



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### 2017 Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union Fresh Fish Award for Emerging Writers Winner

(November 23, 2017—ST. JOHN'S, NL) The Literary Arts Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador (LAFNL) and the Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador (WANL) are pleased to announce the winners of the 2017 Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union (NLCU) Fresh Fish Award for Emerging Writers.

During the awards ceremony held at Christina Parker Gallery this evening, **Matthew Hollett** received the title of 2017 NLCU Fresh Fish award winner for his poetry collection *Optic Nerve*. Along with the title, he received a cash prize of \$5,200; \$1,000 towards professional editing services for *Optic Nerve*; and a miniature replica of *Man Nailed to a Fish* by sculptor Jim Maunder. Finalists Terry Doyle and Liz Solo each received \$1,200.

Jurors Bridget Canning, Trudy Morgan-Cole, and Paul Rowe called *Optic Nerve* "a finely wrought collection" and commented on the abundance of "original thought(s)" throughout. They deemed it "a clever, vivacious, eminently readable AND publishable collection."

The biennial award, generously sponsored by the Newfoundland and Labrador Credit Union, is awarded to the best unpublished manuscript written by a resident of the province who has not published a book, or who has not had a book accepted for publication, in any genre on any platform or in any media at the time of submission. The award is presented by LAFNL in partnership with WANL. In kind sponsors for the 2017 NLCU Fresh Fish Award were Perfect Day, Christina Parker Gallery, *The Telegram*, and the NL Teachers' Association.

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