. And so it is that she writes. She is privileged to be part of a small local writers group that keeps her inspired and motivated. She is delighted to be part of the Songwriter's Coffee House on Thursday night.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Jeanette Lynes' second novel, *The Small Things That End The World*, was just released by Coteau Books. Her first novel, *The Factory Voice*, was long-listed for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize and a ReLit Award. Jeanette is also the author of seven books of poetry; her most recent collection, *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems*, received the 2016 Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award. Her poetry recently appeared in *The Anti-Languorous Project* and *Forget Magazine*. Jeanette directs the MFA in Writing at the University of Saskatchewan. At Words North, Jeanette will present *Getting Back to the Heartland, Re-Obsessing, the Anti-Twitter Talk* at 2 pm on Friday, taking part in the panel discussion, *Writing to Engage Community*, at 10 am on Saturday and reading from her work that evening, all at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre. Jeanette will also emcee the student reading on Sunday at 10 am at the Dawson Creek Public Library.

Dean Mattson is a mixed media artist, poet, painter, cartoonist, songwriter, and vocalist. Dean will read from his work Saturday evening at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Dave McGowan has been a cowboy, forest fire fighter, heavy equipment operator, farmhand, gardener, road musician and businessman. He has lived in several areas in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario and played music in several areas throughout North America. He and Karen are the proud seniors to four children and eight grand-children. He now writes and works as a commercial driver in Northern British Columbia.

NORTH

Brenda McQueen Neil has dabbled with writing for years—since grade three to be exact—but has only just recently been able to devote time to a manuscript. At present, she is shopping *Knife*, her first suspense novel, through the glacially-paced traditional publishing world. She is a grandma of 11 (or 12, depending on when you read this). Brenda will be reading Saturday night at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Jenna Morland is the author of the just released *Empress Unveiled* published by Oftomes Publishing. She is a Canadian born author and mother of two who lives under the Northern Lights. Slytherin to the core, Jenna's ambition to write her debut novel happened somewhere between training for a triathlon and putting her kids to bed. But it was her determination to follow through that landed her a publishing deal. Growing up, her wild imagination thrived off of reading and her most desired hobby was to let a book completely consume her. Unlike many writers, Jenna never wrote in a diary. She dreaded English class and she never dreamt that one day she would write a novel. Until she did. At Words North Jenna will present the Saturday noon hour table presentation *Twitter Pitch Party!* at her table in the KPAC Theatre.

Barb Munro is a Canadian Singer/ Songwriter from Northern B.C. Music is a long time passion for Barb. Her music style comes with a Folksy/Country edge to it. Throughout Barb's career she has performed across the country and has been featured on CBC TV and radio. The title of her most recent CD is *Father's Daughter*. Barb's original song "97th Regiment" was chosen for the 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway compilation CD. At Words North, Barb will be performing as part of the Peace Songwriters Coffeehouse Thursday evening at 8 pm.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Music is **Jasmine Netsena's** first language. From the age of five, the award-winning singer-songwriter, who is of the Dene and Tahltan Nations, learned to sing from her grandmothers in their Indigenous languages. Classical voice training only strengthened that bedrock, and now, Jasmine has been honing her songwriting and guitar skills for close to 15 years. Jasmine released her debut album, *Take You With Me*, in 2014. For her second record, she uses her voice to uncover long-buried issues. The daughter of a residential school survivor, Jasmine wants to use music to add to the dialogue of intergenerational healing. Jasmine has charmed audiences in New York City, Nashville and across Canada. She is the first recipient of the 2018 Socan Indigenous Songwriter Award. In 2014, the Fort Nelson, B.C. resident won Best Folk/Acoustic Album in the Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Awards and was nominated for Indigenous Songwriter of the Year at the Canadian Folk Music Awards. She's been featured on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network show *Rising Stars*, and in 2012, she performed at the Grand Ole Northern Opry with Grammy Award winner Laurie Lewis. You can learn more about her and listen to her music at www.jasminenetsena.com. At Words North, Jasmine will take part in the panel discussion, *Writing to Engage Community* at 10 am, giving a presentation, *Writing as Ceremony*, at 3 pm and taking part in a collaborative performance with Helen Knott at 7 pm, all on Saturday, all at KPAC.

NORTH

Matt Preprost is an award-winning editor and reporter from Winnipeg, where he began his career at the Winnipeg Free Press in 2008. He joined the Alaska Highway News in 2013, and was appointed editor in 2015. He was most recently recognized by the BC & Yukon Community Newspaper Association with a bronze for newspaper excellence and silver for editorial writing. Matt will take part in *Stop the Presses* at 3 pm at KPAC and in the *Script Table Reading* at 6 pm at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery, both on Friday.

