

Frye Festival celebrates youth and children's literature this February

Moncton, February 10, 2022 – On deck in February at the Frye Festival: two writing workshops, a picture-book launch, and a series of activities for New Brunswick students. NB-based author Wendy McLeod MacKnight will offer a workshop on creating and structuring books for children, while Quebec writer Amélie Dumoulin will explore improvisational techniques. A roundtable discussion about mental health and children's literature will be held as a part of the launch of the French translation of Sheree Fitch's *Everybody's Different on Everybody Street*. Finally, the Youth Program's six activities are giving students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 the chance to express their creativity.

On February 19, 2022, Wendy McLeod MacKnight will facilitate a workshop titled "Not Child's Play: How to Write Great Stories and Books for Children". Author of *The Frame-Up* (Greenwillow Books, 2018), a Canadian Children's Book Centre Best Book, and *The Copycat* (Greenwillow Books 2020), a 2021 Rocky Mountain Book Awards finalist, she will delve into the mechanics of writing riveting stories and how to create characters readers will love.

On the heels of Wendy McLeod MacKnight's workshop, on February 19 and 20, a French-language workshop will be offered to emerging, professional and amateur writers. Governor General Literary Award-nominee Amélie Dumoulin, whose work in young adult literature and theatre gives her a unique perspective on writing, will share her expertise on improvisation as a writing technique with participants.

"Children's literature is a very rich and diverse field, and there's a thriving community of artists working in this discipline in the Moncton area. We're thrilled to host these two events, and to contribute to this artistic vitality," commented Pierre-André Doucet. Both workshops will take place at the Community Peace Centre in Moncton, with mandatory masks and proof of vaccination.

On February 17, at 7 p.m., a bilingual roundtable on the subject of mental health and children's literature will bring together Nova Scotia writer Sheree Fitch, Vancouver-based illustrator Emma FitzGerald, as well as Marie Cadieux, whose French translation of *Everybody's Different on Everybody Street* (Nimbus, 2018), *Sur la rue de Tout-le-Monde* (Bouton d'or Acadie, 2022), came out earlier this month. The event will be broadcast on Facebook Live, and Marie Cadieux and Sheree Fitch will be visiting an immersion classroom in the Moncton area before the discussion.

On the subject of school visits, the Frye Festival's Youth Program is in full swing, and now accepting submission to its six component activities: Imagination at Work, Budding Writers, Words on Stage, and the Provincial Creative Writing Contest (organized thanks to the support of Encorp Atlantic), as well as Frye Academy and Writers in the Schools. Each activity aims to

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encourage creativity and imagination, reinforce literacy, and offer school children unique experiences with award-winning writers.

Frye Academy, a bilingual book club for high school students, started in the Fall of 2021 and has already elected *Les Falaises*, by Virginie De Champlain (La Peuplade, 2020) and *Bruised*, by Tanya Boteju (Simon & Schuster, 2021) as finalists of the debates, with the winning author to be revealed mid-February. In the same age group, the Provincial Creative Writing Contest will be rewarding the best works of prose and poetry, while Words on Stage will offer teens the opportunity to step onto a stage and share their talents with a live audience, after being coached by industry professionals.

Finally, this year, about sixty school visits will also take place all around New Brunswick, in English and in French.

Students and schools who would like to participate in the Youth Program can sign up on the Frye Festival's website, or by contacting Youth and Community Programs Coordinator Vanessa Chiasson (youth.jeunes@frye.ca) before March 1, 2022.

More information about these upcoming events are available on the Frye Festival's website at www.frye.ca.

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For more information:

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The Frye Festival acknowledges that the land upon which the organisation is settled and offers events is the traditional unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

The Frye Festival is the largest literary event in Atlantic Canada and a bilingual celebration of books, ideas and the imagination. Amounting to ten days of festivities, the festival takes place at the end of April and unfolds in the Greater Moncton region, in neighbouring communities, and, in the case of school visits, all over the province. A yearly programming of workshops and masterclasses is offered each year outside of the festival's official programming.

Media kit available [here](#).

- [L'improvisation comme moyen littéraire : atelier d'écriture décomplexée, with Amélie Dumoulin](#)

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- [*Not Child's Play : How to Write Great Stories and Books for Children, with Wendy McLeod MacKnight*](#)
- [*Littérature jeunesse et santé mentale / Children's Literature and Mental Health, with Sheree Fitch, Emma FitzGerald et Marie Cadieux*](#)
- [*Youth Program Activities*](#)