

Wild Words
NORTH

Art Exhibit Call to Entry

Proudly Hosted By



PEACE LIARD
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Kym Gouchie

Purple Fingers

Train whistle blowing loud
rain starts to fall
On this heart of mine / On this heart of mine
Full moon rising high across the northern sky
Stars shine bright / Stars shine bright
The salmon are running now
fish camps set up on the shore
River flows by / River flows by
Huckleberry picking time
buckets sit full on the ground
Purple fingers / Purple fingers
Winter is coming soon
leaves start to fall
Around me / Around me

Billy-Ray Belcourt

Love is a Moontime Teaching

(from *The Wound is a World: Poems*, Frontenac Press, 2017)
Love is a moontime teaching
is your kookum's crooked smile when you pick up
the phone
is another word for body
body is another word for campfire smoke
campfire smoke is the smell he leaves behind in your
bed sheets
after the breakup
the word for hate sex is forest
forest sometimes means hope or lonely (depends on
who you ask)
lonely is a movie called *taxi zum klo* about white gay
men
who risk tiptoeing through desire's
minefields for ten minutes of something better than
living
living is going to bingo to pay the bills after you quit
your job
that barely paid the bills
paying the bills is sometimes a metaphor for cancer
cancer is a diagnosis handed down to an 18-year-old
girl from the rez
the rez is another word for body
the body is a myth
is the only good news the doctor gives you when

(*Love is a Moontime Teaching Cont'd*)

your cells run amok
amok is the border that the skin doesn't remember
how to secure
anymore
anymore is the feeling you get when a police officer
pulls you over
because he thinks you're driving a stolen vehicle
a stolen vehicle is the nickname you give to love
love is the nickname you give to the hole in the wall
from that time
your cousin's boyfriend punched it
a hole in the wall is what you call the present and
the labour it takes
to survive

Erin Moure

Purpose
(from *The Elements*, House of Anansi, 2019)

To draw text as one draws water from the zone
beneath the house.

To articulate all the texts of a life, as they arise.
Not separating them into poems and essays.

Creating spaces for words on pages as if they were
walks or
benches.

Drinking coffee.

Drinking another coffee.
Sun on the wall. Just
sun.



Wild Words North will take place from September 26-29, 2019. Along with the Wild 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.



Our five feature writers for 2019 include the amazing Billy-Ray Belcourt, Kym Gouchie, Erin Moure, Jillian Ridington and Richard Van Camp plus *This Was Our Valley* author Shirlee Smith Matheson and many regional writers of all disciplines. Visit our website www.peaceliardarts.org for all the details and ongoing updates.

**About the
Peace Liard Regional Arts Council**

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 Wild Words North feature writers Billy-Ray Belcourt, Kym Gouchie, and Erin Moure)
- Work can be inspired by one or a combination of provided work
- All mediums, sizes, and forms of work will be accepted
- Open to all artists
- 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 Peace Gallery North 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 Peace Gallery North will retain a 35% 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 9, 2019

Registration forms are available online at
www.peaceliardarts.org

DELIVERY OF ARTWORK DEADLINE:

Friday September 21, 2019

Work can be delivered in person to Peace Gallery North in Fort St. John or mailed to Peace Gallery North 10015 100 Ave, Fort St John, BC V1J 1Y7

OPENING OF ART EXHIBIT

Thursday September 26, 2019

Peace Gallery North 7 pm



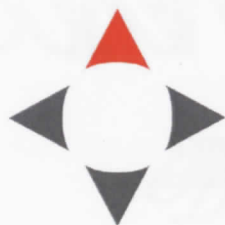
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



NGH Northern Grand Hotel

THE MIRROR

Alaska Highway News



Wild Words
NORTH

September 26-29, 2019

*North Peace Cultural Centre
Fort St. John, BC*



PEACE LIARD
REGIONAL ARTS COUNCIL

Wild Words

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

Welcome

The Peace Liard Regional Arts Council (PLRAC) welcomes you to the second Wild Words North Writing Festival and Art Exhibit.

From song writing to storytelling, from student writers to those who have been creating for decades, Wild 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.

We hope you enjoy the panel discussions, presentations, readings and performances along with the art exhibit featuring the work of visual artists who have created pieces inspired by some of this year's feature writers.

The PLRAC thanks its many sponsors, volunteers, and all the writers who have made the 2019 Wild Words North possible.