Ronnie Pelletier is an indie author, editor, speaker and publisher living in Fort St. John. She writes and publishes her own books under two pen names — romance and non-fiction under Ronnie Roberts and Science Fiction under R.R. Roberts. Ronnie also freelances as a plot doctor and editor. Ronnie has been writing her whole life, winning her first writing award in third grade for a play about sending all the elderly to live on the moon, which, as it turned out, was a huge mistake, as they took much of the world's wisdom with them. After receiving the homemade wooden plaque one of her classmate's father had made, there was no going back. Ronnie went the traditional route in the nineties, discovered indie publishing in 2013 and hasn't looked back. She divides her time between two homes—one beside a golf course (she does not golf!) and the other an off-the-grid cabin in the woods. In the fall of each year, she returns to civilization with a freshly written book under her arm only to be totally flummoxed by what has occurred in the world in her absence. Ronnie will be sharing her knowledge as part of the Publishing Presentation Friday at 10 am at KPAC.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Rebekah Rempel studied creative writing at the University of Victoria. Her poems have appeared in the anthologies *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific* (Caitlin Press), *Force Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia* (Mother Tongue Publishing), and *Unfurled: Collected Poetry from Northern BC Women* (Caitlin Press), as well as various journals, including *Room Magazine*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Lake*. She lives in Pouce Coupe with her husband and son. At Words North, Rebekah will be taking part in the Publishing Presentation Friday at 10 am, giving a workshop titled *The Poetic Line* on Saturday at 10 am and reading from her work Saturday night, all at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Clea Roberts was born in North Vancouver, British Columbia, but Whitehorse has been her home for the past 15 years. Her debut collection of poems, *Here Is Where We Disembark*, (Freehand Books, 2010) was a finalist for the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Award for best first book of poetry in Canada, was nominated for the ReLit Award and was published in German (Edition Rugerup, 2013) and Japanese (Shichosha 2017). Clea's poems have been published in journals and anthologies in Canada, Europe, the United States and Australia. She has received fellowships from the Canada Council for the Arts, Vermont Studio Centre, the Atlantic Centre for the Arts, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity and is a five-time recipient of the Yukon Government Advanced Artist Award. Clea facilitates a workshop on poetry and grief through Hospice Yukon and was the Artistic Director of the Kicksled Reading Series. *Auguries*, her second collection of poetry, was published by Brick Books in Spring 2017. At Words North, Clea will present *Speaking the Unspeakable* at 1 pm on Friday, taking part in the panel discussion, *Writing to Engage Community*, at 10 am on Saturday and reading from her work Friday evening at the Dawson Creek Art Gallery.

NORTH

Naomi Shore is a folk/roots artist from Northern BC, a lover of storytelling and sad songs. Her song writing is honest, vulnerable and relatable. Her debut solo album, *Piece by Piece*, will be released in early 2019. With her duo project, Twin Peaks, Naomi has had the good fortune of touring most of Canada as well as the East Coast of Australia. In 2015 Twin Peaks was awarded the Western Canadian Music Award for Roots Duo/ Group Recording of the Year for their album *Trouble*. Naomi will present *Show and Tell with Songs* with Iyan Bruvold on Saturday at 1 pm at the Kiwanis Performing Arts Centre.

Ian Smith is a Chetwynd-based guitarist who dreams of travelling around the world with a motorcycle strapped to his guitar. So far, Canada and New Zealand are checked off the list - who knows which country will be next? Mainly an acoustic guitarist by choice, Ian refuses to be intimidated by electricity. His tastes in tunes run the gamut from pop to country, jazz to rock and pretty well anything you can imagine (although he tends to suffer from metal fatigue at times). Always listening for the big notes and the spaces between them, Ian believes that timing is everything. Ian will be performing Thursday night with the Peace Songwriters.

WORDS

Meet the Writers

Bill Studley was born and raised in the Peace River country. He has played in numerous country bands over the years. Bill plays guitar and is a songwriter, a poet, and is currently writing a novel. He plays solo or with his partner, Linda Connell Studley. Bill is also a sound and recording engineer and produced the couple's Christmas CD, which includes many original and cowritten songs. Bill is the president of the Peace Songwriters and has been a part of that group for over two decades and will perform with them Thursday evening.

