



Sixty-eight Writes

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-News Release-

AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS AND PRESS COUNCIL DIRECTOR JOIN PANEL OF VOLUNTEER JUDGES FOR HIGH SCHOOL WRITING CONTEST

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Nanaimo – “Sixty-eight Writes”, a locally developed non-profit writing contest for high school students in School District # 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), announced today the six individuals who will make up the judging panels. The organizers are proud of their success in recruiting highly qualified writing professionals willing to volunteer their expertise for the benefit of local aspiring young writers. The contest will take place over the 2006 – 2007 school year.

“It promises to be an exciting gathering of emerging voices giving shape to their West Coast experiences,” said Keith Harrison, BC Book Award winner for his novel *Furry Creek* and a judge for the fiction category. Other members of the fiction panel are George Szanto, a past winner of the Hugh MacLennan Award for Fiction, and Dr Wendy Strachan, founding Director of The Centre for Writing-Intensive Learning at Simon Fraser University.

Members of the non-fiction panel are Cale Cowan, Managing Editor of the Nanaimo Daily News and a Director of the BC Press Council, Frank Moher, journalist and editor of the online magazine <http://backofthebook.ca>, and Lyn Hancock, award-winning author of *There’s a Seal in My Sleeping Bag* and many other books.

“I am always willing to encourage kids – and their teachers – to make writing a day-long and life-long habit – writing is a way of life, not just something that you just do and put on the shelf and forget about till the next session,” said Lyn Hancock, who makes frequent visits to schools to give writing workshops and readings. “Being aware and curious about the world – telling stories with your pictures, making your pictures tell stories, writing books about your personal backyard – enriches your life on a daily basis.”

For more information about the contest and the volunteer judges, see <http://members.shaw.ca/sixtyeightwrites>, or email sixtyeightwrites@shaw.ca.

We are grateful to the following organizations for their support:

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