

# Véhicule Press

Fall 2023

FICTION H. Nigel Thomas · Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan

NON-FICTION Lisa Whittington-Hill

POETRY Susan Glickman · Joe Fiorito · Yoyo Comay



5





# Véhicule Press

## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHERS

It was a good spring. Dimitri Nasrallah's *Hotline* emerged as a contender for Canada Reads and Baharan Baniahmadi's *Prophetess* won Blue Metropolis/Conseil des arts de Montreal New Contribution Literary Prize 2023 (the second year in a row that a Véhicule book has won the prize). These successes have set the stage for a slate of fall titles we're excited about, most notably an essay collection on pop culture's mistreatment of female celebrities, a reissue of a classic novel of the Black-Canadian canon, and a new addition to our acclaimed Ricochet noir series.

We're also thrilled to announce that Vancouver poet and editor Michael Prior will be taking on the role of poetry editor for our Signal Editions imprint. He succeeds Carmine Starnino, who has been editor of the series since 2001.

In our 50th year, we hope you keep celebrating with us.

### Publishers

Simon Dardick

Nancy Marrelli

### Associate Publisher

Carmine Starnino

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge that we are publishing from Tiohtià:ke, the Mohawk name for a historic place for gathering and trade for many First Nations. It is unceded traditional Indigenous territory, on which there have now been non-Indigenous settlers for more than 375 years. As publishers we know we cannot rewrite our history, but we can be part of a concerted effort to contribute to reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and Settlers.

Cover art by Tallulah Fontaine

Véhicule Press acknowledges the support of the Canada Book Fund of the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles du Québec (SODEC).

PRINTED IN CANADA



## CONTENTS

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Frontlist Titles 2

---

Bestsellers 16

---

Recent Titles 18

---

Back Pages 25

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Ordering 29

# GIRLS, INTERRUPTED

## How Pop Culture Is Failing Women

Lisa Whittington-Hill



**Lisa Whittington-Hill** is a writer based in Toronto. Her work has appeared in *Longreads*, *The Walrus*, *Hazlitt*, *Catapult*, and more. She is also the publisher of *This Magazine* and teaches in the publishing program at Centennial College.

The past decade has seen a rise in documentaries, memoirs, and podcasts that revisit the legacies of women wronged by pop culture. With movements like #MeToo and #TimesUp challenging long-standing narratives around female celebrities, it's no surprise so many believe the representation of women in the media has improved.

In her scathingly witty collection of essays, *Girls, Interrupted*, Lisa Whittington-Hill argues otherwise. Pop culture's treatment of women, writes Whittington-Hill, is still marked by misogyny and misunderstanding. From the gender bias in celebrity memoir coverage to problematic pop culture portrayals of middle-aged women and the sexist pressure on female pop stars to constantly reinvent themselves, *Girls, Interrupted* critically examines how mainstream media keeps failing women and explores what we can do to fix it. A work of searing relevance, this candid and often cathartic debut marks Whittington-Hill as a cultural critic of the first rank.

GENDER STUDIES • OCTOBER 2023

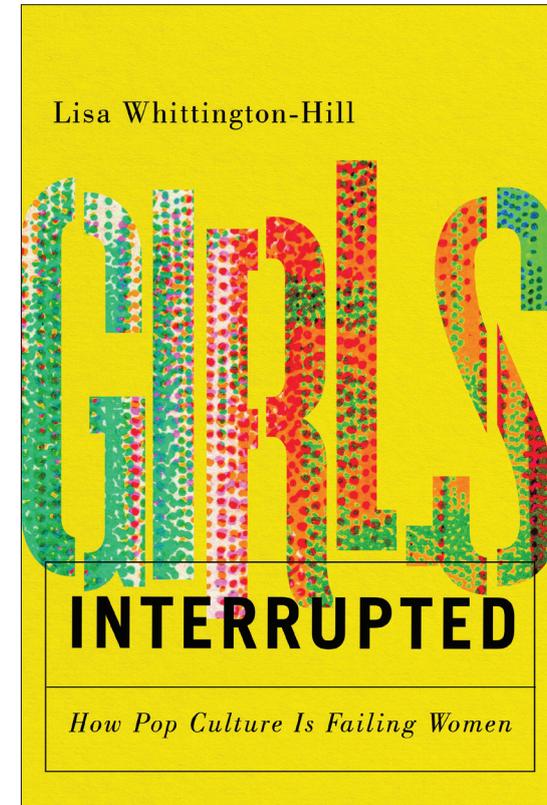
ISBN: 9781550656329 • \$24.95 CDN • \$18.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 200 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656404 • \$13.99

Advance reading copies • Review copies • Web advertising  
Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

## Searing essays on how pop culture's treatment of women is marked by misogyny and misunderstanding

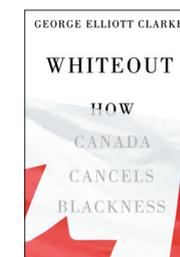


### RECOMMENDED NON-FICTION



**Redemption Ground**  
*Essays and Adventures*  
Lorna Goodison

ISBN: 9781550656213  
\$21.95 CDN • \$17.95 US  
5 X 7 1/2 • 200 PAGES  
EPUB AVAILABLE



**Whiteout**  
*How Canada Cancels Blackness*  
George Elliott Clarke

ISBN: 9781550656077  
\$24.95 CDN • \$19.95 US  
5 X 7 1/2 • 340 PAGES  
EPUB AVAILABLE

## SPIRITS IN THE DARK

H. Nigel Thomas

30th Anniversary Edition



**H. Nigel Thomas** is the author of dozens of essays and thirteen books, comprising novels, poetry, short fiction, and literary criticism. His novels *Spirits in the Dark* (1993) and *Easily Fooled* (2015) were shortlisted for the Hugh MacLennan Fiction Award. The French translation of *Lives: Whole and Otherwise* was a finalist for the Carbet des lycéens award. He has won a number of awards, including, in 2022, the Canada Council John Molson Prize for the Arts.

