



For Immediate Release

**THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS AND THE TORONTO ARTS COUNCIL PRESENT
TORONTO LIT UP**

Toronto, December 12, 2016 —The International Festival of Authors (IFOA) has partnered with the Toronto Arts Council (TAC) to present Toronto Lit Up, a three year initiative designed to spotlight local writers. The next Toronto Lit Up book launch presentation is taking place **Wednesday, December 14th at 7pm** at Harbourfront Centre. Join local authors Deb Loughead and Mary Jennifer Payne as they release two new YA novels through Dundurn Press.

Deb Loughead is the author of more than thirty books for children and young adults, ranging from poetry and plays to picture books and novels. She lives in Toronto.

“A nice page-turning mystery, *The Secrets We Keep* neatly captures the angst and emotion of adolescence, while highlighting the increasing isolation of the digital age.” — National Reading Campaign

Mary Jennifer Payne’s writing has been published in journals, anthologies, and magazines in Canada and abroad. She is the author of several YA graphic novels and the YA novel *Since You’ve Been Gone*. She teaches special education with the Toronto District School Board and lives in Toronto.

“*[Finding Jade is]* an inventive read with thought-provoking themes.” — *Booklist*

The goal of Toronto Lit Up is to present Toronto authors to audiences across the city. These launches will allow the public to learn about and access more of the works of its local writing community.

The committee, composed of Dionne Brand (University of Guelph and chair of the committee), Alison Jones (Quill and Quire), Hazel Millar (Literary Press Group), Christine Saratsiotis (IFOA), and Geoffrey Taylor (IFOA) will adjudicate all selections. The committee will be looking to include published works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, prose, short-story, graphic-novels as well as cookbooks, gardening books, sports-related stories, satire and much more. Publishers can submit more than one author for committee consideration for this program.

For more information about Toronto Lit Up, visit <http://ifoa.org/toronto-lit-up>.
To send submissions, please contact torontolitup@ifoa.org.

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Toronto Arts Council (TAC) is the City of Toronto’s funding body for artists and arts organizations. Since 1974, TAC has played a major role in the city’s cultural industries by supporting a very broad range of artistic activity. From the emerging artist to the most established, from celebrated institutions to arts that

challenge convention, TAC is typically the first funder to offer support. Today, TAC grants lead to exhibitions, performances, readings and workshops seen annually by over 7.5 million people.

Since its inception in 1974, the **International Festival of Authors** has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates. Our season runs from September to June and includes the annual International Festival of Authors (October 19-29, 2017), including YoungIFOA and IFOA Ontario, the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 16-18, 2017). Toronto Lit Up runs year-round.

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