—*Donna Kane, Executive Director, PLRAC*

NORTH

Official Opening

*Thursday September 26
(Free Event)*

*4 pm – 7 pm / North Peace Cultural Centre (NPCC)
Ticket sales and registration—Multipurpose Room*

*7 pm – 8 pm / NPCC Peace Gallery North
Wild Words North Opening and Welcome
Doig River Drummers
Welcome by May Apsassin*

The official launch of the festival will begin with the opening of the art exhibit where visual artists from across the region have created work inspired by the words of some of our feature writers. The art exhibit will also include the launch of the Ekphrastic Writing Contest Prints with readings by contest winners **Marilyn Belak, Pamela den Ouden, Denise Gardiner, and Melanie Mason.**

*8 pm – 10 pm / NPCC Conference Room
Coffee House (hosted by Naomi Shore and Ryan Domico Sebastiano) with regional singer-songwriters Naomi Shore, Ryan Domico Sebastiano, Adam Winn, Airik Clark, Joseph Tebulte, Lorissa Scriven, Dori Braun, Ben Waechter.*

Wild Words

Friday September 27
North Peace Cultural Centre

10 am – 11 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Shirlee Smith Matheson—*This Was Our Valley*



First released in 1989, Shirlee Smith Matheson's *This Was Our Valley* won the Alberta Culture Nonfiction prize and a Silver medal for the Roderick-Haig Brown BC Book Award. Chronicling the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, Matheson's book brought to light the environmental and social changes wrought by the project. With the announcement of Site C, Matheson, in a new edition published in 2019, continues to register the voices that demand to be heard. In her presentation, Matheson will read from the book and answer questions from the audience.

11 am—11:30 am / NPCC Conference Room

Brenda Neil—*Thriving on Rejection*



Come listen to regional writer Brenda Neil as she enlightens us on constructive vs. destructive criticism, how to find a beta reader, how to trust your gut, the benefit of online classes, the pitfalls of online help and most importantly how to not take criticism personally!

NORTH

11:30 am—12 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Jenna Morland—*Building an Author Social Platform*



Last year, Jenna Morland shared her expertise on marketing one's writing with an informal group. People enjoyed it so much, she is back this year to share her knowledge with all audience members on how to build an author social platform. As someone who grew their social media following from 0 to 17,000 in just one year, she should know!

1 pm—2 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Jillian and Robin Ridington with special guest Shirley Acko-Howatt
Where Happiness Dwells: A History of the Dane-zaa First Nations



Published in 2013 by UBC Press, *Where Happiness Dwells* has become a seminal history of the Dane-zaa First Nations. At the request of the Doig River First Nations in the Peace River, celebrated anthropologists Robin and Jillian Ridington presented a history of the Dane-zaa people based on oral histories collected over a half century of fieldwork. Come hear Jillian and Robin, Professor Emeritus at UBC, talk about the book and their work with the Dane-zaa people. Jillian and Robin will be joined by Shirley Acko-Howatt, the youngest daughter of a Dane-Zaa family whose roots in the area go back for millennia.

Wild Words

2 pm—3 pm / NPCC Conference Room
Kym Gouchie—*Giving Back with Voice*



In this presentation, Kym, through music and storytelling, will encourage audience members to use their voices for whatever it is that they are passionate about when it comes to standing up for justice and for Mother Earth.

3 pm – 5 pm / NPCC Multi-Purpose Room
Social Meet and Greet
(Event is free. Refreshments / Cash Bar)

This is your chance to come out and chat with the writers featured at Wild Words North, to get to know others attending the festival, and to be entertained by **Dori Braun**.

7 pm – 10 pm / NPCC Conference Room
Evening of Words
Refreshments / Cash Bar

The evening will begin with readings by regional writers **Wayne Ezeard**, **Ovvia Castrillo** and **Brenda Neil** followed by feature writers **Billy-Ray Belcourt**, **Jillian** and **Robin Ridington** and special guest **Shirlee Smith Matheson**.



Shirlee Smith
Matheson



Jillian Ridington



Billy-Ray Belcourt

NORTH

Saturday September 28

9:30 am—10 am / NPCC Conference Room
Theresa Gladue—*Tell me a Story*



With her trademark warmth and great sense of humor, Theresa will engage participants in telling their stories through images. Come prepared to use your imagination and to be entertained. “This is such a powerful way of getting your story to others in a safe environment - for both the story teller and the listener.” - Theresa



Painting by Barbara Swail inspired by Erin Moure’s “Purpose”
Wild Words North Art Exhibit

Wild Words

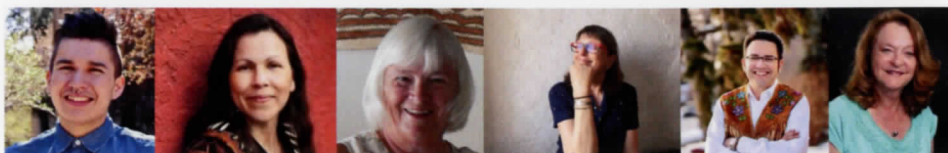
NORTH

10 am – 11 am / NPCC Conference Room

Panel Discussion: Histories, Presences, Places: How Can Regional History Best Be Transmitted to Future Generations, in our Communities and Elsewhere?

