

2016 Annual Report to Donors

Dear Supporter of the Walrus Foundation:

The charitable, non-profit, national Walrus Foundation relies on your participation to fulfill its educational mandate to create forums for conversation on matters vital to Canadians – as well as content on the page, the screen, and the stage. On behalf of our board of directors, advisors, staff, writers, artists, and talkers, we thank you for the contribution you made in 2016 to journalism, to the Canadian conversation, and to Canada through your support of all things Walrus.

In 2016, our small but mighty staff continued to produce exceptional, fact-based content with fresh perspectives. We published more than 120 pieces of journalism, short fiction, or poetry last year in print and thousands more pieces online. This editorial content was well recognized. At the inaugural Canadian Magazine Awards, *The Walrus* won Best General Interest magazine of 2016, and at the annual National Magazine Awards, *Walrus* contributors won more gold and silver medals than those of any other Canadian publication.

Our content went beyond the page. The Walrus Talks national series presented a range of topics: energy, water, social investment, climate, vice, the Arctic, youth leadership, spirituality, resilience, art, cities of migration, and much more. Our presenting sponsors included RBC Foundation, Labatt, TD, Enbridge, Concordia, Western, Suncor, Quest University, and others. All of our Walrus Talks are available for viewing for free and

on our Walrus Television YouTube channel. There are now more than 500 Walrus Talks for you to watch, and each is just seven minutes long.

In 2016, we renewed existing partnerships and formed stellar new ones. We once again co-presented the Amazon.ca First Novel Award, which has launched some of Canada's most beloved fiction writers. We worked with the Cundill Prize, the Mordecai Richler Reading Room, and many other organizations, and we partnered with a dozen universities, including Western University and Ryerson University, on a new internship training program.

In June 2016, we were thrilled to learn that the federal government had chosen our proposal for a special 2017 national tour of the Walrus Talks — titled *We Desire a Better Country* — to be one of the Signature Initiatives of Canada 150. We produced the series in partnership with the Governor General, the Rideau Hall Foundation, and the Order of Canada. We spent much of 2016 preparing for this epic tour of thirteen Walrus Talks in thirteen provinces and territories in thirteen weeks. It featured 100 talkers.

Also in spring 2016, the lieutenant governor of Ontario asked us to create and manage the inaugural LG Visionaries Prize, which will feature public events in six Ontario cities in September 2017. In 2016, the Walrus Foundation's special-projects team worked with the lieutenant governor's office to create the prize, draft the rules and regulations, build the digital platform for submissions, come up with the budget, and secure funding from the Ontario 150 Secretariat.

And, in the summer and fall of 2016, *The Walrus's* editorial and art teams partnered with *Canadian Geographic* magazine to create a special publication *The Story of Canada in 150 Objects*, which came out in December, in time for the annual Walrus Gala, in January.

This small organization with modest resources has accomplished much in 2016. We are on track in our strategic planning, events schedule, and content-creation goals. We are represented in every province and territory, engaging with curious Canadians of all walks. And we have a revenue

model built to withstand the forces facing other journalistic outlets. In 2016, we met more Canadians, supported more writers and artists, visited more communities, trained more editors through our fellowship program, made more partnerships, expanded the role of our educational review committee, brought on new donors, and deepened our relationships with long-time supporters. And we worked hard on the Canada 150 initiative to ensure that it made a lasting impact. We did all this activity during a period of immense disruption in the industry.

We are proud of how far the Walrus Foundation came in 2016, and we hope you share that pride. We are especially proud to have your support, and we promise to continue to earn it. As a thoughtful reader, engaged Canadian, and supporter of this forum for the Canadian conversation, you truly are the Walrus.

Thank you.

Helen Burstyn

Chair, the Walrus Foundation

Shelley Ambrose

Executive Director, the Walrus Foundation

Publisher, *The Walrus*

Politics and World Affairs

Last spring, Kerry Gold, real estate reporter for the *Globe and Mail*, set out to understand the housing crisis in Vancouver. Her cover story in our May issue offered a scathing look at the foreign investors who are squeezing out Vancouver's middle class and making home ownership unaffordable. The article was one of the most popular features in *The Walrus* in 2016, sparking a national conversation about real estate.

Responses to the piece were varied and informative; the most compelling were published as articles on the website. Among those who weighed in at *thewalrus.ca* were Andray Domise, a writer and community activist in Toronto; Nora Loreto, a freelance journalist in Quebec City; Michael Stewart, editor at *Rabble.ca*; and Vancouver's mayor, Gregor Robertson.

Political reporting in *The Walrus* in 2016 varied from nationwide policy investigations to local personal stories, and everything in between. Rhiannon Russell, a former editorial fellow, wrote about the lack of emergency services in Canada's North and how building the proper infrastructure for a 911 phone line could save lives. Lisa Moore, acclaimed novelist, criticized the government of Newfoundland and Labrador for its 2016 budget cuts, which endanger the province's libraries. Miranda Elliott asked why Prince Edward Island—where a legal abortion hasn't been performed for over three decades—is so far behind on reproductive rights.

Only one quarter of Canadian MPs are female; for *thewalrus.ca*, Laura Payton questioned whether parties should be penalized for not reaching gender parity in 2016. Following the American election of Donald Trump, Max Fawcett emphasized the need for electoral reform—before it's too late. Writing from Ukraine, Christian Borys explained what Canadian soldiers on the ground are doing to help a young boy who lost his legs when an RPG exploded. Adam Rasmi questioned whether Canada should still be launching airstrikes against the Islamic State, and Adam Benzine visited Greece's largest refugee camp, where 6,000 children are living under a looming humanitarian crisis.