First published in Canada in 1993, *Spirits in the Dark* is a pioneering intersectional novel of the LGBTQ+ and Caribbean-Canadian experience that was far ahead of its time. This anniversary edition features an introduction by Kaie Kellough and a new afterword by the author.

In his powerful debut, H. Nigel Thomas writes with compelling honesty about the confusing maze of societal pressures that paralyze Jerome Quashee while growing up in the Caribbean, and later on in his adult life. Jerome's intelligence at first promises him a gateway out of the poverty his parents have known, but he must compete with privileged white boys for scholarships in a racist, classist culture. *Spirits in the Dark* is the story of a man who represses his emerging homosexuality, fearing that it will bring his family disgrace as he wrestles with the guilt of knowing so little about his African heritage and the pressure to let go of his ties to Black culture. Under the spiritual guidance of Pointer Francis, he undergoes a religious ritual to block all sensory links to the outside world in order to see clearly into his past and face his demons.

NOVEL • SEPTEMBER 2023

ISBN: 9781550656336 • \$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 270 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656411 • \$13.99

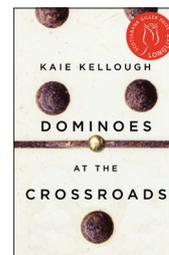
Advance reading copies • Review copies • Web advertising  
Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

A pioneering intersectional novel of the LGBTQ+ and Caribbean-Canadian experience



SPIRITS in the  
DARK H. Nigel Thomas

### RECOMMENDED FICTION



**Dominoes at the Crossroads**  
Kaie Kellough

ISBN: 9781550655315  
5 X 7 1/2 • 180 PAGES  
\$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US  
EPUB AVAILABLE



**Prophetess**  
Baharan Baniahmadi

ISBN: 9781550655957  
5 X 7 1/2 • 180 PAGES  
\$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US  
EPUB AVAILABLE

## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan  
A Toni Damiano Mystery



**Sheila Kindellan-Sheehan** is the author of eleven mystery novels including *Where Bodies Fall* (2015), *In the Shadows* (2017), and most recently *The Gang of Four* (2019). She lives in Pointe-Claire, Quebec.

Ten years ago, the prestigious suburban community of Beaconsfield, Quebec was shaken by the discovery of the bodies of an ordinary couple in their home. What appeared to be a common murder-suicide—husband kills wife and takes his own life—has baffled two previous investigations. At one point, the son, who had a tumultuous relationship with his father, was considered a suspect. Lieutenant Detective Toni Damiano and her partner, Detective Pierre Matte, attached to the newly-created Cold Case Unit, have reopened the case with their usual confidence and grit. They are met with unexpected challenges and a reality they've never had to face.

Praise for *My Brother's Keeper*

**"No matter how well-manicured the lawns might be, suburbia can be a messy place. It's a battle of getting to the truth and those who want to keep the truth hidden, no matter the cost. Once again, Kindellan-Sheehan pens a juicy tale of murder, with flawed heroes and an ending you won't see coming."**

— Sonali Karnick, host of *All in a Weekend*, CBC Radio

MYSTERY • OCTOBER 2023

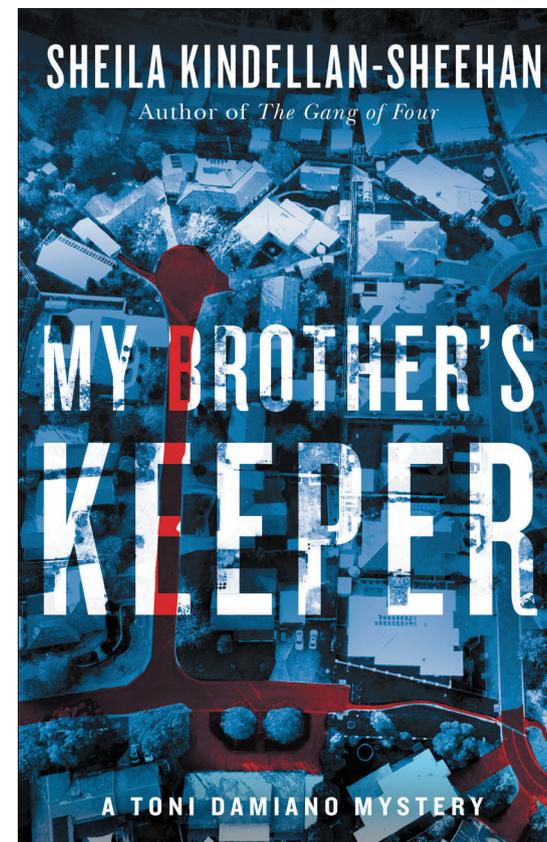
ISBN: 9781550656343 • \$22.95 CDN • \$17.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 ½ X 8 ½ • 240 PAGES

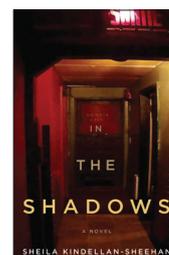
EPUB: 9781550656428 • \$13.99

Advance reading copies • Review copies • Web advertising  
Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

A baffling murder-suicide is at the heart of a gripping new mystery from the bestselling author of *The Gang of Four*



### ALSO BY SHEILA KINDELLAN-SHEEHAN



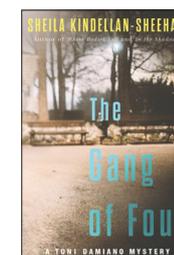
#### In the Shadows

ISBN: 9781550654813

5 ½ X 8 ½ • 288 PAGES

\$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



#### The Gang of Four

ISBN: 9781550655346

5 ½ X 8 ½ • 240 PAGES

\$19.95 CDN • \$15.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE

# CATHEDRAL/GROVE

Susan Glickman



Susan Glickman's most recent book is *Artful Flight: Selected Essays 1985–2019*. She is the author of seven books of poetry, four novels for adults, three novels for children, and a work of literary history. She lives in Toronto where she works as a freelance editor and is learning to paint.

