



Call for Writing Submissions: *Celebrating the Gray Jay*

Open to emerging Alberta authors.

Deadline for Indication of Interest: February 15, 2017. Midnight

Winner Notified: March 1 2017

Deadline for Commission completion: April 15, 2017.

Juried acceptance process.

Commission Fee: \$1000.00

Length: about 1500 words, consisting of 150 sentences.

Reading level: around 10 years old.

WP Puppet Theatre plans to create a community video of a modern day story about Canada's new avian emblem – the Gray Jay. We will be inviting one hundred and fifty or more, local, national and international, amateur and professional puppeteers of all ages, and their puppets, to *read and record* the story, one line at a time. Why? We're celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary! One line for each year.

Indication of Interest Submissions to include:

- Complete Contact information.
- Cover letter explaining your interest in this project, no more than 400 words.
- Outline of your writing idea including plot and characters. See notes below.
- Up to three samples of your writing work, no more than 5000 words in total. NB samples will not be returned.
- Summary of your writing experience and CV or resume.

Submit via email to wppuppet@telus.net. Format documents in Word or PDFs please. You may be contacted for clarifications. The winning entry will be contacted by email or telephone by end of work day, March 1, 2017

The submission should meet the following criteria:

- It can be a story or prose poem or poem. (NOT a play or script)
- Submission and supporting texts to be written in the English language



- It will be about the Gray Jay (aka Whiskey jack, Canada Jay, or *Perisoreus canadensis*), Canada's national bird. It will be a modern 21st Century legend that links to facts about the gray jay and Canada's culture and/or history.
- Story does *not* need to relate to school curriculum.
- Parts of the story or key phrases will be translated and narrated in Cree, French and possibly other languages (WP Puppet Theatre will organize this)
- One or more of the following facts and connections could be considered when writing the story:
 - The gray jay is in every province and does not migrate
 - Links to Indigenous mythology: Wisakedjak (with many alternate spellings like wesakechak, wiskedjak, whiskachon, and wisakadjak) is a benevolent trickster, cultural hero, and often a transformer or shape-shifter in Cree, Algonquin and Menominee mythologies.
 - A friend to humans who also likes to eat human food, also known colloquially as lumberjack, camp robber, or meat-bird.
 - Unlike most birds, the gray jay is not a sexually dimorphic species. Although the males are often slightly larger the male and female are almost identical and both are gray.

Further notes:

- 'Emerging author' means writers who have published 0-5 short works of non-fiction and/or published 0-1 non-fiction books.
- W.P. Puppet Theatre Society (WPTS) will have exclusive use of the story, for the project and marketing purposes until March 2018.
- In March 2018 story ownership reverts to the author, unless other arrangements have been mutually agreed upon.
- WPTS will credit the author in all our generated media and communications.
- During the creation process the author will involve WPTS for feedback and consultation.
- Commission fee will be paid 50% on contract signing and 50 % on successful completion.

We are committed to a policy of diversity & encourage persons of any race, creed, color, age, sex, religion or national origin to apply.

This initiative is made possible by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between Calgary Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, the Government of Canada, and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast.

Cette initiative est rendue possible grâce au Fonds communautaire pour le 150^e anniversaire du Canada, qui est une collaboration entre les fondations communautaires canadiennes, le gouvernement du Canada et des leaders extraordinaires de l'Atlantique au Pacifique à l'Arctique.



Canada