Highlights

"Up in the Air," Adam Rasmi (January) The Islamic State is more a security nuisance than an existential threat to the West. Why are we still launching airstrikes?

"Idomeni's Children," Adam Benzine (March) 6,000 kids are stuck in Greece's largest refugee camp. Is a humanitarian crisis looming?

"A House Divided," Laura Payton (April) Only a quarter of Canadian MPs are female. Should parties be penalized for not reaching gender parity?

"The Highest Bidder," Kerry Gold (May) How foreign investors are squeezing out Vancouver's middle class

"Ukraine's Mine Field," Christian Borys (May) A young boy lost both his legs when the RPG he was playing with exploded. Christian Borys explains what Canadian soldiers on the ground are doing to help

"Closing the Book on Newfoundland's Libraries," Lisa Moore (May) The province's budget cuts are an attack on writers, publishers, students—and culture

"The Need for Electoral Reform," Max Fawcett (November) Why changing the way Canadians vote matters more than ever, now that Trump has been elected

The Walrus showcases issues related to the environment—from climate, to resource management, to the varied relationships between Canadians and our vast, diverse country.

Our October print edition featured an engrossing article by *Walrus* editor Harley Rustad about one single tree. Known as “Big Lonely Doug,” the thousand-year-old Douglas fir tree, which stands near Port Renfrew, has become a flashpoint in the debate over logging and sustainability. Using Doug as both his symbol and inspiration, Rustad explores tensions between industry and the green movement. The piece resonated with readers—both online and in print—and Rustad is now working with House of Anansi Press to develop a book, to be published under the new *Walrus* Imprint in 2018.

“Attack of the Budworms,” a piece developed for our website, resulted from a fruitful collaboration: students from Concordia’s journalism program worked alongside Patti Sonntag, a managing editor at the *New York Times*, to investigate the budworm infestation in Quebec. The team conducted original research, and we published the resulting article in both French and English.

Those are only two of the many environmental stories we ran in 2016. Richard Kelly Kemick pondered the ethical complications of aquariums. Eva Holland took readers to the booming town of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, future home of a Canadian High Arctic Research Station. And Omar Mouallem profiled a Parks Canada initiative that aims to instill in new Canadians a love for camping and the outdoors.

In 2017, we will continue to shine a light on critical Canadian stories about the environment.

Highlights

“Big Lonely Doug,” Harley Rustad (October) Harley Rustad goes to see the loneliest tree in the world, a Douglas fir that has become a potent symbol for BC’s environmental movement

“How to Pitch a Tent,” Omar Mouallem (May) Learn to Camp, a Parks Canada initiative, introduces new Canadians—particularly families—to camping, hoping to instill a lifelong love for the outdoors

“Through the Aquarium Glass,” Richard Kelly Kemick (August) We don’t keep whales in captivity for education or conservation but because we want to be loved

“Vision of the North,” Eva Holland (September) The writer visits the booming town of Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, where a Canadian High Arctic Research Station will add to the excitement

“Making Muskrat Right,” Andreae Callanan (November) The Muskrat Falls dam is opposed by locals in Labrador for several reasons, including concerns over methylmercury contamination

“Attack of the Budworms,” Patti Sonntag (November) Spruce budworms are killing trees in Quebec, but the local forestry industry may not be doing enough to save the forest



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1 Portrait of adventurer Will Gadd by Jeremy Fokkens
2 Illustration by Lisa Vanin
3 Illustration by Jeannie Phan
4 Artwork by Hudson Christie
5 Illustration by Pascal Blanchet



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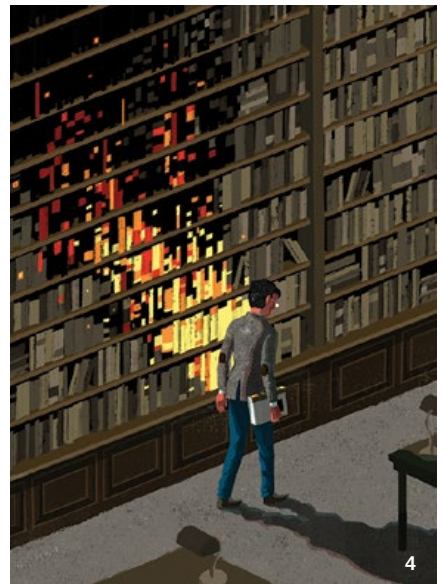
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1 Illustration by Janice Wu 2 Photography of the Dogpatch by Chloë Ellingson 3 Illustration by Mariah Llanes 4 Illustration by Byron Eggenschwiler 5 Photography of Parc du Mont-Royal and Jeanne-Mance by Kate Hutchinson

The Walrus established itself as a home for quality arts-related content in 2016. Our articles were shared by such content aggregators as Arts and Letters Daily, Longreads, and *The Paris Review Daily*.

Michael LaPointe, go-to literary critic, wrote regularly about Canada's publishing industry. He examined what makes a book a bestseller and questioned whether writers deserve to be paid for their work (they do). In an insightful look at Yann Martel's latest book, *The High Mountains of Portugal*, he concluded that the author of the century's most successful Canadian novel may be incapable of grappling with true suffering.