*Cathedral/Grove*, Susan Glickman's brilliant new collection, comes to terms with the question of legacy—what we leave behind as a species, as citizens, and as parents. Marked by the lucidity and precision she has been celebrated for, the poems encompass the monuments of Western civilization, a climate in decline, and the pandemic. The title is inspired by the fire that ravaged Notre Dame Cathedral in 2019, destroying the wooden roof-frame known as *La Forêt*; it also alludes to “Cathedral Grove,” otherwise known as MacMillan Provincial Park, one of the last old growth stands on Vancouver Island. In poems of praise and lament for our fractured world—“Everything is becoming more itself / or something else,” she writes—Glickman has tapped into a magnificent vein of lyric richness.

Praise for Susan Glickman

“These lyric poems have an unassuming grace and clarity.”  
— Barbara Carey, *Toronto Star*

“Glickman's striking sensory poems are tightly controlled, even choreographed, with music.”  
— Crystal Hurdle, *Canadian Literature*

POETRY • SEPTEMBER 2023

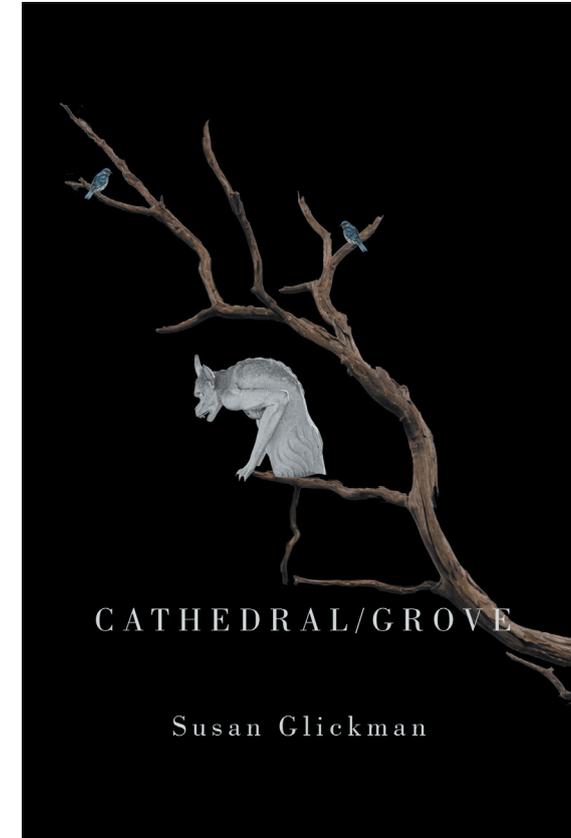
ISBN: 9781550656350 • \$22.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 80 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656435 • \$13.99

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Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

Poems of praise and lament for our fractured world



## ALSO BY SUSAN GLICKMAN



### What We Carry

ISBN: 9781550655216

5 X 7 1/2 • 78 PAGES

\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



### The Smooth Yarrow

ISBN: 9781550653304

5 1/2 X 8 1/2 • 78 PAGES

\$18.00 CDN • \$18.00 US

EPUB AVAILABLE

## QUICKER THAN THE EYE

Joe Fiorito



Born in Fort William, Ontario, **Joe Fiorito's** awards include the National Newspaper Award for Columns, the Bressani Prize for Short Fiction, and the City of Toronto Book Award. He is the author of eight books of fiction and non-fiction, including two collections of poetry, most recently *All I Have Learned Is Where I Have Been* (2021). He is married and lives in Toronto.

In his third collection of verse, *Quicker Than The Eye*, Joe Fiorito continues to craft short, sharp poems that define the harder edges of urban life. His principal tools are a photographer's eye for detail, and a musician's ear for the sound of the human voice. Now, in *Quicker Than The Eye*, Canada's poet of the streets turns his gaze inward, writing about the influences of early love, family tragedy, and the search for meaning in a world where "the desolate things are mine." A master of spare, razor-sharp language, Fiorito manages to strip sentiment from memory in order to find tenderness and enduring truth on the margins of the city. He has never written more austere or more beautifully.

Praise for Joe Fiorito

**"Fiorito proves himself a storyteller of remarkable gifts: there's an aura of dignity and beauty over events, sometimes terrible, sometimes tender."** — *Esquire*

**"Joe Fiorito writes like a rough-hewn angel."**  
— *The Globe and Mail*

**"Fiorito has all the right stuff."** — Mordecai Richler

POETRY • SEPTEMBER 2023

ISBN: 9781550656367 • \$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 70 PAGES

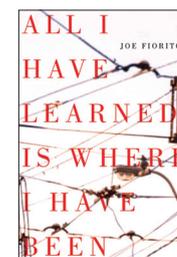
EPUB: 9781550656442 • \$13.99

Advance reading copies • Review copies • Web advertising  
Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

Short, sharp poems that define  
the harder edges of urban life



### RECOMMENDED POETRY



**All I Have Learned Is  
Where I Have Been**

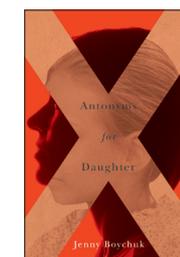
Joe Fiorito

ISBN: 9781550655469

5 X 7 1/2 • 76 PAGES

\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



**Antonyms for Daughter**

Jenny Boychuk

ISBN: 9781550655810

5 X 7 1/2 • 75 PAGES

\$17.95 CDN • \$14.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE

## STATES OF EMERGENCY

Yoyo Comay



**Yoyo Comay** is a poet and musician from Toronto. He released his first EP of original music, *Crushed*, under the name Sufferin Mall in 2022. His work has appeared in *The Peripheral Review*, *Commo Mag*, *Touch the Donkey*, Metatron Press, and Small Walker Press. He is also a co-founder of the Toronto Experimental Translation Collective. *States of Emergency* is his first book of poetry.