With Panelists Shirley Acko Howatt, Lillian Apsassin, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Kym Gouchie, Erin Moure, Jillian & Robin Ridington, Richard Van Camp and Shirlee Smith Matheson

First Nations history has been transmitted over centuries by elders, supported by traditional protocols around the telling of stories that ensure respect for ceremony, authenticity, and audience. More recently, some stories appear on First Nations internet sites, and in print, accessible to all. Family history books, for their part, have long played a popular role in settlers' and tourists' understanding of history along the Alaska Highway. These "pioneer" books very rarely accounted for any First Nations' view (or for the views of women or minorities), although more recently, some, such as *Century in the North Peace*, have invited a different approach. All these forms try to expand knowledge, celebrate community identity, and instill pride. The panelists — local Indigenous members, a poet, a storyteller, a poet-translator, and an anthropologist — will speak about how the tasks of history inform their own work in memoir, poetry, fiction, non-fiction and song writing. They'll share their ideas: How can we speak of histories, presences, and places in better ways in the future? What questions do we need to ask of history? What does history ask of us?



Belcourt Gouchie Ridington Moure Van Camp Matheson

11 am – 12 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Billy-Ray Belcourt – Notes on Poetry in the Canadian Context



In this presentation, Billy-Ray Belcourt will offer a series of meditations on "poetry" and "Canada" as hotly contested categories, drawing from anecdote, theory, and the poetry of racialized writers. He suggests we need a poetry that is against unfreedom and for a world-to-come imbued with Indigenous/queer possibility.

1 pm – 2 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Erin Moure – BRING PAPER. BRING ONE WORD. LET'S MAKE POETRY!



Have you ever wanted to try writing a poem? Or ever wanted to loosen up your old poetry writing habits by doing a strange exercise? Come and spend a fun hour working with Erin Moure to make poems from a very strange language and share the experience ... but you have to bring a word to contribute! And bring loose paper and pen.

2 pm – 3 pm / NPCC Conference Room

Viewing of Richard Van Camp's *Three Feathers*

Come see Richard Van Camp's film, *Three Feathers*, followed by a Q&A with Richard.



Wild Words

3 pm – 5 pm / NPCC Multi-Purpose Room

Social Meet and Greet

(Event is free. Refreshments / Cash Bar)

This is your chance to come out and chat with the writers featured at Wild Words North, to get to know others attending the festival, and to be entertained by **Adley and Shannon**.

7 pm – 10 pm / NPCC Theatre

Evening of Words

Refreshments / Cash Bar

The evening will begin with readings by regional writers **Theresa Gladue, Karl Mattson** and **Rebekah Rempel** followed by readings by feature writers **Erin Moure, Richard Van Camp** and a performance by **Kym Gouchie**.



NORTH

Sunday September 29th
(Free Event)

10 am – 12 pm / NPCC Multi-Purpose Room

Student Reading Emceed by Erin Moure with students **Ly Le, Mili Patel** and more.

12 pm – 1 pm / NPCC Multi-Purpose Room

Lunch and Wrap-Up of Festival



Wild Words

Meet the Writers

Marilyn Belak lives in Dawson Creek. Her poetry is published in literary magazines and online including *The Malahat Review*, and her work has appeared in anthologies such as *Enpipeline*, *Boobs and Unfurled*. She was recently a winner of the PLRAC's Ekphrastic Writing Contest.

Billy-Ray Belcourt is a writer and academic from the Driftpile Cree Nation. A Rhodes Scholar with a Masters from the University of Oxford and Wadham College, he is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Alberta. Billy-Ray's debut book of poems, *This Wound is a World* (Frontenac House 2017) the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize and the 2018 Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize and was also a finalist for the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry, the 2018 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award, and the 2018 Raymond Souster Award. Billy-Ray's second book, *NDN Coping Mechanisms: Notes from the Field*, is being released in September with House of Anansi Press, and his third book, *A History of my Brief Body*, is due out in May 2020 with Hamish Hamilton, an imprint of Penguin Canada.

Wayne Ezeard likes to describe himself as an entertainer, poet and writer who is constantly looking for ways to expand his horizons. Wayne currently has three CDs, one DVD, one book of poetry and prose, and another short novel in progress.

Denise Gardiner's passion for words began as a child. Writing prose, sometimes poetry, is a daily exercise to keep the writing muscle flexible. Denise has been performing her work at local coffee houses for many years. She was recently a winner of the PLRAC's Ekphrastic Writing Contest.