Simon Lewsen visited the National Ballet of Canada and wrote about the technicalities of creating *Le Petit Prince*, an original production based on the beloved French novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The feature-length dance performance, described in detail by Lewsen, is the perfect example of the kind of arts pieces *The Walrus* aims to produce. In the past year, Lewsen has also written about Drake—the “saviour of hip hop”—and local ambitious playwright Jordan Tannahill.

A photo essay by Tyler Anderson, with accompanying text by Conrad Black, documented the lives of Canadians involved in the fur trade. In words and beautifully crafted illustrations, Teva Harrison described the mundane and profound details of her struggle with cancer.

The Walrus printed a variety of book excerpts and reviews, often one step ahead of anticipated literary awards. Rudrapriya Rathore reviewed Madeleine Thien's *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*, winner of the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award; Miranda Newman reviewed Mona Awad's *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*, winner of the Amazon.ca First Novel Award; and Sonnet L'Abbé reviewed Soraya Peerbaye's *Tell*, winner of the Trillium Book Award for Poetry. On *thewalrus.ca*, writers also offered insights into music, with in-depth looks at David Bowie's enduring influence in Canada, Leonard Cohen's impeccable final album, and Gord Downie's mission to encourage reconciliation.

Highlights

“All Bodies Great and Small,” Miranda Newman (February) Mona Awad's *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* traces the outline of a weight-obsessed culture

“One-Trick Tiger,” Michael LaPointe (March) Michael LaPointe argues that Yann Martel falls short as a novelist because he is incapable of grappling with suffering

“Canada's Oldest Profession,” Tyler Anderson and Conrad Black (April) A photo essay on Canada's roots in the fur trade

“Three Ways to Disappear,” Teva Harrison (May) Teva Harrison describes, in words and pictures, the mundane and profound details of her struggle with cancer

“Pulling Strings,” Simon Lewsen and Aleksandar Antonijevic (June) The mechanics of bringing *Le Petit Prince* to the stage at the National Ballet of Canada

“Painful Sympathies,” Sonnet L'Abbé (June) A poet tackles one of Canada's most brutal race crimes

“Saying Too Much,” Rudrapriya Rathore (June) Madeleine Thien's ambitious novel explores the perils of bearing witness

“Gord Downie's Path to Reconciliation,” Alex Tesar (October) The troubadour of white Canada has made coming to terms with our past his final mission

For the November issue of the magazine, Josiah Neufeld attended a meeting with 500 Canadian Mennonite church representatives, who gathered to discuss same-sex marriage and the ordinance of LGBT ministers. Sexual orientation and identity are common points of debate within Christian communities, but what sets the Mennonites apart from the rest, Neufeld explains, is their democratic approach to finding a solution.

Lauren McKeon wrote about feminism in the December issue of *The Walrus*, profiling the women who have distanced themselves from the feminist label — either because they found the movement to be contradictory and fractured or because they’ve pledged their allegiance to men’s rights instead.

Walrus copy editor Sarah Sweet started a monthly column, *Word Nerd*, in 2016, focusing on the many complexities — and controversies — of her profession: from the value of the singular “they” to the problematic use of the word “alt-right.” Her article warning copy editors not to become grammar trolls was featured on CBC Radio.

The Walrus also paid close attention to the Canadian media landscape, which was greatly disrupted in 2016. In a piece for *thewalrus.ca*, Margo Goodhand, former editor of the *Edmonton Journal*, offered an inside look at the damage being done to Canadian newspapers. Just one month after her public departure — the result of another round of cuts — Goodhand wrote about her lengthy career and the effect of Postmedia’s debt-ridden ownership on Edmonton’s daily newspaper. Kelly Toughill wrote about what the demise of Halifax’s *Chronicle Herald* means for the country.

Alex Tesar, editor of *The Walrus*, questioned the legitimacy of research and reporting in a time when the public’s largest gatekeepers of knowledge — Google and Facebook — lead to misinformation and hate. And Stephen Kimber, a University of King’s College journalism professor, considered a silver lining: as old conventions of journalism die off, new (possibly better) ones will emerge.

Highlights

“Above the Fold,” Margo Goodhand (February)

The former editor of the *Edmonton Journal*’s inside look at the damage being done to Canada’s newspapers

“Paper Cuts,” Stephen Kimber (February)

A journalism professor on why the dark cloud looming over Canadian newspapers may have a silver lining

“Strike Out,” Kelly Toughill

(April) What labour disputes and shoddy reporting mean for the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*

“Grammar’s Star Trek Rule,” Sarah Sweet (October)

Our copy editor shares her wisdom regarding split infinitives

“Mennonite Pride,” Josiah Neufeld (November)

