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## BLUE METROPOLIS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH THREE RENOWNED AUTHORS AS SPOKESPERSONS

**Montreal, November 22, 2022** – In spring 2023, the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Three eminent spokespersons, all well-established literary authors, have been selected for this edition, which promises to be very special.



Actor and writer **Gabrielle Boulianne-Tremblay** is known for her role in the film *Ceux qui font les révolutions à moitié n'ont fait que se creuser un tombeau*, and was nominated for a Canadian Screen Award for Best Supporting Actress—a first for a trans woman in Canada. Boulianne-Tremblay published a collection of poetry, *Les Secrets de l'origami* (Del Busso Éditeur, 2018), and has written for several magazines including *Lettres québécoises*, *Estuaire*, and *Moebius*. Her first novel, *La fille d'elle-même* (Marchand de Feuilles, 2021) the first French-language autofiction written by a trans woman in Québec, won the Prix des libraires du Québec for fiction. Her most recent book is *La voix de la nature* (Héritage Jeunesse, 2022).

Author and journalist **Monique Polak** has published 32 books for young readers. In 2021, she won the Quebec Writers' Federation Janet Savage Blachford Prize for Children's and Young Adult Literature (previously called the QWF Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature) for her novel, *Room For One More*, which is set in Montreal during World War II. She won the same prize in 2014 for *Hate Mail*, and in 2009 for *What World Is Left*, a novel inspired by her mother's childhood experience in a Nazi concentration camp. The French translation of this book, *Vois tout ce qui te reste* (tr. Rachel Martinez, Septentrion) was released in 2022.

Many of her books have been nominated for awards, including the Arthur Ellis Best Juvenile Crime Award. Monique Polak taught at Marianopolis College for 35 years. Her stories have been published in the Montreal Gazette and in Postmedia publications across the country. She was also a columnist on ICI Radio-Canada's Plus on est de fous, plus on lit!

**David Bradford** is a poet, translator, and editor based in Tio'tia:ke (Montreal). He is the author of the A.M. Kein QWF Prize for Poetry winning, and the Griffin Poetry Prize, Governor General's Literary Award, and Gerard Lampert Memorial Award finalist *Dream of No One but Myself* (Brick Books, 2021), an interdisciplinary inquiry into the versioning aspects of Bradford and his family's histories with abuse and trauma. His work has also appeared in *Brick, Prairie Fire, The Fiddlehead, fillingStation, The Capilano Review*, and elsewhere. *Bottom Rail on Top*, Bradford's second book of poetry, and *House Within a House*, his translation from the French of *Désormais, ma demeure* by Nicholas Dawson, are both forthcoming from Brick Books in 2023.

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival will launch on March 22, 2023, with online events gradually made available on our website ([www.bluemetropolis.org](http://www.bluemetropolis.org)); the in-person Festival event will take place from April 27 to 30, 2023. The program will be announced at a press conference on **Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.** at Blue Metropolis Festival headquarters **HOTEL 10** (10 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal).

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary theme is the future: the future of borders, the future of democracy, the future of literature, the future of identities, the future of the planet. Not for nostalgia, but with curiosity, vigour, an appetite for knowledge, debates, literature, books, and diverse voices—new, experienced, dissonant, disturbing, necessary.

Twenty-five years ago, when she created the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival along with a few others, Linda Leith wanted to bring cultures and languages together through literature, beyond the usual divides. Already, Blue Met was looking to the future. And 25 years later, the adventure continues.

## **BLUE METROPOLIS AT A GLANCE**

Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 that brings together people from different cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing and encourages creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an **annual International Literary Festival** and offers a wide range of **educational and social programs year-round**, both in classrooms and online. These programs use reading and writing as therapeutic tools, encourage academic perseverance, and fight against poverty and isolation.

The Blue Metropolis Festival is one of the largest multilingual literary events in North America. For several days each year, writers from Québec, Canada, and around the world converge on Montreal. Festivalgoers are treated to live interviews, round-table discussions, public readings, debates, master classes, readings, and writing workshops. Every year, the Festival is built around several strong themes that bear witness to a keen social awareness and a passion for literature in all its richness.

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