*States of Emergency* is a book-length poem about the apocalyptic present, written in a language whose meaning is liquid and full of slippage, always spilling out from its container. In Yoyo Comay's hands, words roil, churn, and surge. By taking on different mood and modes, from the prophetic to the colloquial, he has created a form that is a constant unravelling—a leap of faith into intuitive meaning, a letting go into ongoingness. "I am catapulted into where I am," he writes, "and the air concusses around me." Comay sees poetry as a visceral experience: a state of immanence, embodiment, emergence, emergency. This is poetry as diary and seismograph, an infinite scroll for the end of days. It is a debut like no other.

Praise for Yoyo Comay

**"Yoyo Comay's power to turn a phrase, however enigmatic, is startling. Reading *States of Emergency*, I feel like an oboe player encountering Jimi Hendrix."**—Richard Greene

POETRY • OCTOBER 2023

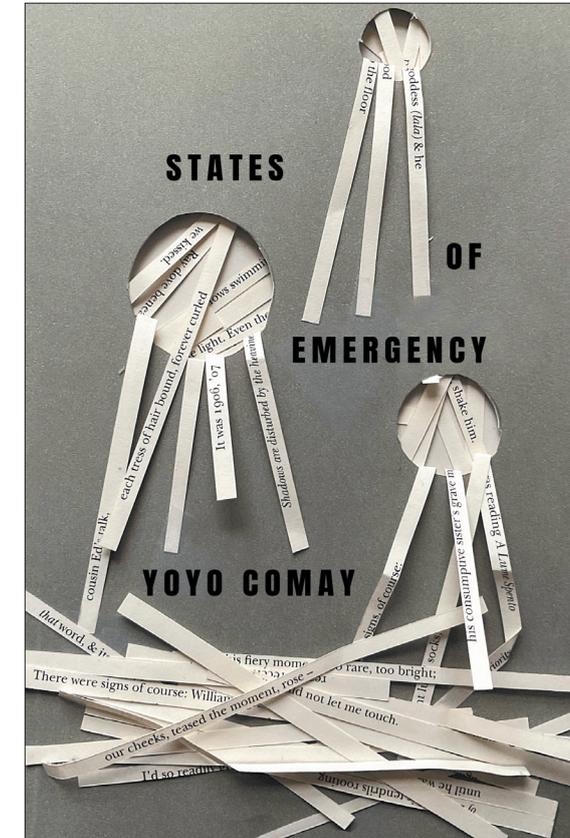
ISBN: 9781550656374 • \$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 60 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656459 • \$13.99

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Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

A book-length poem that stretches from the prophetic to the colloquial



### RECOMMENDED POETRY



**Wolf Sonnets**  
R. P. LaRose

ISBN: 9781550656091

5 X 7 1/2 • 75 PAGES

\$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



**Durable Goods**  
James Pollock

ISBN: 9781550656107

5 X 7 1/2 • 75 PAGES

\$19.95 CDN • \$16.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



# WHISPERING CITY

## Horace Brown

### Introduction by Brian Busby



**Horace Brown** (1908–1996) wrote for CBC Radio. His novels, published in Canada, England, and the United States, include *Murder in the Rough* (1946), *The Penthouse Murders* (1950), and *The Corpse Was a Blonde* (1950).

Quebec City crime reporter Mary Roberts is about to leave her desk for the day when she receives word that a woman has been struck down in the centre of town. The victim is Renée Brancourt. A former pin-up, she'd once been a big star, treading the boards at the *Comédie-Française*, until her lover, Robert Marchand, plunged over Montmorency Falls. Renée's inability to accept his death led her to be institutionalized.

Now on her deathbed at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital, the faded vedette tells Mary that Robert's death was no accident. She points an accusing finger at Albert Frédéric, the most respected lawyer in the city, thus setting the young reporter on a trail that will ultimately imperil her own life.

First issued in 1947 by Global Publishing of Pickering, Ontario, *Whispering City* has since become one of the most sought-after Canadian pulp novels. This Ricochet Books edition marks a return to print after seventy-six years.

NOIR CRIME • SEPTEMBER 2023

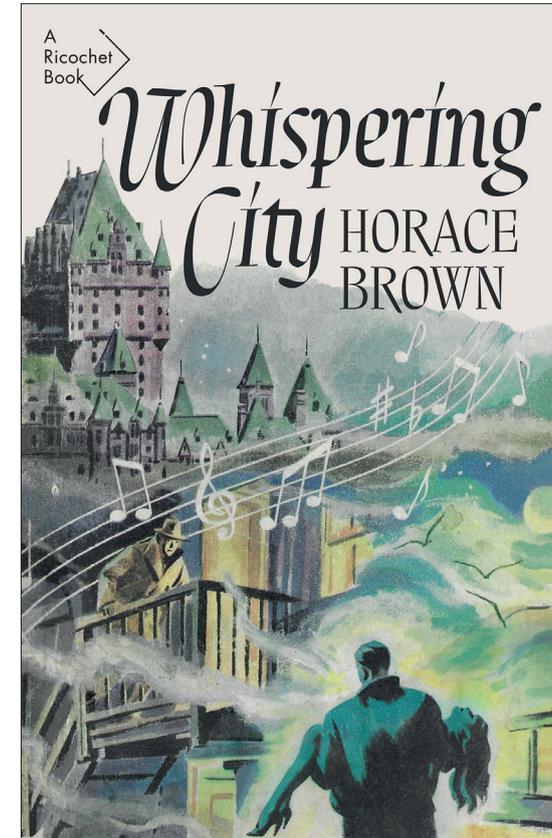
ISBN: 9781550656381 • \$15.95 CDN • \$13.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 4 ½ X 7 • 160 PAGES

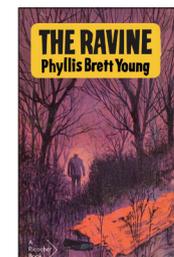
EPUB: 9781550656466 • \$8.99

Advance reading copies • Review copies • Web advertising  
Online promotions • Virtual & In-Person launches