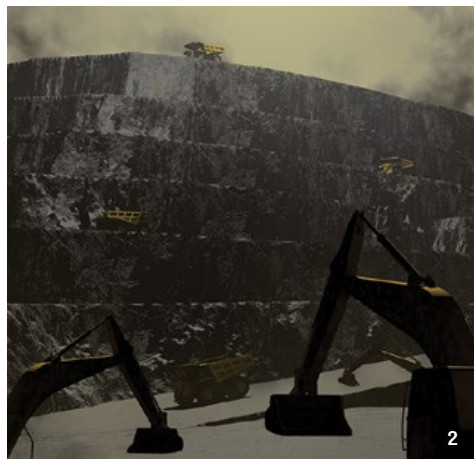
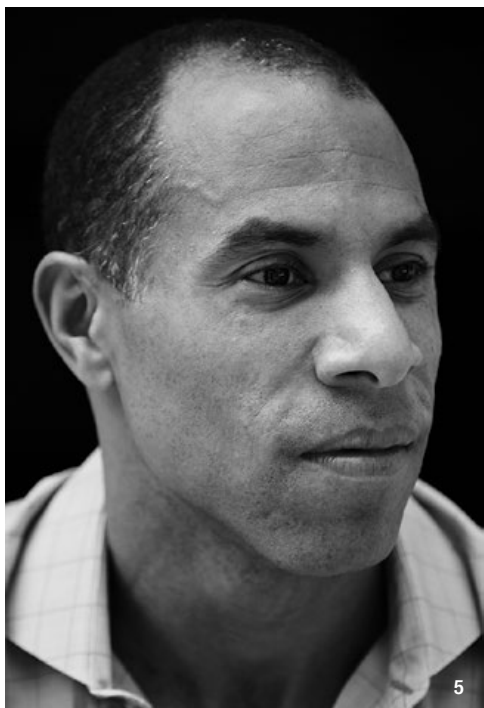
Josiah Neufeld attends as the Canadian Mennonite community prepares to cast its vote for or against gay marriage

“Checking Facts in a Post-Truth World,” Alex Tesar (November)

When the top results for online search queries lead to misinformation and hate, it’s hard not to agree that the largest gatekeepers of knowledge — such as Google and Facebook — are failing us

“Whose Side Are You On, Anyway?” Lauren McKeon (December)

Lauren McKeon looks at why, for an increasing number of women, “feminist” has become a tainted word



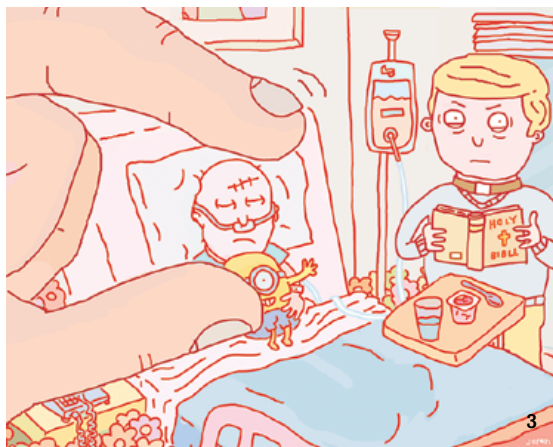
1 Photography by Tyler Anderson. 2 Illustration by Clay Rodery 3 A technician adjusts the machinery inside the cannabis-oil "extraction room." Photography by Richmond Lam 4 Illustration by Teva Harrison 5 Portrait of David Amber by Derek Shapton



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1 Illustration by Adrian Forrow 2 Illustration by Lauchie Reid 3 Illustration by Joren Cull 4 Illustration by Sam Island

Health and Science

In 2016, *The Walrus* continued to highlight health stories that resonate with Canadians. In our May issue, Miranda Elliott considered why the last legal abortion on Prince Edward Island was performed more than three decades ago and what local groups are doing to change provincial policy.

In “Growing Up Trans,” journalist Mary Rogan presented a detailed exploration of gender identity in children, weaving together scientific analyses with revealing interviews and personal reflections on the relationship between sex and society. Her story resonated with many readers, and her discussion with Matt Galloway on CBC Radio Toronto’s *Metro Morning* showcased the same incisiveness and sensitivity that characterized Rogan’s piece.

We also paid attention to issues around mental health, with at least fifteen articles addressing the challenges of living with, treating, and accommodating mental illness. In an online essay, for example, Gideon Sheps argued that Ontario’s approach to autism services is failing those it aims to support—including his own son. In “Forever Soldiers,” Matt Gurney wrote that Canadians need to do more to help career soldiers, many of whom struggle with the effects of PTSD, reintegrate into society. Graeme Bayliss’s “It Doesn’t Get Better,” about his long-time battle with depression and how it has influenced his views on doctor-assisted suicide, also struck a chord with many Canadians. Readers responded with letters and emails, and his subsequent interview with Anna Maria Tremonti on CBC Radio’s *The Current* featured a candid and moving conversation about mental-health challenges and the stigma surrounding them.

Highlights

“No More Apologies,” Jack Hicks (March) Statistician Jack Hicks argues that the government needs to do more to prevent suicide among Indigenous youth

“Bottom of the List,”

Gideon Sheps (April) The author argues that Ontario’s approach to autism services is not as effective as it should be

“Audience of One,”

Robert de Boyrie (April) Schizophrenic activist Robert de Boyrie describes for readers, day by day, what it is like to hear dark voices in your head

“Pro-life Island,” Miranda Elliott

(May) Why was the last legal abortion on PEI performed more than three decades ago?

“Can You Hear It?” Simon Lewsen

(September) In Windsor, Ontario, Simon Lewsen tries to track down the source of a mysterious hum that has been driving its residents mad

“Forever Soldiers,” Matt Gurney

(September) Why we need to change the way we address the reintegration of career soldiers into society

“Growing Up Trans,” Mary Rogan

(October) Mary Rogan considers when children know their true gender

The Walrus not only looks at issues of law and justice, our journalism is fact-checked with legal expertise, sometimes in house. (Lauren Heuser, a fall 2016 editorial fellow, supported by a donation from Seymour Schulich, worked as a lawyer for years before starting her journalism career.)

