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DECEMBER 5, 2018 • TORONTO, ONTARIO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2019 LONGLIST REVEALED

The 2019 RBC Taylor Prize jury announces ten essential titles that should be on every Canadian's reading list this year

RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2019 JURORS CAMILLA GIBB, ROY MACGREGOR and BEVERLEY MCLACHLIN today shared the longlist for the eighteenth awarding of Canada's most prestigious non-fiction prize.

The jury reviewed over 100 books to reach this longlist and state that "It was no small task whittling down to this longlist of ten, and we anticipate many hours of re-reading and debate before we produce our short list, and, ultimately, the winner.

We found the books breath-taking in their range of topics, and happily found so many of them serve as a useful barometer for current issues, from reconciliation to political trust. There is remarkable achievement here and we hope readers will celebrate that with us."

THE LONGLIST BOOKS FOR THE 2019 RBC TAYLOR PRIZE ARE:

1. *Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir*, by MARK CRITCH, published by Viking/Penguin Canada
2. *Just Let Me Look at You: On Fatherhood*, by BILL GASTON, published by Hamish Hamilton/Penguin Canada
3. *Jan in 35 Pieces: A Memoir in Music*, by IAN HAMPTON, published by Porcupine's Quill
4. *Lands of Lost Borders: Out of Bounds on the Silk Roads*, by KATE HARRIS, published by Knopf Canada.
5. *All Things Consoled: A Daughter's Memoir*, by ELIZABETH HAY, published by McClelland & Stewart
6. *Trust: Twenty Ways to Build a Better Country*, by DAVID JOHNSTON, published by Signal/M&S **
7. *Seeking the Fabled City: The Canadian Jewish Experience*, by ALLAN LEVINE, published by McClelland and Stewart
8. *Power, Prime Ministers and the Press: The Battle for Truth on Parliament Hill*, by ROBERT LEWIS, published by Dundurn Press.
9. *Heart Berries: A Memoir*, by TERESE MARIE MAILHOT, published by Doubleday Canada
10. *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age*, by DARREL MCLEOD, published by Douglas & MacIntyre.

[See citations attached.]

NOREEN TAYLOR, chair of the Charles Taylor Foundation and founder of the Prize, commented: "What an amazing breadth of offerings this year. I can hardly wait to dive into the books I haven't already read! Looking at this list it's definitely going to be a busy holiday. What is so interesting is that this list reflects what Canadians are experiencing, worrying about and/or enjoying currently, and reminds Canadian readers how fortunate we are to have amongst us so many gifted and unique storytellers.



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Here's to our publishers and their many distinct imprints for releasing a panorama of fascinating titles, and bravo to our jurors who performed the Herculean task of selecting this remarkable long list from amongst over 100 titles."

VIJAY PARMAR, president of RBC PH&N Investment Counsel, added: "Once again, we have a longlist that showcases our national collective voice and the power that storytelling has to change our understanding and challenge our perspectives. Congratulations to the 2019 longlisted authors and thanks to our esteemed jurors for their time, dedication and reflection."

KEY DATES:

THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE SHORTLIST will be announced at a news conference on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, and the winner revealed at a gala luncheon on Monday March 4, 2019.

ABOUT THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE

ESTABLISHED IN 1998 by the trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation and first awarded in 2000, 2019 marks the eighteenth 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, each finalist for the Prize receives \$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 Prize Manager is Sheila Kay.

THE PRESENTING SPONSOR of the RBC Taylor Prize is RBC Wealth Management. Its media sponsors are *The Globe and Mail*, Cision, *The Huffington Post Canada*, *Quill & Quire* magazine; its in-kind sponsors are Ben McNally Books, Event Source, Toronto International Festival of Authors and the Omni King Edward Hotel.

TO DOWNLOAD HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES of the longlisted authors and their book covers please go to: www.rbctaylorprize.ca/2019/rbctp_2019_longlist_covers_and_authors.zip
TO DOWNLOAD HIGH-RESOLUTION IMAGES of the trustees and the jury please go to: www.rbctaylorprize.ca/2019/2019_trustees_and_jury.zip

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRIZE PLEASE GO TO: www.rbctaylorprize.ca.
FOLLOW THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE ON TWITTER at www.twitter.com/taylorprize
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** Please note that juror Beverley McLachlin recused herself from discussion on this title, as she had contributed the Foreword.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2019 LONGLIST

JURY STATEMENT

THE JURY WAS OVERWHELMED by the number and variety of books submitted this year for the RBC Taylor Prize for Canadian literary non-fiction. The books covered a vast array of topics, came from all over the country and were a vivid and exciting representation of the multicultural reality of Canada.

