

WRITERS' TRUST ANNOUNCES YEAR'S BEST POLITICAL BOOKS:

FORMER PRIME MINISTER MAKES THE CUT - BUT NOT THE ONE YOU MIGHT EXPECT

OTTAWA, ON - January 30, 2008 - Finalists for the Writers' Trust of Canada's Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing were announced today. The \$15,000 prize will be presented on Wednesday, February 27, 2008, during the sold-out Politics and the Pen event in Ottawa.

Covering a wide range of subjects – global trade, an iconic prime minister, the war in Afghanistan, democracy, and the impact of urban growth – this year's finalists offer authoritative accounts of complex issues and provide fresh insights on the Canadian political landscape.

The five finalists are:

Clive Doucet (Ottawa) for *Urban Meltdown: Cities, Climate Change and Politics as Usual*, published by New Society Publishers

An insider's perspective into how explosive urban growth is accelerating global warming and why political action seems paralyzed.

Richard Gwyn (Toronto) for *John A: The Man Who Made Us; The Life and Times of John A. Macdonald, Volume One: 1815–1867*, published by Random House Canada

The first full-scale biography of Canada's first prime minister in more than half a century.

Andrea Mandel-Campbell (Toronto) for *Why Mexicans Don't Drink Molson*, published by Douglas & McIntyre

A scathing cautionary tale about Canadian timidity and lost opportunities in confronting international markets.

David E. Smith (Regina) for *The People's House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention*, published by University of Toronto Press

One of Canada's foremost experts in the field of political science explores the ramifications of many of the changes proposed to Canada's political system.

Janice Gross Stein (Toronto) and **Eugene Lang** (Ottawa) for *The Unexpected War: Canada in Kandahar*, published by Viking Canada

The riveting step-by-step story of how Canada slipped into a war that now means mounting casualties and grim battles in Afghanistan.

The Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing was established in honour of the outspoken and popular member of Parliament from Windsor, Ontario, who died on December 9, 1998.

Now in its eighth year, the prize is awarded annually to a non-fiction book that captures a political subject of interest to Canadian readers and enhances understanding of the issue. The winning work will be one that combines compelling new insights with depth of research and is of significant literary merit. Strong consideration will be given to books that, in the opinion of the jury, have the potential to shape or influence Canadian political life.

The jury of historian Robert Bothwell, *Globe and Mail* columnist Lawrence Martin, and freelance writer and broadcaster Brigitte Pellerin selected this year's finalists. Each finalist will receive \$2,000.

The prize is sponsored by CTVglobemedia and is supported by the Politics and the Pen reception and dinner. Politics and the Pen is the highlight of the capital's winter social calendar and an important annual fundraising event benefiting the Writers' Trust.

The February 27 event will take place at the Fairmont Château Laurier. Mike Duffy, Ottawa editor for CTV NewsNet, and Jane Taber, senior political writer for *The Globe and Mail*, will host the event. Microsoft Canada sponsors the Politics and the Pen dinner, and MTSAllstream Inc. sponsors the Politics and the Pen pre-dinner and post-dinner receptions.

For further information about the Writers' Trust and this year's finalists, and to win a set of this year's nominated titles, please visit www.writerstrust.com.

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For further information, interview opportunities, and photo requests, please contact:

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