The Walrus closely followed the 2016 trial of former CBC personality Jian Ghomeshi, a court case that changed the way victims and the accused in sexual assault cases are regarded in Canadian society. Jessica Johnson, senior editor at *The Walrus*, wrote before and after Ghomeshi's exoneration about sexual assault in a post-Ghomeshi world. Breese Davies, a criminal lawyer, explained the legal intricacies of the case—such as the use of peace bonds to settle criminal matters and the responsibilities of prosecutors and defence lawyers.

Elsewhere in *The Walrus*, Matthew McKinnon made the case for decriminalizing not just marijuana but all drugs in Canada, thereby shifting the responsibility for drug regulation from criminal justice departments to public health. (Ontario justice Melvyn Green, in his article about the racist origins of Canada's historical war on drugs, made a similar argument in the January/February 2017 issue.)

After US Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia passed away, Adam Dodek wrote about the judge's influence on Canadian courts. Ontario Superior Court justice Marie Corbett looked back on her time caring for her cancer-stricken friend. For *thewalrus.ca*, Navneet Alang explained how one jokey tweet—and a visit from the cops—exposed companies like Rogers that exploit the legal grey area between online text and speech.

Highlights

"Free-for-All," Matthew McKinnon (January/February) The author makes the case for decriminalizing not just marijuana but all drugs in Canada, thereby shifting the responsibility for drug regulation from criminal justice departments to public health

"The Supreme Battle," Adam Dodek (February) How Antonin Scalia's brash ideas influenced Canadian courts

"Doublespeak," Navneet Alang (March) One jokey tweet—and a visit from the cops—shows how companies like Rogers can exploit the legal grey area between online text and speech

"After Chemo," Marie Corbett (April) An Ontario Superior Court judge takes care of her cancer-stricken friend

"Don't Blame the Defence," Breese Davies (June) Sexual-assault survivors suffer when police and prosecutors don't do their jobs

"The Ghomeshi Effect," Jessica Johnson (September) Jessica Johnson on how society views sexual assault cases in a post-Ghomeshi world

At *The Walrus*, we're dedicated to uncovering the stories behind the numbers, the meanings behind the mergers. Our intensive business coverage foregrounds the ways in which industry influences and responds to Canadian society.

In our September issue, Brett Popplewell introduced readers to “the boys from the chocolate factory” — the entrepreneurs behind Canopy Growth, a grow-op based in Smiths Falls, Ontario, that is poised to be one of the world's largest legal growers and distributors of marijuana.

Our December issue featured Andrea Mandel-Campbell's critical and constructive look at why Canadian companies find it so hard to innovate. The first of our annual O'Hagan Essays on Public Affairs, her piece suggested a way forward for industry through an examination of both failures of imagination and triumphs of ingenuity.

One of our most ambitious and in-depth features of the year, Richard Poplak's “Canadian Mining's Dark Heart,” was an exhaustive, unsparing account of the troubled history of Barrick Gold in Papua New Guinea, where charges of violence and exploitation have plagued Canada's extraction industry. A Longreads selection, the piece was later cited in a private members' bill aimed at increasing corporate accountability in developing countries.

Highlights

“Pass, Fail,” Ron Srigley

(April) The writer illustrates how the value and standards of a university degree have been declining in recent years. The story examines students' habits, professors' qualifications, and the changing notion of what constitutes a university-level lecture

“No One Is Watching You,” Jonathan Kay (June) Our cover story on why online

users are not as vulnerable as they think they are to having their personal information appropriated by tech companies

“The Boys from the Chocolate Factory,” Brett Popplewell

(September) Brett Popplewell profiles the exploits of Canopy Growth, a marijuana grow-op that is positioning itself to be one of the world's largest legal growers and distributors

“The Wrong Track,”

Thomas Hall (September) Former Olympian Thomas Hall considers the successes and failures in the way we finance our country's Olympic athletes

“Money Shot,” Tom

Jokinen (October) Canada exports more than \$100 million worth of bull semen — also known as “white gold” — per year. Much of it comes from a handful of designer superstuds

“Canadian Mining's

Dark Heart,” Richard Poplak (November) In this investigative feature, Richard Poplak travels to Papua New Guinea, where a history of shady mining practices has dogged Canada's extraction industry

“Buzz Feud,” Jay Smith

(November) Honeymakers are at war with Billy Bee, which, despite its labels claiming the product is Canadian, imports much of its honey from China

“Old Growth, New Shoots,”

Andrea Mandel-Campbell (December) The inaugural O'Hagan Essay examines why Canadian companies have failed to innovate in the past and how we can move forward

“Bitcoin for Bohemians,”

Harley Rustad (December) How BC's Salt Spring Island manages its own currency

Fiction

In 2016, we published several pieces by established voices, including John Metcalf and David Bergen, as well as Sean Michaels and Mona Awad (whose *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* went on to win the Amazon.ca First Novel Award). We rounded out the year with “A System from the North,” a contemplative story by *New Yorker* writer Alix Ohlin set in a daycare.

Since last fall, we have sought to diversify our base of fiction contributors. Calls for submissions on social media have yielded an impressive response, doubling the number of submissions in the last six months. We now receive two or three fiction submissions a day, yielding between fifty and sixty submissions per month.

As with the literary non-fiction published in *The Walrus*, the fiction seeks to appeal to a broad range of readers. Stories reflect diverse experiences — gender, race, geography, and class — with a note of humour. Alix Hawley’s story “My Pleasure” in the May issue depicts a fast food worker from Vancouver Island who goes to New York to become a chef. Our fiction has also looked at Canada’s role in the world: in the April issue, Lynn Crosby’s commissioned short story, “It Is I Who Styles Donald Trump,” imagines the relationship between Melania Trump and her husband.

