

For immediate release: August 4, 2021

Regina Public Library selects new Writer in Residence

Regina Public Library (RPL) is pleased to announce the selection of Neil Aitken as its 2021-2022 Writer in Residence.

"Neil's extensive mentorship, teaching and editorial experience makes him stand out," said Nancy MacKenzie, Manager, Community Engagement and Programming at Regina Public Library. "Our Writer in Residence Program is designed to encourage local writers and engage the Regina community, so he's an ideal candidate."

Aitken is a Chinese-Scottish Canadian writer, editor, and translator with a multi-genre MFA in Creative Writing and a PhD in Literature & Creative Writing. He is the author of two poetry collections and a chapbook, winner of the Philip Levine Prize for Poetry and the Elgin Prize for Science Fiction Poetry, and semi-finalist for the Anthony Hecht Prize. His work appears in anthologies, magazines, and broadsides, and has been featured in animated film, arranged for contemporary art song, and translated into Dutch, Russian, and Chinese.

In addition to writing poetry and fiction, Neil works on literary translations of contemporary Chinese poetry and has received the DJS Translation Prize. A former computer games programmer, he maintains a deep love of interactive fiction, digital storytelling, and tabletop role playing games. Neil presently serves as the editor of *Boxcar Poetry Review*.

Regina Public Library was the first public library in Canada to offer a Writer in Residence program in 1978. Since then it has welcomed 32 additional residencies to help local writers with personal guidance from an established author.

Neil begins his residency at RPL on September 7; Regina writers can book appointments with him at wir@reginalibrary.ca. For more information, visit reginalibrary.ca.

-30-

For more information:
Brandi Book, Marketing and Communications Consultant
Regina Public Library
(306) 777-6182
bbook@reginalibrary.ca