It was no small task whittling down the master list to a long list, and we anticipate many hours of re-reading and debate before we produce our short list and, ultimately, the winner. The jury wishes to stress, however, that every single book submitted is a winner, a triumph of hard work and creativity and incredible talent – and we sincerely congratulate our many Canadian publishers for their dedication and their belief in Canadian non-fiction.

We found the books breathtaking in their range of topics. We also happily found so many of them serve as a useful barometer for current issues, from reconciliation to political trust.

Our hope in releasing this long-list of absolutely exceptional books is that Canadian readers will find them and enjoy them as much as we have. There is remarkable achievement here and we hope others will celebrate with us.

It has been our great honour to serve as jurists in this significant Canadian literary award.



CAMILLA
GIBB



ROY
MCGREGOR

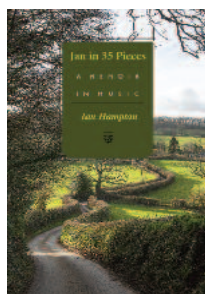


BEVERLEY
MCLACHLIN

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2019 RBC TAYLOR PRIZE LONGLIST

JURY CITATIONS

Son of a Critch: A Childish Newfoundland Memoir by MARK CRITCH, published by Viking/Penguin Canada

Writer and comedian Mark Critch has written a charming, laugh-out-loud memoir of growing up in Newfoundland in the eighties. *Son of a Critch* is an affectionate account full of the absurdities and wonder of a child making sense of the world around him and finding himself as a performer in the process.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/566290/son-of-a-critch-by-mark-critch/9780735235069>

Just Let Me Look at You: On Fatherhood by BILL GASTON, published by Hamish Hamilton/Penguin Canada

Bill Gaston sets out on a solitary journey eighty miles across the Salish Sea in a boat he describes as “a piece of junk.” He’s heading back to the bittersweet place where he spent time as a child living aboard a boat with his father, learning to fish and learning to be wary of the fluctuations in his father’s moods when he drank. This is a quiet, meditative and tender-hearted exploration of childhood injury and its legacy across generations.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/554927/just-let-me-look-at-you-by-bill-gaston/9780735234062/>

Jan in 35 Pieces: A Memoir in Music by IAN HAMPTON, published by Porcupine’s Quill

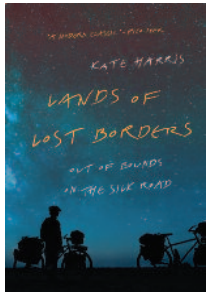
Cellist Ian Hampson has created a lyrical reflection on the world of music and classical composers and musicians in the seven decades since World War II. Beautifully written, the book is structured around thirty-five pieces of memorable music. In vivid strokes, Hampson introduces us to the great conductors, performers and composers he encountered as a musician in England, California and finally, the west coast of Canada. Along the way, he introduces us to some of the finest music the world has produced. By turns reflective and humorous, this beautifully paced book chronicles the trials and triumphs of a life devoted to music and defined by the people he worked with and loved.

<http://porcupinesquill.ca/bookinfo6.php?index=336>

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RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2019 LONGLIST JURY CITATIONS (CONTINUED)



Lands of Lost Borders: Out of Bounds on the Silk Roads by KATE HARRIS, published by Knopf Canada.

From her vantage point of a student of the history of science, explorer and adventurer, Kate Harris presents a rare and unique vision of world, and explores the nature of boundaries. Unable to realize her childhood dream of travelling to Mars, she decides to trace Marco Polo's Silk Road by bicycle. Vivid descriptions of the places and people she meets inspire deep and eclectic reflections on the nature of the world, wilderness, and the struggle of humans to define and limit them. This is a book that changes how one thinks about the world and the human compulsion to define it.