Our goal is to make *The Walrus* a place of greater prominence and Canada’s premier destination for short fiction. We hope writers think of *The Walrus* as a “home” for their ambitious, engaging work.

Jessica Johnson

Senior Editor and Fiction Editor

Highlights

“Where the Yazoo Cross the Yellow Dog,” John Metcalf (March)

“Hackles,” fiction by Jay Hosking (April)

“Witness,” K.D. Miller (May)

“The Rainbow Festival,” Sean Michaels (June)

“Bye Judy and Good Luck,” Mona Awad (July/August)

“Never Too Late,” David Bergen (July/August)

“The Shoe Emporium,” Lisa Moore (July/August)

“Three Tshakapesh Dreams,” Samuel Archibald, translation by Donald Winkler (September)

“A System from the North,” Alix Ohlin (December)



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1 Illustration by Ben Clarkson 2 Artwork by Kinomi 3 Photo of Big Lonely Doug by TJ Watt 4 Artwork by Julie Flett 5 Photography by Karin Bubaš 6 Illustration by Hayden Maynard



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1 National Ballet soloists Dylan Tedaldi and Tanya Howard rehearse a pas de deux for *Le Petit Prince*. Photography by Aleksandar Antonijevic **2** Illustration by Peter Ryan **3** Portrait of poet Anne Carson by Courtney Wotherspoon **4** Illustration by Josh Holinaty **5** Illustration by Julie Morstad



Poetry

The Walrus is one of the largest poetry publishers in the country. In 2016, with generous support from the Hal Jackman Foundation, we published the work of twenty-two poets of various ages and at various career stages. Their work received significant acclaim. For instance, Liz Howard's "Life Cycle of the Animal Called She" was nominated for a Canadian Magazine Award.

In 2016, we ran our most successful Walrus Poetry Prize to date, with 358 entries and 670 votes for the readers' choice award. David Huebert was thrilled to win the Fifth Annual Poetry Prize for "Colloquium: J.T. Henry and Lady Simcoe on Early Ontario Petrocolonialism," and Adèle Barclay took the readers' choice award for "I Open the Dryer and a Robin Sails Out."

We regularly publish reviews of poetry as well as pieces on issues that shape contemporary poetry. Last year, we published more than twenty articles, online and in print, on poets and their work. We celebrated and eulogized Leonard Cohen and his life's work, with pieces such as Pico Iyer's "Last Rites" and Mark Abley's "Try to Say the Grace." We reviewed new collections by poets Alexandra Oliver and Soraya Peerbaye. Critic Michael Lista examined Anne Carson's career and popularity. Essays examining the relationship between poetry and money, such as Michael LaPointe's "Do Writers Deserve to Make a Living?" have been extremely well received. A more recent article, "Poetry Should Talk Honestly about Money," by Aaron Giovannone, was among our most-read pieces and has been enthusiastically circulated via social media. Clearly, our readers are interested in poems and poetry criticism — and *The Walrus* is proud to provide both.

Carmine Starnino

Deputy Editor

Highlights

- "Brilliant Disguise," Kevin Connolly** (January/February)
- "The Jailer," Sina Queyras** (January/February)
- "You Are Not Going to Come to Trillium," Madhur Anand** (March)
- "Third State," Sara Peters** (March)
- "Lupine-Like Scall," Sylvia Legris** (March)
- "Diagnosis," Adam Sol** (April)
- "Bells, Liberty, Undue Exultation," Linda Besner** (May)
- "She Is Spitting a Mouthful of Stars (nikāwi's Song)," Gregory Scofield** (May)
- "As Conducted by Seiji Osawa," Jim Johnstone** (June)
- "Life Cycle of the Animal Called She," Liz Howard** (July/August)
- "San Pellegrino," Carmine Starnino** (July/August)
- "The Desert Fathers," Karen Solie** (July/August)
- "Trigger warning for a course in developmental psychology," Stevie Howell** (September)
- "After the Theatre," Elizabeth Bachinsky** (October)
- "One Love," Alexandra Oliver** (November)
- "Grandfather," Don Coles** (December)

Walrus Talks

The Walrus Foundation continues to produce some of the country's most well-respected public events, bringing together a wide range of people and perspectives — and attracting engaged, diverse audiences from coast to coast to coast. Our flagship public events series, the Walrus Talks, and the lively post-talk receptions are meeting places for critical Canadian conversations on the big issues concerning the future of Canada and its place in the world. Our audiences, sponsors, and partners believe that these conversations lead to a better country.

Each Walrus Talks event features eight speakers for seven minutes each on a theme. In 2016, there were twenty-four Walrus Talks from St. John's to Victoria, and our live and online audiences were treated to close to 200 Walrus Talkers on topics including youth leadership, reconciliation, the environment, innovation, energy, the arts, spirituality, and vice. Our speakers comprised established and emerging voices, including thinker Henry Mintzberg, journalist Amanda Lang, chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, author Guy Vanderhaeghe, poet Rupi Kaur, Inuit leader Natan Obed, Juno-winner Corb Lund, and Olympian Karina LeBlanc. The scientists, Indigenous leaders, students, business leaders, artists, academics, journalists, and other thoughtful Canadians whom we count among our Walrus Talks alumni are the voices Canada needs to hear.

