



**Request for Proposals  
E-Writer in Residence (September-December 2011)**

**Summary**

The Northwestern Ontario Writers Workshop (NOWW) requests proposals for an E-Writer in Residence. The E-Writer in Residence, who may be located anywhere in Canada, will provide manuscript critiques and workshops, delivered primarily by Internet Communications Technology, to NOWW members located in Northwestern Ontario cities, towns and isolated communities (including First Nations communities).

**Background**

The Northwestern Ontario Writers Workshop is based in Thunder Bay, Ontario and has members located throughout Northwestern Ontario and elsewhere. NOWW organizes events to support writing and writers, including author readings, writing workshops, a literary newsletter, *NOWW Magazine*, and an annual writing contest.

NOWW has received funding from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation and other sponsors for an E-Writer in Residence. The E-Writer in Residence will perform the services of a Writer in Residence with two distinct advantages enabled by communications technology: she or he may be located anywhere in Canada; and she or he will be able to reach writers located in the isolated communities, including First Nations communities, throughout our vast and sparsely populated region.

**Project Description**

The E-Writer in Residence project will run from September to December, 2011. It has the following components:

1. Manuscript Critiques. Detailed manuscript critiques will make up the bulk of the E-Writer in Residence project. NOWW staff and volunteers will handle manuscripts and establish a schedule with a flow of two manuscripts per week, for a total of 24 manuscripts over a twelve-week period. The E-Writer in Residence will provide feedback directly to the writers via e-mail. NOWW is open to discussing manuscript specifications, such as maximum length, with the E-Writer in Residence.
2. Three Distance Workshops. During this time, the E-Writer in Residence will hold three distance workshops via either videoconference or conference call with an internet-based document sharing service (orientation, training and support will be provided). This will enable writers located in isolated communities to participate in and benefit from the workshops.
  - o One workshop will be for beginner writers who may never have taken a writing class before. This workshop will be marketed throughout NOWW's membership but also to people located in isolated First Nations communities via our partner, K-Net (see below)

- A second workshop, targeted to more established writers, will provide advanced exercises and critiquing techniques.
  - A third workshop will be for students at the Keewaytinook Internet High School, ([kihs.knet.ca/drupal/home](http://kihs.knet.ca/drupal/home)), a project of NOWW's partner, Keewaytinook Okimakanak ([www.knet.ca](http://www.knet.ca)). KiHS students live in isolated First Nations communities throughout Northwestern Ontario and have even fewer opportunities for enrichment than writers living in the region's towns and cities.
3. Wrap-Up. A project wrap-up event will take place in December either in Thunder Bay or in a smaller town in our region such as Sioux Lookout. This will encourage maximum participation by writers from outside of Thunder Bay. This event may be linked to the region via technology and will feature readings by program participants and the EWIR. The EWIR will talk about the career of a working writer, with tips for writers headed in that direction, and will offer an opportunity for participants to follow up with more specific questions.
  4. Project Launch in Thunder Bay. Pending receipt of extra funds, NOWW will bring the E-Writer in Residence to Thunder Bay for a launch in September that will include a reading and a face-to-face workshop. This will allow some writers and the E-Writer in Residence to meet in person, as well as give the EWIR an opportunity to visit our region.

The E-Writer in Residence will be paid \$3,250 in three equal instalments for this work upon signing a contract with NOWW. Travel costs including accommodation will also be covered.

### **Deliverables**

- 24 manuscript critiques
- Three distance workshops
- Reading and small workshop at project wrap-up in Thunder Bay or other community in the region
- Pending funding for travel, accommodation and a stipend, participation in project launch in Thunder Bay (author reading and workshop)

### **Requirements**

Established writers are asked to provide brief descriptions of the following, for a total page length of approximately 3 pages (plus attachments e.g. cv):

- A summary of their experience as writers and as teachers of writing
- A description of the types of writing they would feel comfortable critiquing (prose, poetry, scripts, non-fiction, writing in genres, etc.)
- A description of their computer's specifications and their internet connection (interested writers must have a reliable computer and high-speed internet connection)
- A description of their level of comfort with using potentially unfamiliar forms of communications technology (training and support will be provided)
- A description of any background in teaching writing to marginalized groups such as youth and First Nations writers

- A curriculum vitae
- Any references from former students are welcome

We welcome proposals from all writers. Writers who are comfortable critiquing both prose and poetry are especially encouraged.

We will consider joint applications from two or more writers.

### **Deadline and Timeframe**

Proposals must be received by e-mail by [admin@nowwwriters.org](mailto:admin@nowwwriters.org) by July 18<sup>th</sup> 2011. NOWW will assess proposals using the criteria below and make an offer by August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011.

The project will run from September to December 2011.

### **Questions**

Questions may be directed to Jennifer Morrow at [jmorrow123@gmail.com](mailto:jmorrow123@gmail.com) or (807) 737-4901 (Central Time Zone).

### **Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Writing experience
- Teaching experience
- Willingness/ability to critique both poetry and prose
- Suitability of computer and internet connection
- Self-assessment of ease or experience with using new communications technology
- Experience in teaching writing to marginalized groups such as youth and First Nations writers
- Overall understanding of and enthusiasm for the project