

Write! Canada 2010 Media Release #1 from The Word Guild  
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**Upgrade your writing, editing and speaking skills, and sharpen your entrepreneurial savvy at Canada's premier conference for Christian communicators**

*Do you write, edit, or speak in public? Want to tell your story, write a column, publish a book, share your knowledge, promote your organization? Find the tools and contacts you need at Write! Canada, where you'll "Ignite the Creative Side of Your Brain!"*

Guelph, Ont.—No matter your profession, writing style, or experience level, there's a place for you at Write! Canada 2010, Canada's largest Christian writers' conference, in Guelph, Ontario, June 17-19.

Dynamic keynote speaker Dr. Joel A. Freeman will show you how to improve your communication skills and maximize your productivity as he explores the conference theme "Ignite the Creative Side of Your Brain!"

Freeman is an executive success coach and specialist in organizational change—with a list of clients ranging from NASA, IKEA and the FBI to prime ministers, pro athletes and multi-national business leaders. Raised in Three Hills, Alberta, he has authored seven books, including *If Nobody Loves You, Create the Demand*.

Whether you're a professional or beginner writer, you'll find classes to help you take control of your career, create additional markets, add complementary skills such as speaking or editing, publicize your cause or organization, use social media marketing, understand how digital innovations are revolutionizing the publishing industry, and learn how to benefit from new opportunities.

Skilled instructors leading the six-hour in-depth continuing sessions include Canadians Jim Taylor (editing), John Longhurst (media promotion), Sheila Wray Gregoire (public speaking), D. S. Martin (poetry) and Audrey Dorsch (memoir/biography), as well as Americans Michelle Buckman (fiction) and Ginger Kolbaba (personal experience writing).

The conference also offers 18 workshops, covering topics such as "Why you need a literary agent," taught by American agent Kelly Mortimer; "Writing an unconventional Christian novel," by former Zondervan editor Andy Meisenheimer; "Understanding e-books" by Wiley Publishing's executive editor Don Loney; "Writing romance novels," by Harlequin Love Inspired editor Melissa Endlich; and "Creating a blog guaranteed to

succeed," by Ann Voskamp, author of *A Holy Experience*, a blog read by thousands daily.

You can also take advantage of networking opportunities, manuscript critique services, appointments with literary agents and editors, open-mike reading sessions and a well-stocked bookstore.

This event, in its 26th year, is organized by The Word Guild, a national association of writers and editors who are Christian ([www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com)).

N. J. Lindquist of Markham, Ontario, founder of The Word Guild and director of Write! Canada, explains, "Canadian writers and speakers who are Christian have lots of great things to say. But they need to be said well, and we're here to help with that. We aren't likely to make an impact with our writing if we aren't keeping up with the technology as well as with the thought processes of our culture."

"It's becoming harder to get published—and paid—by traditional media such as newspapers or book publishers today," says Wendy E. Nelles of Toronto, The Word Guild's other founder and co-director of the conference. "At the same time, it's now amazingly easy to share your writing with the public through blogs, self-published books and e-books."

Lindquist and Nelles agree that in today's rapidly changing publishing world, serious writers have to distinguish themselves by the quality of their work and their marketing savvy if they hope to get many readers or buyers.

Find out more or register online at [www.writecanada.org](http://www.writecanada.org).

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Media: For photos or more information, email Shannon Leibold, Write! Canada Administrative Coordinator, at [writecanada \[at\] rogers \[dot\] com](mailto:writecanada[at]rogers[dot]com).

## ABOUT WRITE! CANADA

For 26 years, Write! Canada has played a crucial role in nurturing Canadian writers and editors who are Christian. The conference has provided encouragement and inspiration, developed a sense of community, fostered excellence and professionalism, and offered invaluable opportunities for networking, marketing and skills training.

The conference has impacted three generations of Canada's Christian writers, from their teens to eighties, from much-published professionals to aspiring writers. Many have notched up significant career achievements thanks to Write! Canada, ranging from getting their first article published, to meeting their literary agent, editor or publisher, finding a new job, signing a book contract or making key industry contacts.

From 1984 to 2001, *Faith Today* magazine and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada organized an annual Christian writers' conference, known as God Uses Ink. The Word Guild was established and assumed responsibility for the conference in 2002, and subsequently changed the conference name to Write! Canada in 2004.

## ABOUT THE WORD GUILD

The Word Guild is a team of Canadian writers, editors, speakers, publishers, booksellers, librarians and other interested individuals who are Christian. From all parts of Canada and many denominational and cultural backgrounds, we are united in our common passion to positively influence individuals—and ultimately the Canadian culture—through life-changing words that bring God's message of hope.

In addition to Write! Canada, its flagship event, The Word Guild sponsors a number of awards programs for published and unpublished writers including Canada's largest literary prize for writers who are Christian, the \$5,000 Grace Irwin Award. It also holds an annual black-tie Writing Awards Gala and regional Write! events in locations such as Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Halifax, Montreal, and London, Ont.

Three categories of membership, renewed yearly, are available: professional writers and editors; associate members, who are beginning to put together a body of published work; and affiliates working in publishing, bookselling, libraries, etc. Membership benefits include discounted rates for Write! Canada.

More information at [www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com).