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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018 • TORONTO, ONTARIO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TANYA TALAGA NAMES ALICIA ELLIOTT TO THE 2018 RBC TAYLOR EMERGING WRITER AWARD

WITH AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT to supporting and encouraging emerging Canadian talent, the Charles Taylor Foundation and RBC Wealth Management are pleased to announce that ALICIA ELLIOTT is the fifth recipient of its annual Emerging Writer Award. The Brantford, Ontario writer was chosen by Tanya Talaga, winner of the 2018 RBC Taylor Prize for her book *Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City*. The Award consists of a \$10,000 cash prize and mentorship by Ms. Talaga.

RBC Taylor Prize Founder Noreen Taylor commented: “RBC Wealth Management and the Charles Taylor Foundation has had much discussion about what makes an Emerging Author. When we look at Alicia Elliott we see a strong fearless writer who has an impressive background as an editor, an essayist and is a dedicated Indigenous journalist writing about the issues facing Indigenous peoples in Canada. She has developed a deep passion for the truth, wherever it takes her. At the same time we are impressed with her facility of language. This award is intended to give Alicia the freedom to keep writing and growing her skills while her first book is traveling along the long winding road to publication.”

Vijay Parmar, president of RBC PH&N Investment Counsel added: “On behalf of RBC Wealth Management, we congratulate Alicia Elliott on being named this year’s RBC Taylor Emerging Writer Award recipient and look forward to celebrating her future successes. We are proud to support this Award which helps Canada’s aspiring writers advance their career and bridge the gap from emerging to established by providing much-needed exposure, funding and mentorship opportunities.”

“Alicia is the voice of our youth, the next generation. She is lyrical, heart-felt and she tells searing truths of Canada today, truths we all need to listen to,” said Tanya Talaga.

Alicia Elliot added, “I’ve been in a bit of a daze since I heard the news. It’s incredibly humbling to be honoured with the RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writer Award and especially to be chosen by someone I admire as much as Tanya. What a gift!”

THE RBC TAYLOR EMERGING WRITER AWARD was established to provide recognition and assistance to a Canadian published author who is working on a significant writing project, preferably but not limited to the genre of literary non-fiction. Through mentorship from the current RBC Taylor Prize winner and the cash award, it is intended that the recipient will be able to progress toward the creation of a first draft.

ALICIA ELLIOTT is a Tuscarora writer living in Brantford, Ontario with her husband



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and daughter. Her writing has been published by *The Malahat Review*, *The New Quarterly*, *CBC*, *Globe and Mail*, *Maclean's*, *Maisonneuve*, *Today's Parent* and *Reader's Digest*. She's currently Associate Nonfiction Editor at *Little Fiction | Big Truths* and is a consulting editor with *The New Quarterly*. Her essay, "A Mind Spread Out on the Ground" won a National Magazine Award. She is the 2017-2018 Geoffrey and Margaret Andrew Fellow at UBC, working with their Creative Writing Department.

TANYA TALAGA is the acclaimed author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*, which was the winner of the RBC Taylor Prize, CBC's Nonfiction Book of the Year; a *Globe and Mail* Top 100 Book; and a national bestseller. Talaga has been a journalist at the *Toronto Star* for twenty years, covering everything from general city news to education, national healthcare, foreign news, and Indigenous affairs. She has been nominated five times for the Michener Award in public service journalism, and she is the 2017-2018 Atkinson Fellow in Public Policy. Talaga is of Polish and Indigenous descent. Her grandmother is a member of Fort William First Nation. Her mother was raised in Raith and Graham, Ontario. Talaga lives in Toronto with her two teenage children.

ABOUT THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA AND RBC WEALTH MANAGEMENT

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ABOUT THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE

ESTABLISHED IN 1998 by the trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation and first awarded in 2000, 2018 marks the seventeenth awarding of the RBC Taylor Prize, which commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the field of literary non-fiction. Awarded to the author whose book best combines a superb command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception. All finalists receive \$5,000, and the winner receives a further \$25,000. All authors are presented with a custom leather bound version of their shortlisted book at the awards ceremony. All finalists receive promotional support for their nominated titles.

THE TRUSTEES of the Charles Taylor Foundation are: Vijay Parmar, David Staines, Edward Taylor, Nadina Taylor, and Noreen Taylor. The Executive Director is Su Hutchinson.

