



## **PUBLISHER NURJEHAN AZIZ NAMED 2020 IVY AWARD RECIPIENT**

### **The International Visitors (IV) Programme also announces 2020 participants and the Canadian Editorial Fellow**

TORONTO, October 8, 2020 -- The **International Visitors (IV) Programme**, in association with the **Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA)**, today announced that Mawenzi House Publisher **Nurjehan Aziz** will be the ninth recipient of the **Ivy Award**. The IV Programme also announced the **Canadian Editorial Fellowship** has been awarded to **Jennifer Croll**, Editorial Director at Greystone Books, as well as its 2020 participants. This October, the IV Programme celebrates its 13<sup>th</sup> year of hosting publishing professionals from around the world during TIFA. The Toronto International Festival of Authors, Canada's largest and longest-running festival of words and ideas, is celebrating its 41<sup>st</sup> edition from **October 22 to November 1, 2020**. **The IV Programme will take place during the Festival from October 26 to 30, 2020.**

The IV Programme provides a cultural exchange between Canada's publishing community and some of the most influential publishing figures from around the world – facilitating networking opportunities and serving as a catalyst for business negotiations. It has become a fertile setting for international publishers to gain a deeper understanding of the Canadian literary scene and its writers. Local, national and international participants will partake in six days of scheduled inter-industry dialogue with the goal of increasing opportunities for Canadian authors and publishers abroad. The programme will take place in a virtual setting this year.

“The IV committee is very pleased to announce a terrific lineup of guests to join our virtual International Visitors Programme this year. Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, we will welcome 12 international guests to a series of panels, quick-pitch meetings and ‘in-office’ visits with agents, publishers and editors. Now in its 13th year, the IV Programme has included more than 300 fellows and distinguished guests and continues its commitment to our goal of selling rights to the works of Canadian authors to our international colleagues,” said **Iris Tupholme, Chair of the IV Programme Committee**.

#### **2020 IVY AWARD:**

Given annually to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to Canadian publishing, the Ivy Award will be presented to **Nurjehan Aziz** during the **[IV Programme Panel and Keynote Presentation event](#)** taking place on **October 26 at 11 a.m.** The free event, which is open to the public and members of the book industry, will also feature **Keynote Speaker Lennie Goodings, Chair of Virago Press** interviewed by **Janice Zawerbny**, Executive Editor, HarperCollins Canada.

**Nurjehan Aziz** was born in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and went to university in Shiraz, Iran and Boston, Massachusetts. She came to Canada in 1980, and in 1981 co-founded a literary magazine, *The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad* (1981–2001). She is the publisher and a director of Mawenzi House Publishers, publishing mainly writers with backgrounds in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Near East. She has edited *Her Mother's Ashes: Stories by South Asian Women in Canada and the United States*, *The Relevance of Islamic Identity in Canada*, and more recently *Confluences 1* and *Confluences 2 (Essays on the New Canadian Literature)*.

"I am deeply honoured and happy to accept the Ivy Award. To be selected by jurors of my peers of the publishing community is especially gratifying and meaningful for me," said **Nurjehan Aziz**.

The Ivy Award jury is composed of: Roland Gulliver (Director, TIFA), Judith Pereira (Books Editor, *The Globe and Mail*), Kyle Wyatt (Editor-in-Chief, *Literary Review of Canada*), and Alison Jones (Publisher, *Quill & Quire*).

Past Ivy Award recipients include: Anne Collins (2019), Brian Lam (2018), Phyllis Bruce (2017), Linda McKnight (2016), David Kent (2015), Dean Cooke (2014), Louise Dennys (2013) and Scott McIntyre (2012).

#### 2020 CANADIAN EDITORIAL FELLOW:

For the ninth year, the IV Programme has awarded the **Canadian Editorial Fellowship**, which promotes an opportunity for a Canadian publishing professional to meet with the international publishing executives in attendance. The 2020 Canadian Editorial Fellowship has been awarded to **Jennifer Croll**, Editorial Director, Greystone Books.