## Classic Canadian noir about blackmail and murder in Old Quebec



### RECOMMENDED NOIR



#### The Ravine

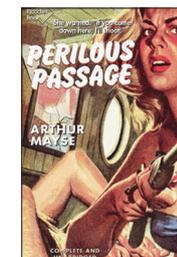
Phyllis Brett Young

ISBN: 9781550655445

4 ½ X 7 • 240 PAGES

\$14.95 CDN • \$11.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE



#### Perilous Passage

Arthur Mayse

ISBN: 9781550655841

4 ½ X 7 • 220 PAGES

\$14.95 CDN • \$11.95 US

EPUB AVAILABLE

## HOTLINE

Dimitri Nasrallah

It's 1986, and Muna Heddad is in a bind. After escaping Lebanon's civil war, she'd hoped to work as a French teacher in Montreal, but no one trusts her to teach the language. The only work Muna can get is at a weight-loss centre. All day, she takes calls from people phoning a hotline who are responding to ads seen in magazines or on TV. These strangers all have so much to say once someone shows interest—marriages gone bad, parents dying, isolation, personal inadequacies. Even as her new life faces invisible barriers at every turn, on the phone Muna is privy to the city's deepest secrets.

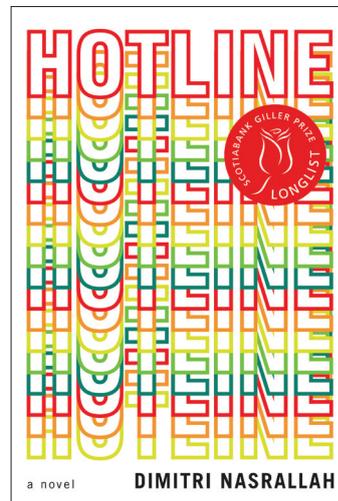
Following international acclaim for *Niko* (2011) and *The Bleeds* (2018), Nasrallah's intimate new novel, now in its fifth printing, is a vivid elegy to Montreal in the 1980s. Highlighting the era's marginalization of migrants, *Hotline's* endearing portrait of struggle and perseverance raises issues that are still alarmingly relevant today.

**"Hotline intertwines hope and sorrow to create a moving story that sears the heart."** — *Quill & Quire*

**"A quietly transformative story, one that takes your assumptions, twists them into a shape you didn't initially see and casts them back at you in a really lovely way."**

— *The Miramichi Reader*

**"[A] significant addition to the literary chronicling of the Canadian immigrant experience."** — *Montreal Gazette*



**2023 Canada Reads Finalist**

**Longlist —  
2022 Scotiabank Giller Prize**

NOVEL • ESPLANADE FICTION  
ISBN: 9781550655940 • \$21.95 CDN  
TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 ½ • 280 PAGES  
EPUB: 9781550656008 • \$13.99

## LETTERS FROM MONTREAL

Tales of an Exceptional City

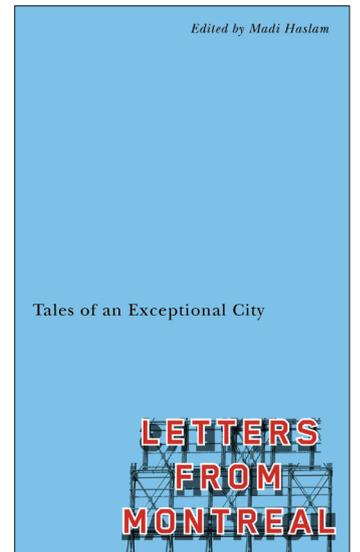
Edited by Madi Haslam

*Letters From Montreal* documents the experiences of Montrealers past and present, creating a portrait of the storied city unlike any other. Drawn from the celebrated column in *Maisonneuve* magazine, this anthology features Canadian writers documenting a quintessential part of local life. Narrated with the intimacy of journal entries, each letter bridges the playful and profound. In early dispatches, Melissa Bull ditches a boyfriend over pétanque in Parc Laurier; Deborah Ostrovsky frets over the sublime sophistication of the Plateau's French children. More recently, Ziya Jones spends a summer herding sheep through Parc du Pélican; Eva Crocker performs in a "fake orgasm choir" at the Rialto Theatre; and André Picard takes a pause from the pandemic by running up Mount Royal.

Edited by former *Maisonneuve* editor-in-chief Madi Haslam, these letters buzz with a sense of possibility, surprise, and transformation. They remind us that a city can't quite be defined, that every person inside it interprets it anew.

**"Letters from Montreal contains unforgettable writing about city life."** — Jean Marc Ah-Sen, *Toronto Star*

**"Whimsical, occasionally profound, and highly entertaining."**  
— T'Cha Dunlevy, *Montreal Gazette*

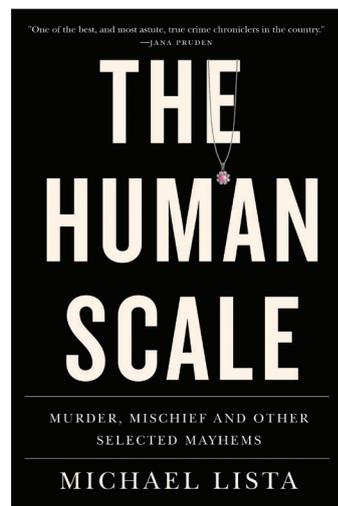


ANTHOLOGY  
ISBN: 9781550656084 • \$16.95 CDN • \$13.95 US  
TRADE PAPER • 4 ¼ X 7 • 160 PAGES  
EPUB: 9781550656145 • \$11.99

## THE HUMAN SCALE

### Murder, Mischief, and Other Selected Mayhems Michael Lista

Whether investigating a gruesome triple-murder, a fairy tale marriage gone horribly wrong, or a brilliant con artist, Michael Lista has proven himself one of the most gifted storytellers of his generation. In his belief that crime reporting thrives the closer it moves to “the human scale”—where every uncovered secret reveals the truth of our obligations to each other—Lista builds his compulsively readable narratives from details (fake flowers, a little girl’s necklace) others might pass over, details that provide a doorway into the extreme situations he is drawn to. *The Human Scale* not only includes Lista’s most celebrated magazine stories to date, but also comes with postscripts that describe his process in writing each piece, and the fallout from publication. Here is long-form journalism in its most hallowed form: brilliant and bingeable.



