



photo: Ludovic Frenaud

Marie-Claire Blais



photo: Raty

Nino Ricci



photo: Germaine Beaulieu

Nicole Brossard



photo: E. Mistry

Rohinton Mistry

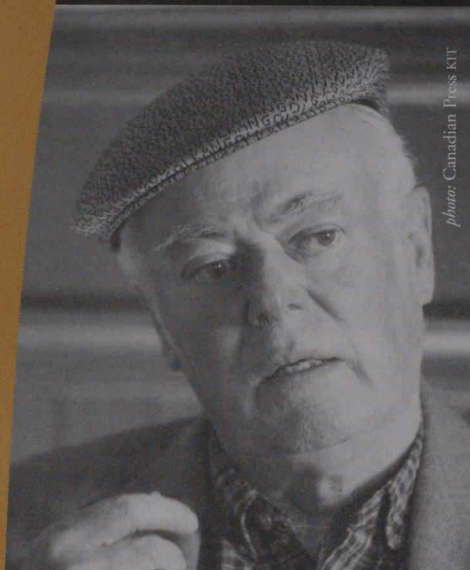


photo: Canadian Press KIT

Alistair MacLeod



photo: Nigel Dickson

Margaret Atwood

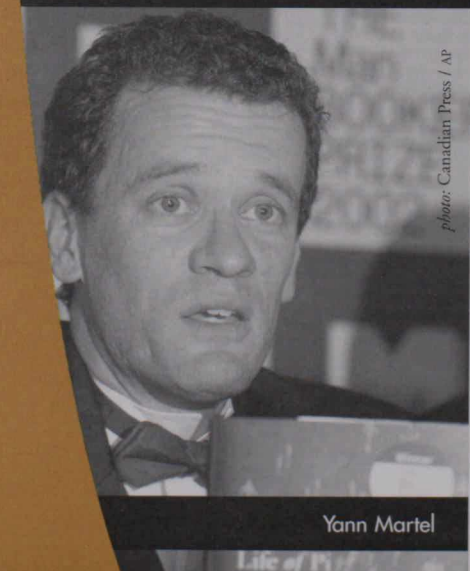


photo: Canadian Press / AP

Yann Martel

International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award; the winner will be announced in Dublin in May.

In 2001, Montreal poet and essayist Anne Carson became the first Canadian and first woman to win the T.S. Eliot Prize—a £10,000 award for the best work of new poetry published in the United Kingdom and Ireland—for her collection *The Beauty of the Husband*. With assistance from DFAIT, in 2002 Carson travelled to England to deliver the T.S. Eliot Lecture at the Poetry International festival.

A travel grant helped Quebec poet and playwright Denise Boucher attend a poetry festival in Brugge, Belgium, in 2002—the only representative from Canada. When 25-year-old Chloé Cinq-Mars of Montreal won third prize in a short story contest in France last spring, she was able to travel there for the launch of the resulting publication. DFAIT provided assistance for Canadians to attend the Marché de la poésie in Paris in June 2002; participating were poets Serge Patrice Thibodeau, Antonio D'Alfonso, Paul-Marie Lapointe and Michel Thérien. Funding also helped New Brunswick's Herménégilde Chiasson to attend a concurrent event in his honour at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris. And last fall a grant enabled Franco-Ontarian author François-Xavier Simard to take part in a program at the Cultural Centre marking 50 years of television broadcasting in Canada.

Canadian writers of diverse backgrounds have increased their international exposure thanks to DFAIT support. In 2002 sales in India boomed for a reprint of *Shahnaz*, a novel by Indo-Canadian author Hiro Boga McIlwraith, first published in 2000 in Canada; a travel grant helped the author visit India for readings. Chinese-Canadian Wayson Choy attended the Hong Kong Book Fair with a travel grant in 2002, while Jamaican-born science fiction writer Nalo Hopkinson received grants to go to the United States and France in 2001. African-Canadian poet George Elliott Clarke went to Barcelona, Spain, for the 18th International Poetry Festival and to Venice for the production of his play *Whydah Falls*. Based on his original poetic novel—which is one of the best-selling Canadian poetry books—this is the story of a mythic black community in Nova Scotia in the 1930s.

DFAIT assists Canadian authors indirectly by sponsoring literary events. Through the Consulate General in Sydney, Australia, the Department supports Adelaide Writers' Week, where Anita Rau Badami, Michael Ondaatje and Jane Urquhart read from their works in March 2002. The Department also supported a spring 2002 conference at Western Washington University in the U.S. state of Washington, with a focus on Aboriginal and Asian women in Canada. The conference was organized by Canadian First Nations storyteller, writer and poet Lee Maracle, on the