The Walrus Talks has a tremendous reach, with more than 50,000 people viewing in person or online, and with social media spreading these vital conversations to millions more. The events draw a thoughtful audience—a community of curious nation builders. The past five years of Walrus Talks led us to create our Canada 150 National Tour, the Walrus Talks We Desire a Better Country. In 2016, we partnered with the Order of Canada and the Rideau Hall Foundation, and the federal government named it a Signature Initiative of the Canada 150 celebrations.

David Leonard

Events Director

All the Walrus Talks are available on-demand at thewalrus.ca/category/video.

From MasterCard Foundation Presents the Walrus Talks Africa's Next Generation in Vancouver:

"The Ones That Make Us All," musician Pierre Kwenders The influential role that women played in shaping Kwenders' life

From Concordia University Presents the Walrus Talks Health in Calgary:

"The Disappearing Act," author and artist Teva Harrison A poignant reminder that when people become ill, they often disappear from society

From Suncor Presents the Walrus Talks Energy at Globe 2016 in Vancouver:

"An Indigenous Energy Perspective," Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo The future of energy and resources in Canada depends on Indigenous participation

From RBC Foundation Presents the Walrus Talks Social Innovation in Toronto:

"Dear Prime Minister," McConnell Foundation's Stephen Huddart An open letter calling for Canada to take a Grand Challenge model toward reconciliation

From Labatt Presents the Walrus Talks H2O in Edmonton:

"When Spirit Calls," youth poet laureate Nasra Adem How water policy intersects with social policy



1 Teva Harrison, **2** Karina LeBlanc, **3** Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, **4** Henry Mintzberg (photo by Owen Egan), **5** Pierre Kwenders



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1 The 2016 Walrus Gala at the Distillery District in Toronto. 2 Stephen Smith and Diane Blake at the Walrus Gala. 3 Amazon VP of Canada and Mexico Alexandre Gagnon presenting the Amazon.ca First Novel Award grand prize to Mona Awad. 4 Head judge Russell Brown, short list judge Nick Mount, short list judge Gurjinder Basran, and host Shelagh Rogers at the Amazon.ca

First Novel Award Gala. 5 Cundill Prize winner Thomas Laqueur accepting the award for his book *The Work of the Dead*. 6 December 2016 cover, photography by Matthew Hollister. 7 *The Walrus* on mobile, illustration by Nicole Xu.

Our Reach in 2016

The Walrus Foundation spurs conversations across Canada, from kitchen tables to the House of Commons.

- ◆ 210,000 people read a uniquely Canadian perspective in *The Walrus* magazine.
- ◆ 1,803,812 people across the planet read uniquely Canadian perspectives at *thewalrus.ca*.
- ◆ 110 writers, from clear across Canada, shared ideas and started conversations.
- ◆ 116 articles were published in *The Walrus* magazine.
- ◆ 326 pieces of content were posted at *thewalrus.ca*.
- ◆ 90 artists, illustrators, and photographers saw their work in *The Walrus*.
- ◆ 22 poems from established and emerging Canadian poets appeared in *The Walrus*.
- ◆ 25 Walrus Talks events happened across Canada.
- ◆ 168 Walrus Talks speakers addressed Canadians.
- ◆ 50,000 Walrus Talks audience members (online and in person) were moved, agitated, and delighted on topics ranging from art to water.

At the inaugural Canadian Magazine Awards in April, *The Walrus* received five nominations and won the Best General Interest magazine award for its work in 2016. *The Walrus* was also nominated for fourteen National Magazine Awards, the most of any contender. *The Walrus* continues to be one of the most awarded publications in Canada.

Bryan Maloney

Director of Circulation and Marketing

Digital

The Walrus Foundation's digital initiatives include our website, *thewalrus.ca*, as well as the Walrus Weekly newsletter, the Walrus Talks newsletter, our social media presence (on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, and Tumblr), and the Walrus App. In addition to making every piece of journalism, fiction, and poetry from *The Walrus* magazine—and every video from the Walrus Talks—freely available to the public, we publish exclusive daily journalism about Canada and its place in the world.

In 2016, our digital activities generated our largest audience—more than 1.8 million people visited *thewalrus.ca* alone—and supported our other projects. Through our digital initiatives, we promoted our national series of events, including the Walrus Talks tour; sold subscriptions to the print edition of *The Walrus* magazine; solicited donations to the Walrus Foundation; provided opportunities for emerging writers and artists; and increased the diversity of our audience in terms of age, region, and cultural background.

In the past year, we successfully launched our first website designed specifically for smartphones, enabling us to reach more Canadians than ever before, and we laid the groundwork for a website that is now accessible to the visually impaired. These improvements enabled the Walrus Foundation to reach a global audience—*thewalrus.ca* was visited by people in every country except Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Western Sahara, and North Korea—just as the international community began looking to Canada both as a case study for policy and as a formidable exporter of ideas.

Cody Gault

Digital Director

Our Partnerships

The Walrus Foundation partners with non-profits, community organizations, and others to further our mandate of creating space for the Canadian conversation and supporting writers, artists, and ideas.

Amazon.ca and the Walrus Foundation proudly co-present the annual Amazon.ca First Novel Award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements of Canadian first-time novelists. In 2016, the Walrus Foundation and Amazon.ca celebrated forty years of the award by increasing the grand prize to \$40,000. The 2016 winner was Mona Awad, for her book, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl*.

The Cundill Prize in Historical Literature was founded to recognize and promote literary and academic achievement in the study of history. The prize is presented to an author who has published a non-fiction book likely to have profound literary, social, and academic impact. In 2016, historian Thomas W. Laqueur won for *The Work of the Dead: A Cultural History of Mortal Remains*. The Walrus Foundation is the media partner of the Cundill Prize.