“Michael Lista brings a poet’s heart and a philosopher’s eye to the darkest parts of human behaviour. *The Human Scale* is a brilliant collection by one of the best, and most astute, true crime chroniclers in the country.” — Jana Pruden, author of *Fear on the Family Farm*

“Few journalists today have Michael Lista’s eye for the spectrum of shadow that haunts true crime. This is a must-read collection for anyfan of the genre—just go to bed with a night-light on.” — Harley Rustad, author of *Lost in the Valley of Death: A Story of Obsession and Danger in the Himalayas*

TRUE CRIME

ISBN: 9781550656206 • \$22.95 CDN • \$18.95 US

TRADE PAPER • 5 ½ x 8 ½ • 240 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656275 • \$14.99

## REDEMPTION GROUND

### Essays and Adventures Lorna Goodison

In her first-ever collection of essays, poet and novelist Lorna Goodison interweaves the personal and political to explore themes that have occupied her working life: her love of poetry and the arts, colonialism and its legacy, racism and social justice, authenticity, and the enduring power of friendship. Taking its title from one of Kingston’s oldest markets, *Redemption Ground* introduces us to a vivid cast of characters and remembers moments of epiphany—in a cinema in Jamaica, at New York’s Bottom Line club, and as she searched for a black hairdresser in Paris and drank tea in London’s Marylebone High Street.

Enlightening and entertaining, these essays explore not only daily challenges but also the compassion that enables us to rise above them. They confirm her as a major figure in world literature.



“Goodison’s collection privileges moments of effervescence, where feelings are strong and some kind of revelation is just below the surface.” — *The Montreal Review of Books*

“Sensuous, perspicacious, captivating essays...This is a vital and exhilarating book.” — Donna Bailey Nurse

BLACK & AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHIES

ISBN: 9781550656213 • \$21.95 CDN • \$21.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 x 7 ½ • 208 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656282 • \$13.99

## DANDELION DAUGHTER

### Gabrielle Boulianne-Tremblay

*Translated from the French by Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch*

*Dandelion Daughter* is an intimate portrait of growing up having been assigned the wrong sex at birth. Set against the windswept countryside of the remote Charlevoix region some five hours north of Montréal, Boulianne-Tremblay's autobiographical novel immortalizes her early years as an alienated boy trapped in a world of small-town values. In the midst of her parents' dissolving marriage, Boulianne-Tremblay takes us through the complex adolescent years of self-discovery and first loves, to the harrowing episodes that fuel the growing realization that she must transition and give birth to her new self if she is to continue living at all.

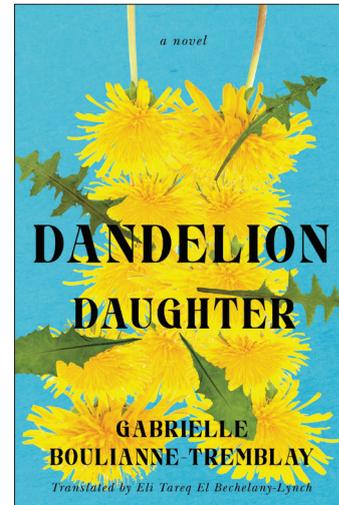
One of the first novels of its kind to appear in Québec, this inspiring story has connected with a wide readership and has been adopted by many schools.

**"A novel of delicate, quivering beauty. A poem about the secret nature of being a girl. A true-life fable in which a girl gives birth to herself. Every startling sentence makes you fall in love with the narrator again and again."**

— Heather O'Neill, author of *When We Lost Our Heads*

**"An important novel in the history of Québécois literature."**

— *Radio-Canada*



NOVEL • ESPLANADE FICTION

ISBN: 9781550656183 • \$21.95 CDN • \$17.95 US

TRADE PAPER, FRENCH FLAPS • 5 X 7 1/2 • 280 PAGES

EPUB: 9781550656251 • \$13.99

## BECAUSE

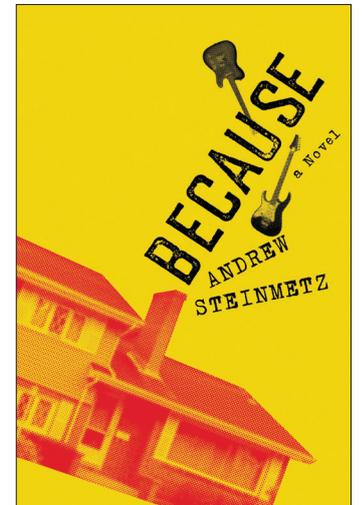
### Andrew Steinmetz

Teenage brothers Hombre and Transformer spend their days locked up in their suburban Montreal bedroom, writing songs and dreaming of stardom. Hombre, the younger one, is quiet, contemplative, and talented, a poet in the making. His older brother Transformer is stubborn, domineering, and secretly struggling with mental health issues. Their sequestered world is broken open one summer when their mother hires Spit, a girl from the local guitar shop, to help the boys improve their modest skills. But these good intentions set off a chain reaction with tragic consequences.

Set in the early 80s, in a local music scene brimming with post-punk ethos and a disdain for classic rock, *Because* is a wry and charming depiction of a sibling relationship founded on feverish angst, unspoken admiration, jealousy, and the pursuit of the greatest song they can write from their own room.

