

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2012 CWILA Count: Dialogue Alters Book Review Landscape

Vancouver, B.C.—Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (CWILA) members from across the country launch the *2012 CWILA Count* of 3,092 book reviews in 25 Canadian newspapers, magazines and journals. The *Count* shows that dialogue with editors since the 2011 *Count* has increased gender equity in book review culture, although men still review each other's books most often.

"When you look at the *2012 CWILA Count*, you see that there's still work to do," says CWILA's Interim Executive Director Chelsea Novak. "But CWILA, a community of feminist readers, writers and thinkers working to shift the Canadian literary conversation, is starting to see a shift. National magazine *The Walrus* increased reviews of female-authored books from 23 to 56 per cent, and the *National Post* increased from 33 to 42 per cent in the same category," says Novak.

CWILA has also started tracking how many books reviewed in 2012 were written by Canadian authors. "Last year we proved that women were at a disadvantage. This year we wanted to see how Canadian women, in particular, fared. Basically, we measured the C in CWILA," says CWILA board member Laura Moss.

The *2012 CWILA Count* shows that most counted publications support Canadian writers exceptionally well. Ten of the 25 publications reviewed books by Canadians at least 90 per cent of the time, and 17 publications were over 75 per cent.

In 2012, the *Globe and Mail* dedicated a full 65 per cent of its review space to work by non-Canadian writers. Non-Canadian women garnered more space in that publication than Canadian men or women, and the *Globe and Mail* published 2.6 reviews of books by non-Canadian men for every review of a book by a Canadian woman.

In all publications counted, however, as with 2011, men reviewed books by men most often. Only 30 per cent of reviews by men were of books by women, while 70 per cent were of books by men. In comparison, 57 per cent of reviews by women were of books by women, while 43 per cent were of books by men.

CWILA has released a colourful infographic to share the *2012 CWILA Count* on social media. Full *2012 CWILA Count* details and analysis are available at www.cwila.com.

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2012 CWILA Count Infographic: <http://cwila.com/2012CWILACount/CWILAinfographic.pdf>
(for print), <http://cwila.com/2012CWILACount/CWILA-infographic.jpg> (for web)

About CWILA

Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (CWILA) is an inclusive national organization for people

who share feminist values and see the importance of strong and active female perspectives and presences within the Canadian literary landscape. Visit us at www.cwila.com.

About the 2012 CWILA Count

Editors and reviewers make choices. That's their job. And for better or worse the choices they make matter deeply, not only to the public trajectory of individual authors and books, but also, and more importantly, to the quality and tone of our national conversation about the arts.

Publications counted: *The Antigonish Review*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Briarpatch*, *Brick*, *Broken Pencil*, *Canadian Literature*, *Canadian Notes & Queries*, *EVENT*, *The Fiddlehead*, *GEIST*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Lemon Hound*, *Literary Review of Canada*, *Maisonneuve*, *The Malahat Review*, *Matrix Magazine*, *National Post*, *PRISM International*, *Quill & Quire*, *rabble.ca*, *subTerrain*, *This Magazine*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *The Walrus*, *Winnipeg Free Press*.

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Photos

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