

“A collection as complex and satisfying as a symphony.” —*Publishers Weekly*



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Tightrope Books publishes milestone tenth anniversary edition of the Best Canadian Poetry in English series

Tightrope announces the fall 2017 publication of *The Best of the Best Canadian Poetry in English: Tenth Anniversary Edition*, edited by **Molly Peacock** and **Anita Lahey**.

The anthology takes the pulse of Canadian poetry with ninety superb poems that have excelled—twice—at the test of “the best.” With poems chosen from the first nine volumes of this landmark series, this special tenth-anniversary edition highlights a vibrant variety of subjects from romance and family to ecology and the economy—not to mention blizzards and bears. Ranging from iconic poets **Michael Ondaatje**, **Anne Carson**, **George Elliot Clarke**, and **P.K. Page** to notable upstarts, the anthology includes an index for readers, notes from the poets, an illuminating analysis of Canadian poetics by series editor Molly Peacock, and provocative excerpts from past introductions by guest editors **Stephanie Bolster**, **A.F. Moritz**, **Lorna Crozier**, **Priscila Uppal**, **Carmine Starnino**, **Sue Goyette**, **Sonnet L’Abbé**, **Jacob McArthur Mooney**, and **Helen Humphreys**.

About the Editors

Series Editor **Molly Peacock** is a widely anthologized poet and writer. Her seventh volume of poetry is *The Analyst*, poems about psychoanalysis, poetry, and painting, from Biblioasis. Her recent book of tiny tales is *Alphabetique: 26 Characteristic Fictions*, with illustrations by Kara Kosaka; she is also the author of a biography, *The Paper Garden: Mrs. Delany Begins Her Life’s Work at 72*, and a memoir, *Paradise, Piece by Piece*, all from McClelland & Stewart.

Assistant Series Editor **Anita Lahey** is a poet, journalist, reviewer, and essayist. She is the author of *The Mystery Shopping Cart: Essays on Poetry and Culture* (Palimpsest Press, 2013) and of two Vehicule Press poetry collections: *Out to Dry in Cape Breton* (2006) and *Spinning Side Kick* (2011). The former was shortlisted for the Trillium Book Award for Poetry and the Ottawa Book Award. Anita is a former editor of *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and posts occasionally on her blog, “Henrietta & Me: People and other wonders found in books.”



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**More about *The Best of the Best Canadian Poetry in English:*
Tenth Anniversary Edition**

Contributors to the volume include Griffin Poetry Prize, Governor General's Award, and other prestigious literary prize-winners. Each poet is represented with only one poem, including Griffin Prize winner Karen Solie, who was selected for eight of the nine previous editions. All ninety poems have been tested three times: first by the editors of the over fifty print and online journals publishing poetry in Canada, then by one of the series' nine distinguished Guest Editors, and lastly by the Series Editors, Peacock and Lahey. The two editors scoured the previous editions for poems from the Yukon to Newfoundland, representing the many different aesthetic approaches to poetry in Canada, from formal to experimental. The anthology showcases poets ranging from the under thirty set to the established and revered.

"What is a Canadian poem?" Peacock asks in her introduction to the anthology, and proceeds to answer, "It is a lyric meditation that leads to awe." What are Canadian poets in awe of? The complexities of the new Canadian family, the vastness (and degradation) of the Canadian environment, the variety of languages, cultures, and multicultural customs in Canada, Canadian history (and its discontents), flora and fauna from pansies and prairie grass to seahorses and dogs, Canadian cultural icons and the subjects of all poetry: love and death. But this is not just a book for weddings and funerals. These poems attempt to take the pulse of national concerns. They forefront the candid emotions of individuals and the dazzling combination of Canadian plain speech and verbal acrobatics.

Praise for The Best Canadian Poetry Series

"A great jumping-off point for readers who might be interested in Canadian poetry but are unsure about where to start."—Emma Healey, *Globe and Mail*

"Bits of eternity, arranged alphabetically."—Merylyn Simonds, *Kingston Whig-Standard*

"Canada's most eloquent, profound, humorous and meditative writers, ranging from the seasoned and well known to the new and upcoming." —Eric Schmaltz, *Broken Pencil*

"The Best Canadian Poetry series offers an annual sampling of voices and experiences—a little slice of Canadiana that may be appreciated beyond borders as well." —Lori A. May, *Examiner.com*

"Buy it, or borrow it, but do read it."—Paul Tyler, *Arc Poetry Magazine*

***The Best of the Best Canadian Poetry in English* will be launched in Toronto on
October 29 at the International Festival of Authors at Harbourfront Centre.**

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