Every year, the Walrus Foundation joins the Canada Council for the Arts to celebrate the finalists for the Governor General's Literary Awards. The Governor General's Literary Awards were established in 1936 and have evolved into Canada's pre-eminent literary prizes. The Walrus Foundation uses the might

of *The Walrus* and *thewalrus.ca* to sing the praises of the nominated writers and to promote Canadian literature.

Additionally, in 2016, the Walrus Foundation sponsored community and charitable events and activities from coast to coast to coast, large and small, to foster the Canadian conversation. Our most cherished partners included TIFF Books on Film, HotDocs, the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Rare Charitable Research Reserve, Cabot Trail Writers' Festival, the National Business Book Awards, the Saskatchewan Festival of Words, Soulpepper Theatre Company, and the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

In 2016, the lieutenant governor of Ontario selected the Walrus Foundation to manage and produce the Visionaries Prize in celebration of Ontario's 150th anniversary. The Lieutenant Governor's Visionaries Prize wants smart, future-minded people to identify the challenges that Ontario will face and the opportunities that will emerge over the next fifty years—and then share their plan of action for the province. In 2017, the Walrus Foundation will produce a six-city tour of Ontario for the LGVP.

Gayle Matthews

Director of Business Development

Our Donors

Foundation Support

The Walrus Foundation is eternally grateful for the continued generosity of our founding sponsor, the Chawkers Foundation.

We proudly recognize the support of the Slight Family Foundation, creator of the Allan Slight Writers' Fund.

We wish to thank the McLean Foundation for helping us enhance our educational content across all platforms and the Hal Jackman Foundation for their support of poetry in *The Walrus*, and The Writers' Trust of Canada for their support of *The Walrus* writers.

Government Support

We acknowledge support from government partners the Government of Canada, the Ontario Media Development Corporation, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Matching Donor Campaigns

We are extremely grateful to Diane Blake and Stephen Smith for their outstanding contribution to our 2016 year-end campaign, during which they challenged *Walrus* readers to match their \$50,000 donation.

We are also very grateful to Seymour Schulich for challenging some of our most significant individual donors, and to Ira Gluskin and Maxine Granovsky Gluskin, Janelle and Pierre Lassonde, Robert Buchan, Helen Burstyn, and Donald Johnson for meeting Seymour's challenge.

Fellowship Program Support

Because of the generosity of the Chawkers Foundation, Seymour Schulich, Lucille and Urban Joseph, Ira Gluskin and Maxine Granovsky Gluskin, and Jim and Sandra Pitblado, the Walrus Foundation trained six aspiring editors in 2016.

Walrus Foundation 2016 Gala

Our generous patrons Diane Blake and Stephen Smith co-chaired our eighth annual Walrus Gala, which raised over \$400,000 to support the editorial work of the foundation. We would like to thank our founding platinum sponsor, Bennett Jones, and its CEO, Hugh MacKinnon, for their support and ongoing commitment.

Optimistic Canadians

The Walrus Foundation salutes community leaders who have made substantial multi-year commitments to the Walrus Campaign for Optimistic Canadians. We acknowledge with gratitude the following donors, who share our belief in provocative long-form journalism, innovative ideas, and the Canadian conversation.

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The April 2017 issue of *The Walrus* lists over 1,000 donors and sponsors who supported the Walrus Foundation in 2016. The full listing is also available at thewalrus.ca/donate.

Financial Snapshot

Assets

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,123,820
Accounts receivable	428,773
Prepaid expenses	341,856
	1,894,449
Property, plant, and equipment	56,417
	\$1,950,866

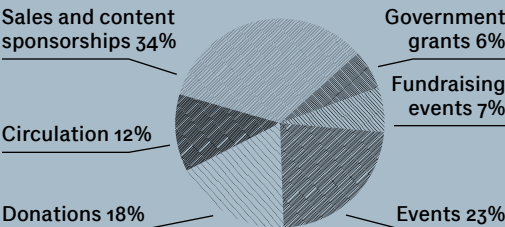
Liabilities

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$339,962
Current portion of deferred subscription revenue	452,862
Deferred contributions	997,545
	1,790,369
Deferred subscription revenue	82,077
Deferred lease inducement	45,943
	\$1,918,389

Revenues

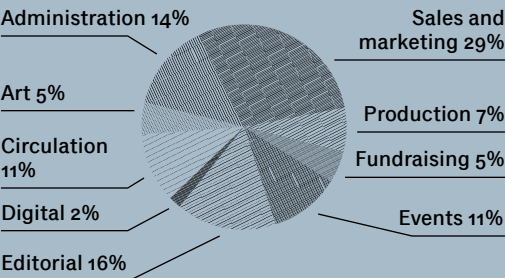
Sales and content sponsorships	\$2,107,630
Circulation	748,237
Donations	1,127,965
Events	1,397,011
Fundraising events	425,175
Government grants	367,329
	\$6,173,347



Expenses

Administration	\$858,052
Art	312,271
Circulation	702,986
Digital	103,854
Editorial	1,008,285
Events	669,572
Fundraising	308,163
Production	444,437
Sales and marketing	1,762,701
	\$6,170,321

Excess of revenues over expenses \$3,026



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Donor support enables us to provide the provocative long-form journalism, smart essays, and fresh ideas that are essential to understanding our country and ourselves.

For more information on giving to the Walrus Foundation, please visit *thewalrus.ca/donate* or contact:

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