

# 2026 Writers' Guild of Alberta Golden Pen Award

Supported by Aritha van Herk

The Writers' Guild of Alberta Golden Pen Award is presented to acknowledge the lifetime achievements of outstanding Alberta writers who have made major contributions to the Alberta writing landscape. The Golden Pen Award winner must be a writer living in Alberta or a writer who has spent a significant portion of their writing life in Alberta, who has produced a distinguished body of work over a longstanding career.

## Winner: Caterina Edwards



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“Over the course of her distinguished career, Caterina Edwards has produced a national and internationally recognized body of work. She was the first writer to bring Italian-Albertan stories and voices into the landscape of Alberta writing, and through all of her work, explores the complexities of personal and public history, diversity and inclusion, community and family. Lauded by Italian as well as Canadian audiences and academics, Edwards’ reach extends far beyond the borders of our province, making her one of our most exceptional literary ambassadors.”

— The Writers’ Guild of Alberta Board of Directors

Caterina Edwards is the award-winning writer of six books in various genres. Her memoir *Finding Rosa: A Mother with Alzheimer’s, A Daughter in Search of the Past*, a double prize winner in Canada, was published in Italy in 2021 to glowing reviews and much media attention. It was followed by an Italian edition of the novel *The Lion’s Mouth*. Her literary noir, *The Sicilian Wife*, was named a Best Book of 2015 by *The National Post*. In 2016, Caterina was inducted into the City of Edmonton’s Arts & Culture Hall of Fame.

Caterina has also published novellas, short stories, and plays, appearing in literary magazines and anthologies. She taught post-secondary creative writing for thirty-five years and was three times a writer-in-residence. Caterina also served on the board of the Writers’ Guild of Alberta. She continues to mentor emerging writers through the co-teaching of writing workshops. Her next book, *The Great Antonio*, is the biography of a professional wrestler, who was once the strongest man in the world. Her writing remains her way of turning the unknown into the known, the forgotten into the remembered.