**"The world of *Because* could only be Montreal, it could only be the 80s, it could only be these two kids in this particular family. It is real and moving and tenderly drawn. I loved this book."**

— Missy Marston, author of *The Love Monster and Bad Ideas*



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## THE FOUR-DOORED HOUSE

Pierre Nepveu

*Translated by Donald Winkler*

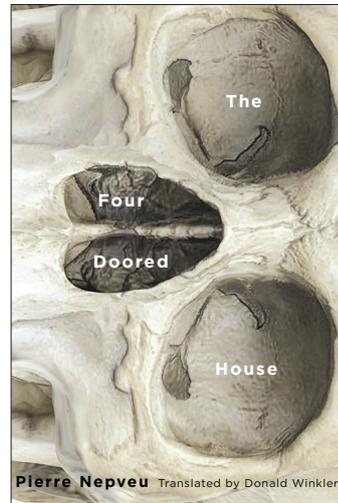
*The Four-Doored House* evokes two key women in Pierre Nepveu's life. First, his granddaughter Lily, who he imagines maturing into a complex world, haunted by her memory of him as he is haunted now by her projected self, navigating an era awash in uncertainty and unease. Imbued with both wonder and disquiet, it is an aging poet's celebration of childhood, as well as a meditation on his own "future absence." There follows his celebration of C, the woman with whom Nepveu shares his nights and days. These are love poems dedicated to a companion who has aided him in finding "new phrases that reformulate the impossible."

The culmination of a brilliant career, translated into fluent and thrilling English by Donald Winkler, *The Four-Doored House* is Nepveu's most enduring work yet.

**"The striking, densely packed, remarkably translated poems of *The Four-Doored House* deserve time spent with them as they stretch out time across verses, thoughtfully observing loved ones and the self throughout life."**

— *The Montreal Review of Books*

**"Pierre Nepveu's *The Four-Doored House*, luminously translated by Donald Winkler, combines high-flying lyrical intensity with a rich ballast of tangible images that will make these poems thoroughly attractive to readers of poetry in English. The book confirms Nepveu's status as a major living poet."** — James Pollock



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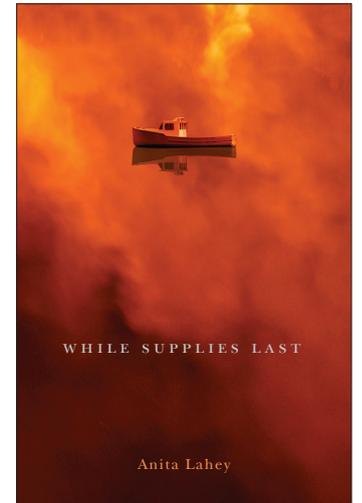
## WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Anita Lahey

Anita Lahey writes the kind of rigorously observed, emotionally charged poetry few can match. In *While Supplies Last*, her first collection in eleven years, Lahey throws herself on the mercy of a changing climate, takes refuge in art and revels in everyday wonders. In the final section, about a forest fire that devastated the Cape Breton village of Main-à-dieu in 1976, she becomes a custodian of local histories. No matter the subject, whether traffic reports during the pandemic, a fossilized baby mammoth, or Toronto's iconic Don River, Lahey extends the sense of what language can do and say.

This is tour de force writing: mischievous, unpredictable, urgent, never boring. In *While Supplies Last*, Lahey comes fully into her own.

**"One of the rare poets trained as a journalist, the virtuosic Anita Lahey delights, deplores, and literally fires up a new sensitivity in poetry to climate change. Capacious, generous, and gently funny, these poems alter the borders of contemporary experience even as they examine them. *While Supplies Last* is astonishing."** — Molly Peacock



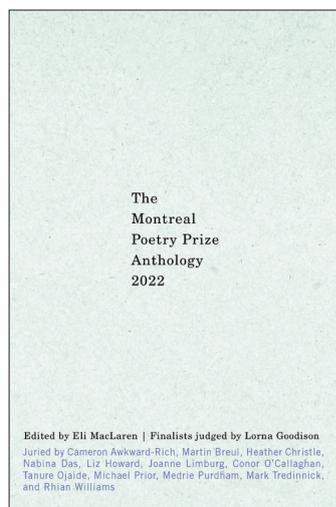
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## THE MONTREAL POETRY PRIZE ANTHOLOGY 2022

Edited by Eli MacLaren

Founded in 2010, the Montreal International Poetry Prize has established itself as a major event in contemporary poetry, both in Canada and around the world. The 2022 anthology continues the work of its predecessors, building the community of contemporary poetry on the twin principles of aesthetics and accessibility. Under this banner—poetry is for everyone—these poems speak of historic desolation and everyday bravery. Their images grip and hold. Here common experience crystallizes into stanzaic form, lending dignity to life in a ravaged world. From Canada, Australia, the Caribbean, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Romania, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, the United States, and elsewhere, these sixty poems were chosen for the virtue of their speaking to the reader, artfully and clearly. They voice a reality that you will recognize as strangely yours.

Lorna Goodison, winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, judged the finalists, selecting the one poem— included here—to take the \$20,000 prize. Entries were juried by Cameron Awkward-Rich, Martin Breul, Heather Christle, Nabina Das, Liz Howard, Joanne Limburg, Conor O'Callaghan, Tanure Ojaide, Michael Prior, Medrie Purdham, Mark Tredinnick, and Rhian Williams.



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## I'M CHASING MY OWN THUNDERSTORM

BY GABRIELLE BOULIANNE-TREMBLAY

Translated from the French by Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch

My mom wants to bring me to the village hairdresser. I make a fuss in the car by kicking the back of her seat every two seconds. She doesn't say a word. Angrily looks at me in the rear-view mirror. I'm chasing my own thunderstorm.

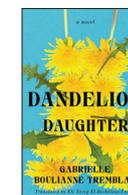
I don't want to leave the car. She removes my seatbelt and pulls me out by my overall straps. "Oh, stop being such a nuisance. Don't you want to start off the new year fresh? You're going to have a nice mushroom haircut like every-one else. Otherwise, what kind of impression would that give of us?"

At lunchtime, we head to the hairdresser's, which is in a basement. It's a funny place. When I walk in, the smell of hairspray burns my nostrils. Three chairs, one of which is waiting for me. The chairs in the back are occupied by two women reading magazines with massive round blow dryers covering their heads. It looks like they're going to be abducted by aliens. There's a door at the other end of the room leading to Gisèle the hairdresser's house. On a zebra print shelf, miracle products promise a transformative experience. There's something for everyone's wants, everyone's needs. I open the bottles, charmed by their smells.

