



## Media Release

For immediate release

### Libraries name 2025 Writers in Residence

**December 5, 2024** – Anna Marie Sewell and Rhonda Parrish have been selected to serve as the 2025 Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries Writers in Residence, Parrish working at Edmonton Public Library, Sewell at St. Albert Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Sewell and Parrish will offer a wide range of supports and programs to writers of all ages and experience levels during their year of residency, through a partnership between the three libraries. All services are offered at no charge.

As the Metro Regional Writer in Residence, Sewell will offer writing programs and one-on-one consultations at Strathcona County Library from January through June, and at St. Albert Public Library from August through December. St. Albert and Strathcona County residents can access Writer in Residence programs and services at either library through the year. As the Edmonton Public Library Writer in Residence, Rhonda Parrish will spend her year on the second floor of EPL's Stanley A. Milner Library in the Writer in Residence office.

"We are delighted to welcome Anna Marie Sewell as our 2025 Writer in Residence," says Peter Bailey, CEO of St. Albert Public Library. "This partnership leverages the resources of three libraries to bring an incredibly valuable service to our community members. We have seen every year the incredible impact of supporting writing and writers in our communities through the program. Being able to meet and be mentored one-on-one by professional writers like Anna Marie and Rhonda is tremendously beneficial to aspiring local writers and to our communities.

Anna Marie Sewell ([prairiepomes.com](http://prairiepomes.com)) is the author of novels *Humane* and *Urbane*, poetry collections *Fifth World Drum* and *For the Changing Moon*, and works in magazines including *The Polyglot*, for whom she co-edited *Âniskôverberation*, celebrating Indigenous languages, (being released in December 2024). Sewell also brings extensive multidisciplinary collaborative experience, including choral scores for *Journey Song* (with Mari Alice Conrad), *At First Light*, and *To Wash the World* (with Caleb Nelson), which is set to premiere in March 2025.

"I'm currently drafting a sequel to *Urbane*," she notes, "as well as poetry for translation, the score with Caleb, and new work inspired by my journeys with Peace Boat. I've chosen the themes of **Peace and Play** for this residency. I'm honoured to present talks with artists whose work for peace I greatly admire, in hopes of inspiring our own community to write for peace. And play? Play is the best way I know to free up artistry. So, I am delighted for my first event at Strathcona County Library to be a night of Word Games. See you there!"

Most of Rhonda Parrish's work falls under the speculative fiction umbrella but she has also penned paranormal non-fiction and non-speculative work. Perhaps best known for her work as an anthology editor, Rhonda works as a short story writer, novelist, game writer and poet. She has been honoured to be included in a handful of "Best of" anthologies, to have earned a coveted starred review from *Publisher's Weekly* and to have been shortlisted for several awards.

Her recent long form releases include the *Saltwater Sorrows* anthology, an anthropomorphic dog novel for adults entitled *Blindspots* and a cozy urban fantasy novel called *One in the Hand*, inspired by Norse mythology. Parrish says that "I am so very honoured -- I can't wait to meet more of our city's incredibly talented storytellers and continue the community-building already done by my predecessors. This is going to be fun!"

The Writer in Residence program is wrapping up a successful twelfth year. 2024 writers Preme Mohamed and Katie Bickell have engaged with numerous aspiring and experienced writers in the metro area through free one-on-one writing support, creative opportunities and dozens of writing programs. Mohamed and Bickell will pass the torch to the 2025 writers in the New Year.

- 30 -

#### **About the Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries**

The Metro Edmonton Federation of Libraries consists of Edmonton Public Library, Fort Saskatchewan Public Library, St. Albert Public Library and Strathcona County Library. Libraries in the Federation collaborate on programs, projects and events.

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2025 Metro Regional Writer in Residence

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