Linda Connell Studley is a Canadian musician, songwriter, vocalist, performer, and artist who plays guitar, bodhran (Irish drum), and bass. Linda's repertoire includes original and cover music in the folk, jazz, country and easy listening genres. As a director of the Peace Region Songwriters' Association for over 20 years, she has hosted and facilitated songwriters' workshops and songwriters' circles. Linda has written theme songs for special events, AIDS Awareness, and other charitable causes and educational programs. You can hear or purchase Linda's music on her website at lindaconnellstudley.com Linda is also a poet and has released a book of poetry titled "Falling Awake". She posts poetry on her writing blog at lindastudley.com Linda will perform Thursday night with the Peace Songwriters.

NORTH

"Hi, I'm **Emmerson Van Oort**. I'm 13 years old this year and have an older sister of 14. I enjoy a peaceful life in the center of Dawson Creek with both of my parents and my sister. Things I like to do would be reading (a lot), math, strategy games, work (I'm too young to hate it), and, obviously, writing. Currently, I'm writing on an app called Wattpad. I prefer to write historical fiction with a mix of fantasy over anything else. Actually, this is my first book, so I've never written anything else. My book is called *The Royal Search*. The description of the book is "Princess Makenna has run away to seek out her mother's killer Mak, aka the mysterious mercenary. As Makenna finds her way through an underground city amidst the trials of love and the piercing feeling of loss, she must find a way to conceal her identity, her true feelings, and this new power within." Quite the mouthful, right? So far, I have 203 reads, with readers from Iraq, Zimbabwe, United States, and Canada. I'm doing a competition and the results are due any day now." Emmerson will be reading at the Student Reading on Sunday September 30th starting at 10 am at the Dawson Creek Public Library.

WORDS

Meet the Poems that Inspired the Words North Art Exhibit

Helen Knott

So maybe the house collapsed, maybe the tree fell down
Maybe the cycle is stuck on repeat and the dog ran away
But maybe things had to fall apart
So you could build something new
Cause no one rebuilds the foundation if it doesn't come unglued
Maybe the endings are beginnings
And you are right where you are meant to be
So take some power, some light and love
And grow something
Remember
They tried to bury us and did not know we were seeds

Jeanette Lynes

Alone with Walton's The Compleat Angler

(from *Bedlam Cowslip: The John Clare Poems*, Wolsak & Wynn, 2015)

Paper! But now too trouble-tethered
to scribble one stanza. Waited for a southern
wind just as Walton advised, still
nothing. The angle wrong.
Words are trout in night-time, deep-pooled,
hearing but biting not.
The finest canker flies, stone flies or moor flies
fail to lure them to the surface.
Trout seek lusty lives
far from my perusing pencil. And I
an honest poet, incomplete, swarmed
by silent blue. I do not ask so very much—
Only to send forth a rallying cry—
A fish! A fish
A poem! A poem!

NORTH

Poems that Inspired the Words North Art Exhibit Cont'd

Clea Roberts

How We Wake Somewhere Different

(from *Auguries*, Brick Books, 2017)

There is nothing lighter than the touch
that awakens. Morning brought a child

to my bedside. Fingertips touching my cheek—
I did not ask for this blessing.

Is it love or bright dust
that we breathe? It will take the shape

of anything, furring it with light.

WORDS

Contributing Artists to the Words North Art Exhibit

1. *Kristy Auger (Fort St. John)*
2. *Crystal Behn-Dettieh (Fort Nelson)*
3. *Kit Fast (Dawson Creek)*
4. *Fran Haughian (Dawson Creek)*
5. *Leslie Leong (Whitehorse)*
6. *Tabitha Logan (Dawson Creek)*
7. *Margaret Mabiuis (Chetwynd)*
8. *Mary Mottishaw (Dawson Creek)*
9. *Cindy Ravelli (Dawson Creek)*
10. *Kim Slack (Chetwynd)*
11. *Dora Van Rensburg (Fort St. John)*

NORTH

About the PLRAC

Since its inception in 1989, the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) has been a solid organization with a mandate to broaden opportunities for the development of and networking in arts, culture and heritage for the people of northeast BC. Through coordinated and firsthand communication, sharing of resources, sponsorship of regional events, and the administration of several regional programs (of which Words North is one), the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council carries out its mission to support the diverse northern heritage and the significant cultures that exist within the regions of the Peace River and Northern Rockies.

To find out more about the Peace Liard Regional Arts Council visit www.peaceliardarts.org.

While there, be sure to sign up for our monthly newsletter to keep up to date on all the exciting activities and events to come!



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The PLRAC thanks all of the writers who are a part of Words North 2018.



WORDS NORTH



HELEN KNOTT

JEANETTE LYNES

CLEA ROBERTS

JASMINE NETSENA

A WRITING CELEBRATION!

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