

Media Release

The Word Guild

"Connecting, developing and promoting Canadian writers and editors who are Christian"

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For Immediate Release

FOUNDERS OF THE WORD GUILD RECEIVE NATIONAL MEDIA AWARD

Calgary — Co-founders and directors of The Word Guild, N. J. (Nancy) Lindquist and Wendy Elaine Nelles, have been selected as joint recipients of the 2006 Leading Women Award in Communications and Media.

The national award for distinctive achievement was presented on March 4 at a luncheon for 330 guests hosted by Sandra Manning at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary during the Leading Women conference.

Lindquist is the award-winning author of nine books, a motivational speaker, writing teacher and columnist. Nelles is an award-winning journalist, writer, editor and speaker.

The award was presented by Lorna Dueck, executive producer and host of Listen Up TV and columnist for The Globe and Mail, on behalf of the award sponsor, Trinity Western University.

Dueck spoke passionately about the need to support Canadian Christian writers during her presentation remarks, and said, "This is much-needed recognition of the efforts of The Word Guild's leadership to promote Canadian writers and editors who are Christian to the broader Canadian marketplace."

Lindquist and Nelles were nominated for the award by several members of the Canadian Christian writing community. "They have raised the bar for excellence in their sector of Christian ministry and encouraged many young and aspiring writers to impact Canada through the written and spoken word," stated Bill Fledderus, senior editor of Faith Today magazine, who spearheaded the nomination.

"The emergence of The Word Guild as a major contributor to the Christian writing community in Canada cannot be denied. Its influence spans the horizon of the entire Christian publishing and writing community, from editors and authors to newspapers and book publishers," stated Larry Willard, publisher of Castle Quay Books/BayRidge Books and vice president of Advancement for Tyndale University College and Seminary, Toronto. "(Lindquist and Nelles) have elevated the Christian writing presence and influence within the entire Canadian Christian community to levels not before reached."

"It is impossible to measure the magnitude of their contribution over these past five years, but there is no doubt the scene among writers of Christian faith has undergone a dramatic

change because of their exceptional leadership, vision and energy," commented John Franklin, executive director of Imago, an organization promoting the development of Christians in the arts.

The previous winner of the Leading Women Communications and Media Award, Maxine Hancock, author, broadcaster and professor at Regent College, said, "Nelles and Lindquist richly deserve the honour paid them. They are both skilled practitioners of the art of writing. But for the past several years, they have set aside many of their own personal goals in writing to share in a partnership dedicated to nurturing writing and publishing in Canada."

Hancock added, "Their effectiveness in linking together those who desire to give voice and visibility to a faithful Christian witness in our country through writing has encouraged all of us. I join in celebrating the generous, serving spirit with which Nancy and Wendy have used their gifts to help others use theirs."

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BACKGROUND

LEADING WOMEN

The Leading Women National Leadership Conference for Women is held every two years. Its purpose is to identify, profile and network God's women by equipping, training, encouraging, celebrating and releasing them to do the work of their calling with excellence. The first two conferences (2002 and 2004) were held in Toronto; the 2006 conference was the first held in Western Canada, and attracted 330 Christian women leaders to Calgary.

Other 2006 Leading Women Award recipients are: Arts, Culture and Sports, Bev Foster; Business, Professional and Entrepreneur, Irene Pfeiffer; Ministry, Eileen Steward Rhude; Public Service, Florence Kehl; Education, Training and Development, Lynn Smith; and Young Leader, Christina Kirkley.

Criteria for nomination included acting as a role model for other women by demonstrating leadership, vision, innovation and a pioneering spirit; educating, supporting and encouraging successors, colleagues and peers; and, networking and connecting people so they can excel.

Fourteen organizations sponsored the 2006 event, including NextLEVEL Leadership; Women Alive; The Salvation Army of Canada and Bermuda; The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada; The Navigators of Canada; Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship;

Women Today; and, Campus Crusade for Christ, Canada. For more information about Leading Women, go to www.leadingwomen.ca.

THE WORD GUILD

The Word Guild is an association of Canadian writers and editors who are Christian, and who are committed to encouraging one another and fostering standards of excellence in the art, craft, practice and ministry of writing. Its desire is to impact the Canadian identity through the words of Canadian writers and editors with a Christian world view.

The fifth anniversary of the national Christian writing conference under the sponsorship of The Word Guild, now known as Write! Canada, will be celebrated in Guelph, Ont., June 15 to 17. The Canadian Christian Writing Awards Gala will take place on June 14 in Mississauga, Ont., where the writers of the best books and articles published in 2005 will be honoured.

For more information about The Word Guild, go to www.thewordguild.com.