**Jennifer Croll** is the editorial director at Greystone Books, where she acquires nonfiction books and oversees the editorial department. She is part of the team that acquired the international bestseller *The Hidden Life of Trees*, by Peter Wohlleben. As an editor, she has worked on books such as Lorimer Shenher's *This One Looks Like a Boy*, Roberta Staley's *Voice of Rebellion*, and Andrea Warner's *Buffy Sainte-Marie: The Authorized Biography*, for which she won the Tom Fairley Award for Editorial Excellence. She acquires in the areas Greystone specializes in—nature, the environment, travel, adventure, sports, social issues, science and health—and also appreciates unique narratives, strong voices and new perspectives.

"I'm thrilled that I was selected as the Canadian Fellow for the IV Programme and am so happy that opportunities like this to build close relationships in publishing are still thriving during a time when keeping our distance is so important. I'm looking forward to meeting my international counterparts and showing them what publishers in Western Canada like Greystone Books are accomplishing, while at the same time broadening and deepening my own connections with agents and editors in Toronto," said **Jennifer Croll**.

#### 2020 IV PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS:

The **2020 IV Programme participants** include: **Ana María Bermúdez**, Editora, Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial (Mexico); **Giorgia di Tolle**, Junior Editor, Casa Editrice Nord (Italy); **Johannes Holmqvist**, Managing Director and Acquiring Editor, Tranan Publishing House (Sweden); **Louisa Joyner**, Publishing Director, Faber UK (UK); **Allison Malecha**, Senior Scout, Bettina Schrewe Literary Scouting (USA); **Madeleine Milburn**, Director and Literary Agent, Madeleine Milburn Literary Agency (UK); **Eloise Millar**, Co-Founder, Galley Beggar Press (UK); **Stephanie Sinclair**, Literary Agent, CookeMcDermid

(Canada, Indigenous); **Emily Wunderlich**, Editor, Viking (USA); **Lizbeth Zavala Mondragón**, Publishing Coordinator, Herder Mexico (Mexico). Further guests to be confirmed.

#### IV WEBINARS:

The IV Programme introduced a series of webinars for the first time this year. Participants may attend a variety of digital discussions facilitated by a panel of select distinguished industry professionals. Taking place from October 26 to 29, the webinar sessions will discuss pitching and closing deals, industry trends and changes, international rights, and children's publishing, among other topics.

The IV Programme Committee is composed of representatives from a number of organizations within the Canadian literary community, including the Toronto International Festival of Authors. The 2020 IV Programme Committee members are: Jamaal Azeez, Jennifer Ball, Erin Balsler, Emily Ferko, Gillian Fizet, Carolyn Forde, Scott Fraser, Maria Golikova, Roland Gulliver, Hazel Millar, Jay MillAr, Lisa Rundle, Christine Saratsiotis, Sarah St. Pierre, Deborah Sun de la Cruz, Samantha Swenson, Iris Tupholme, Synora Van Drine and Dan Wells.

The 13th edition of the IV Programme is supported through the Canada Book Fund and the Ontario Creates Business Development grant. For more information about the IV Programme, please visit [FestivalofAuthors.ca/IV-Programme](http://FestivalofAuthors.ca/IV-Programme).

#### About Toronto International Festival of Authors

The Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is Canada's longest-running literary festival, a charitable, non-profit cultural organization. It creates literary festivals, programmes and events that bring together people of all ages to be inspired and empowered through a celebration of authors, books and stories. It generates diverse and exciting conversations across communities in the city, the nation and internationally, to foster new thinking about what it means to be living in today's world, and champions the best of Canadian and international publishing to audiences and industry. TIFA acknowledges that the land on which the organization conducts its work is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat and the Mississaugas of the Credit.

TIFA is supported by the Government of Canada – Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Toronto Arts Council, and Ontario Creates.

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