There's a poster displaying the newest, most popular haircuts. My mom points to a little blond boy on one of the posters. "Give him a Nick Carter haircut, he'll be cute as all that. I'll come back to pick him up in two to three hours if it isn't a bother. I have to run some errands in town."

I'm stunned that my mom would leave me for so long. At my age, trapped in a chair, three hours is an eternity. She kisses my head before leaving.

The hairdresser has rings on all her fingers which come alive like centipedes. Her rings are silver, in the shape of hearts, arrows, one set with a diamond, another with amethyst, the rest engraved with her children's names. My hair strands are seized, one after the other, between heart and



**Dandelion  
Daughter**  
Gabrielle  
Boulianne-  
Tremblay

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arrow. The scissors chomp my hair. I watch the strands fall, my eyes obstructed.

“Don’t make that face, little guy. It’s going to grow back anyway.”

Gisèle goes to get a cigarette from her purse. She sets down her scissors. Lights up. A cloud soon appears above our heads. Gisèle asks one of the other women to open a window. A small guillotine window. When she turns my chair in its direction, I count the number of people passing by outside. We can only see their shoes or their sandals walking past. I imagine that the shoes and sandals are bodiless, the bodies at home resting. We’ll never know.

Sometimes when she’s in front of me, my nose almost presses up against her large breasts. I try to move my head. She warns me not to move, otherwise my haircut won’t be even. When she brings her face close to mine to cut the top, she squints her eyes, closes one, checks if she’s done well. She has the intensity of a huntress. She stands for a while in front of my face. Her fingers smell like Alberto mousse and cigarettes. “You look like an angel.” I smile at her. I want to count each freckle on her face. I like counting. I ask her how many heartbeats we are given before we die.

“That’s a big question for such a little person.”

She takes a second to think about it. She looks at the ceiling as though the answer to my question is hidden there.

“I don’t know, but when I think about it, it makes my heart pound faster, so let’s cool our jets, eh?”

Gisèle keeps a bobby pin between her pursed lips. They’re plum coloured and make her skin look green. Probably why people

gossip that she’s a witch. They say she’s a husband thief, a home-wrecker. I can’t see any danger because we exchange smiles and conspiratorial looks in the mirror. The other day at church, she sat at the back, alone, at the periphery of everyone’s thoughts, almost forgotten. After the communion, my dad went to talk to her. Standing in front of the confessional booth, he tucked a fallen strand of hair behind her ear. She smiled. Her eyes bore into his. My mom always insists that she, and not my dad, bring me to the hair salon.

I look at my hair on the floor. A blond cloud splayed open. Even though I’m having a nice time with the hairdresser, I can sense a feeling of dread creeping in. I feel like I’ve lost a limb. I have the exact same haircut as the little boy on the poster. I don’t look like myself. I look like someone else. I have the same haircut as Nick Carter. I could be his double if the Backstreet Boys ever needed a replacement. Gisèle takes off my black cape with magisterial flare.

“Tada!” I’m not me. I’m someone else. I don’t recognize myself in the mirror. I keep touching my hair while she goes to check on the ladies at the back of the salon. She lights another cigarette. I pass my fingers through the few long strands left, then through the shaved area. She flattened my femininity, a forest of trees uniformly cut, leaving only the stumps. From now on, I’ll be afraid to wash my hair because I’ll have to pass my hands over the coarse short hairs that bristle against my fingers.

“I like your mom and all but you’ll have to remind her that I’m not a babysitter,” Gisèle tells me. “You can also tell her that she can pay me at the end of the month, that’s no problem. It’s been a good month, so I’m not stressed.”

Another two hours of waiting before she comes back. One of the women leaves before my mom returns and another client arrives. I spend the time imagining what the witch’s lair looks like upstairs. There are probably men sleeping, victims of her spells. The missing husbands. The casualties of love. I spend two hours daydreaming about the long and radiant hair of the girls in my class and wonder why boys have to keep their hair short. I wish I had Rapunzel hair.

**Gabrielle Boulianne-Tremblay is the first trans woman to be nominated as an actress at the Canadian Screen Awards. *Dandelion Daughter* is the English-language translation of her novel *La fille d’elle-même*, which won the 2022 Prix des libraires.**

**Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch is the author of *knot body*, shortlisted for a QWF award, and *The Good Arabs*, which won the 2022 Grand prix du livre de Montreal.**

## THE BABY MAMMOTH BY ANITA LAHEY

In 2007, the sons of Yuri Khudi, a Nenets reindeer herder, found a nearly intact mammoth carcass on the banks of northern Siberia’s Yurebei river. Called Lyuba, after Khudi’s wife, she represented, at the time, the most complete fossil of a prehistoric creature ever found. Her discovery is tied to climate-change-induced permafrost melt. The following sonnet is from the sequence I wrote, “Ice-Age Surprise.”

Her trunk, curled, enfolds a gale  
of long-lost terror let loose in tremolo.  
She thrashes, gasps, writhes with immense  
cries and roars against the undertow...  
that slurping, all-consuming down-suck. The bed  
of the Yuribei bulges. Cracks. Stills  
its catch. An ice-bound secret pickles  
in the sediment of her habitat. Instead  
of ducking spears, swipes from sabre-tooth cats,  
she ferments in soil, acid, time—intact.  
That mud choked and drowned and made her were.  
Yet she is: shrivelled to half her heft,  
transformed, preserved, what’s left.



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Anita Lahey

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ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER & POETRY EDITOR: Carmine Starnino

MARKETING & EVENTS: Jennifer Varkonyi  
[jvarkonyi@vehiculepress.com](mailto:jvarkonyi@vehiculepress.com)

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Patrick Goddard  
[admin@vehiculepress.com](mailto:admin@vehiculepress.com)

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**British Columbia, Yukon, Northern Territories**

Iolanda Millar  
 604.662.3511 ext. 246 | [imillar@mandagroup.com](mailto:imillar@mandagroup.com)

Robert Patterson

604.662.3511 ext. 247 | [rpatterson@mandagroup.com](mailto:rpatterson@mandagroup.com)

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