Theresa Gladue is an outstanding member of the Dawson Creek community and an important advocate for Indigenous people in the area playing an instrumental role in helping the community to better understand racism and other important social issues. A well known playwright and producer of plays and concerts which address cultural diversity, Theresa created a drumming song for the PLRAC's 75th Anniversary of the Alaska Highway Theme Song CD.

A sculptor, designer and writer, **Ovvia Castrillo Hill** is a multi-faceted artist living in Fort St. John, BC. She has authored numerous English language articles and features for dailies and magazines including the *Philippine Panorama*, *The Philippine Daily Inquirer* and the *Manila Bulletin*. Her book, *Goddess in the Mirror: A Book of Self Discovery for the Filipino Woman the World Over*, is a testament to her expression as a humanist and a creative artist.

NORTH

Singer/Songwriter **Kym Gouchie** is from the Lheidli T'enneh Nation in Prince George, BC, Canada. A self taught guitar player and a traditional hand drummer, she utilizes her eclectic background to inspire her as she combines elements of traditional, folk and country to create a unique voice. Raised among musicians, it wasn't until dealing with personal tragedy that she was able to find her voice on her own journey, which is realized with her debut album.

Ly Le is an international student from Vietnam currently pursuing an Associate of Arts Degree at the Northern Lights College. For Ly, writing helps her understand herself and calms her soul.

Melanie Mason (notmewriting.com) is a northern roots writer, poet and sketch artist. Her serial story, *Temerarious Tabias*, prints weekly in *The Alaska Highway News*. A member of Writers of the Peace and a recent winner in the PLRAC's Ekphrastic Writing Contest, Melanie is currently focusing on novel writing and prose.

Karl Mattson is a self-taught, multi-media artist. Karl's life has been fuelled by his compulsion to create and speak through art, which has always played a central role in his life.

A Canadian born author, song writer, and mother of two from Fort St. John, **Jenna Morland** is the author of *Empress Unveiled* published by Oftomes Publishing, released September 3, 2018.

Erin Moure is an award-winning poet and translator of poetry based in Montreal and Kelowna. Recent work includes *Kapusta* (Anansi 2015), *Planetary Noise: Selected Poetry of Erin Moure* (Wesleyan 2017), a translation of Brazilian Wilson Bueno's *Paraguayan Sea* (Nightboat 2017, finalist for Best Translated Book Award), and the memoir *Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots* (New Star 2017, finalist for both the Mavis Gallant Award for Non-Fiction and for the City of Vancouver Book Award). In 2019, Erin will be launching three new books: her translation of Galician poet Lupe Gómez's *Camouflage* (Circumference Books, USA), a co-translation with Roman Ivashkiv of Ukrainian poet Yuri Izdryk's *Smokes* (Lost Horse Press, USA), and her own *The Elements*, a book in homage to her late father (Anansi, Toronto).

Rebekah Rempel studied creative writing at the University of Victoria. Her poems have appeared in a number of literary journals, including *Prairie Fire*, *Room Magazine*, and *Contemporary Verse 2*, as well as the anthologies *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific*, *Forve Field: 77 Women Poets of British Columbia* and *Unfurled: Collected Poetry from Northern BC Women* (Caitlin Press). In 2019 she was selected to participate in *Arc Poetry Magazine's* Poet-in-Residence program. She lives near Dawson Creek.

Wild Words

NORTH

Meet the Writers

An international student at the Fort St. John campus of Northern Lights College, **Mili Patel** is passionate about writing poetry and short stories.

Jillian Ridington received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of British Columbia. She has fifty years of experience in writing and editing on Women's issues and First Nations ethnography. Her work includes articles and monographs on violence against women, pornography, prostitution and issues facing women with disabilities. Since 1978, Jillian has collaborated with Robin Ridington to document the culture of the Dane-zaa First Nation. At the request of the Doig River First Nation, Jillian and Robin Ridington researched and wrote *Where Happiness Dwells: A History of the Dane-zaa First Nations*, published by UBC Press in 2013.

Naomi Shore is a folk/roots artist from Northern BC, a lover of storytelling and sad songs. Her debut solo album *Piece by Piece* was released in early 2019.

An internationally renowned storyteller and best-selling author, **Richard Van Camp** was born in Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, and is a member of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Dene Nation. He acted as a cultural consultant for CBC Television's *North of 60*. A graduate of the En'owkin School of Writing in Penticton, he completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Writing at the University of Victoria and completed his Master's of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia. Richard was awarded Storyteller of the Year for both Canada and the US by the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. His most recent novel, *Moccasin Square Gardens*, was published in 2019.

Ben Waechter believes music is the universal language, and the songs he writes are written to connect with different people at different moments in time. The idea that music has the ability to make you forget everything or remember everything is the goal with each song he writes. Not too flashy of a guitarist but the four chords he plays, he plays well.