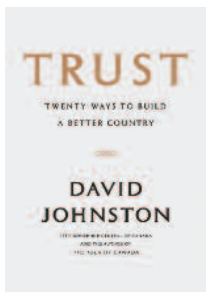
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/538575/lands-of-lost-borders-by-kate-harris/9780345816771>



All Things Consoled: A Daughter's Memoir by ELIZABETH HAY, published by McClelland & Stewart

In this brilliant and honest memoir, Elizabeth Hay traces the final decline of her parents – her father, a proud and ambitious school teacher possessed of a terrifying temper and moods of melancholy, and her mother, who kept the family peace and reconciled herself to life through painting. As she cares for her parents in their final days, Elizabeth - the difficult daughter - describes the truth of who they are and what they did. Tender, witty and brutally honest, the book tears open the cloak of shared secrecy to bare the dynamics of a family – the fears, sibling rivalries, joys, disappointments and grievances that have lain unacknowledged through the decades.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/572851/all-things-consoled-by-elizabeth-hay/9780771039737>

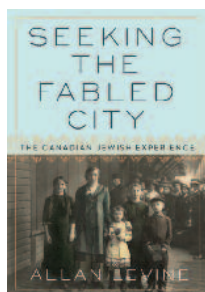


Trust: Twenty Ways to Build a Better Country by DAVID JOHNSTON, published by Signal/M&S

In an era of “Fake News” and “Alternative Facts” and even bald-faced lies from those who hold the highest positions of power, a book praising the worth of trust is most welcome – many would say necessary. Former Governor-General David Johnston takes a lovely, relaxed and ultimately convincing look at the value of trusting and earning trust. It should be a manual for every elected official in the world.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/592618/trust-by-david-johnston/9780771047152>

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RBC TAYLOR PRIZE 2019 LONGLIST

JURY CITATIONS (CONTINUED)

Seeking the Fabled City: The Canadian Jewish Experience by **ALLAN LEVINE**, published by McClelland and Stewart

Allan Levine's exhaustingly-researched account of 250 years of Jewish settlement in Canada is a *tour de force* both as a definitive history and a fascinating read. From major cities to the smallest prairie hamlets, from social and political obstacles to artistic and professional triumphs, Levine tells a compelling story that is, in its own way, a most significant and valued history of Canada.

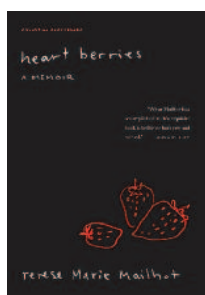
<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/548118/seeking-the-fabled-city-by-allan-levine/9780771048050>



Power, Prime Ministers and the Press: The Battle for Truth on Parliament Hill by **ROBERT LEWIS**, published by Dundurn Press.

Former *Maclean's* editor and long-time Parliament Hill reporter Robert Lewis offers a timely and welcome reminder of the importance of a free and challenging press in times of political change. Tracing the critical role of the media from Macdonald and Laurier to today, Lewis adroitly uses deep archival research and dozens of current interviews to show how the power-and-press relationship has changed – and not always for the better.

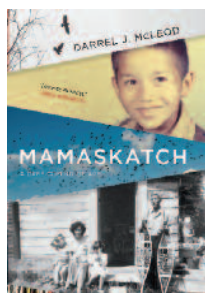
<https://www.dundurn.com/books/Power-Prime-Ministers-and-Press>



Heart Berries: A Memoir by **TERESE MARIE MAILHOT**, published by Doubleday Canada

Heart Berries is an original and powerful work that explores the painful and complex relationship between trauma and identity in the life of an Indigenous woman. Driven by a raw and compelling intensity, Terese Marie Mailhot has written a memoir that is actively engaged with questions surrounding memory, voice and representation, challenging the reader and herself along the way.

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/566997/heart-berries-by-terese-mailhot/9780385691147>



Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age by **DARREL MCLEOD**, published by Douglas & MacIntyre.

A torturously-beautiful memoir of growing up in a world of violence and family trauma. McLeod's writing is lyrical and offers a powerful examination of contemporary issues, from sexual self-identification to the scars of residential school to the contemporary search for reconciliation. "Mamaskatch" means "shared dream" in Cree, and while there are unavoidable nightmares along the journey, there are also dreams of hope, at times of exquisite beauty and renewed pride.

<http://www.douglas-mcintyre.com/book/mamaskatch>