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## Donna Morrissey chosen as Laurier's Winter 2023 Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence

WATERLOO – Novelist Donna Morrissey has been chosen as Wilfrid Laurier University's Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence for the winter 2023 term. Morrissey is the award-winning author of six best-selling novels and a memoir whose work has been translated into multiple languages, including German, Swedish and Japanese. During her term as Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence from Jan. 16 to March 24, 2023, Morrissey will work with students and faculty at Laurier's Waterloo and Brantford campuses, visiting classes, working one-on-one with emerging writers, hosting workshops and giving guest lectures, beginning with her first public talk at the end of January, "Finding Away: A Journey of Self-Discovery."

"We are over the moon to welcome a novelist with the stellar national and international literary reputation that Donna Morrissey has forged," said Tanis MacDonald, professor in the Department of English and Film Studies and chair of the Edna Staebler Writer-in-Residence committee. "Donna's experience with a variety of genres, including children's literature and memoir, as well as her best-selling novels, will be put to good use in guiding emerging writers at Laurier to greater heights."

Morrissey's first novel, *Kit's Law*, won awards in Canada, the United States and England. Her second novel, *Downhill Chance*, won the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award. The author's *Sylvanus Now* trilogy, about a Newfoundland family fighting to stay afloat in the turbulent 21<sup>st</sup> century, has received broad critical acclaim. Its final volume, *The Fortunate Brother*, won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Crime Novel in 2016. In addition, Morrissey's memoir, *Pluck*, was reviewed by *The Globe and Mail* as a book that "pulls back the curtain on working-class life." Her next novel, *My Name is Roan Genge*, is slated for publication in 2024.

Morrissey lives on the East Coast and will relocate to Waterloo Region for the duration of her residency. She has taught creative writing at Dalhousie University and the Humber School for Writers. During her residency at Laurier, Morrissey will also work at the intersection of memoir and fiction as she works to transform a series of family stories into a novel.

The [Edna Staebler Laurier Writer-in-Residence](#) was established in 2012 through a bequest from the late Edna Staebler, the prolific creative non-fiction writer and author of the popular "Schmecks" books that celebrate the culture of Waterloo Region. Morrissey's winter 2023 residency will be offered in person, following novelist Ali Bryan's virtual residency during winter 2022. Previous Edna Staebler writers-in-residence and visiting writers include fiction writer Carrienne Leung (2020), poet and novelist Gary Barwin (2019), novelist Alison Pick (2018), creative non-fiction writer Emily Urquhart (2018), novelist Pasha Malla (2017), novelist Ashley Little (2017), playwright Drew Hayden Taylor (2016), poet Sonnet L'Abbé (2015), playwright Colleen Murphy (2014), and creative non-fiction writer Andrew Westoll (2013).

More details about Morrissey's January public talk, "Finding Away: A Journey of Self-Discovery," will be released in the coming weeks.