

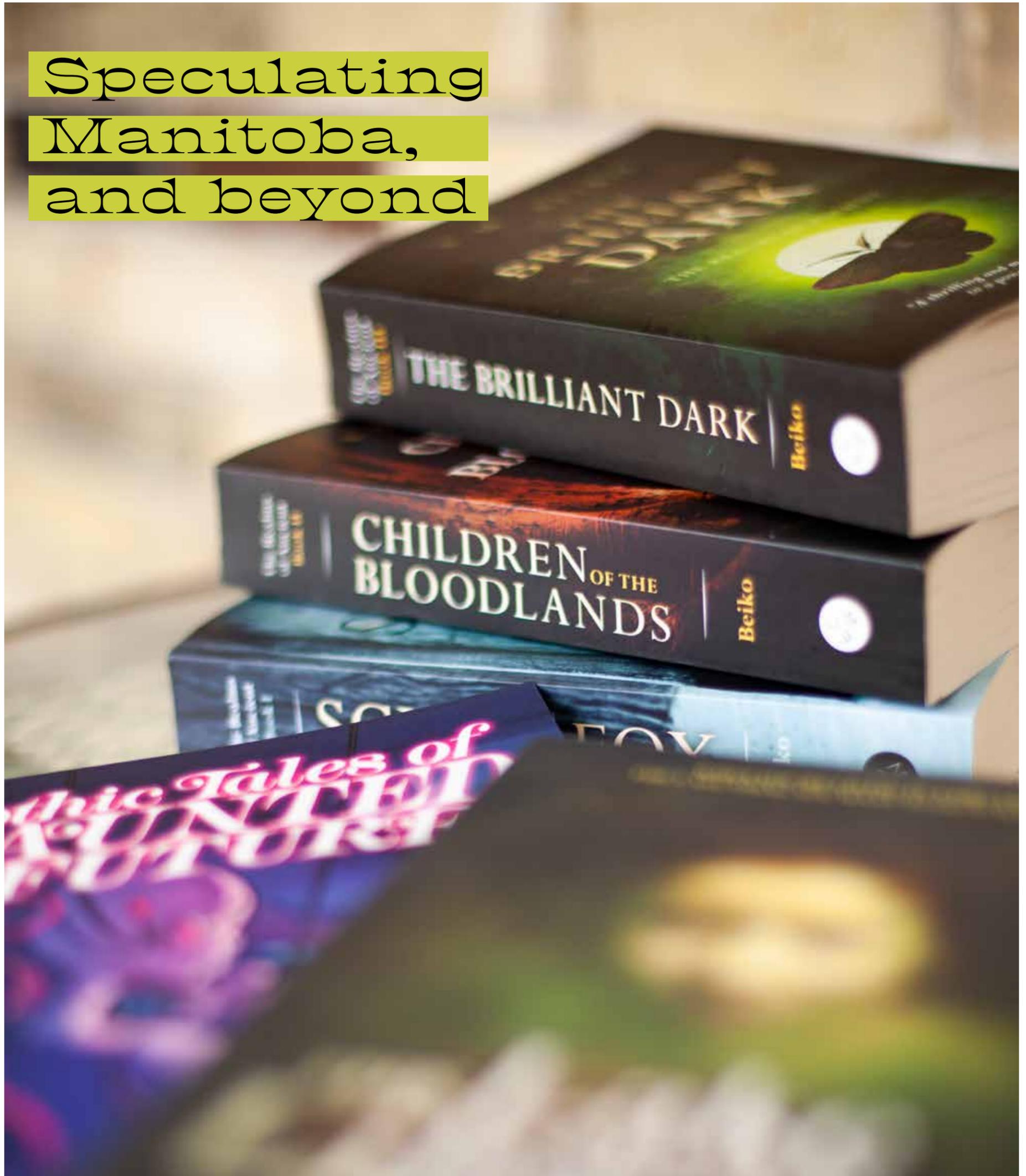
# THE **U** N I T E R

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## Speculating Manitoba, and beyond



### EMBRACING GENRE FICTION

# SORE LOSERS

THOMAS PASHKO  
MANAGING EDITOR

@THOMASPASHKO

The right-wing outrage machine is at it again, whining about election losses and undermining democratic processes. This time, it's happening right here at Winnipeg's Victoria Inn.

On Saturday, Oct. 30, Manitoba's ruling Progressive Conservative party gathered at the Victoria Inn to announce the winner of the party's leadership vote. The new leader would replace former premier Brian Pallister and, thus, become the province's new premier.

The two leadership candidates took very different campaign approaches. Heather Stefanson was seen as a more moderate continuation of Pallister's Tories and was endorsed by many prominent local businesses. Shelly Glover, a hardline conservative, ex-cop and former Stephen Harper cabinet minister, pandered to the toxic fringes by railing against vaccine mandates.

When the votes were tallied, the results were close but conclusive: Heather Stefanson was the winner of the election and Manitoba's new premier.

But one person wasn't willing to accept the facts: the loser: Shelly Glover. As of this writing, she has still refused to concede defeat and is seeking a court order to declare the election results invalid.

"I am the Premier, not her," Glover told CBC reporter Bartley Kives with all the grace and dignity of a spoiled toddler who just lost at hide-and-seek. "I am sorry, but Manitobans chose me." They did not.

But Glover's whining isn't just unbecoming. It's actively dangerous. During her campaign, her anti-science stances echoed those of the many Trump conservative imitators who have popped up around the world at every level of politics as they seek to undermine democratic processes whenever they lose.

The world saw on Jan. 6 how damaging this baseless questioning of elections can be when a mob of fascists stormed the US capitol in an attempt to overthrow that country's legitimate election. I implore Glover to take a look at the gruelling footage from that day and ask herself, "Are these my people?"



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Curt Hull is the project director of Climate Change Connection. Read his thoughts on COP26 and more on page 11.

## UNITER STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR  
**Thomas Pashko** — [editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)

BUSINESS MANAGER  
**Valerie Chelangat** — [businessmgr@uniter.ca](mailto:businessmgr@uniter.ca)

CREATIVE DIRECTOR  
**Talia Steele** — [creative@uniter.ca](mailto:creative@uniter.ca)

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR  
**Cierra Bettens** — [culture@uniter.ca](mailto:culture@uniter.ca)

FEATURES EDITOR  
**Charlie Morin** — [featureseditor@uniter.ca](mailto:featureseditor@uniter.ca)

CITY EDITOR  
**Alex Neufeldt** — [city@uniter.ca](mailto:city@uniter.ca)

COMMENTS EDITOR  
**Haley Pauls** — [comments@uniter.ca](mailto:comments@uniter.ca)

COPY & STYLE EDITOR  
**Danielle Doiron** — [style@uniter.ca](mailto:style@uniter.ca)

PHOTO EDITOR  
**Daniel Crump** — [photoeditor@uniter.ca](mailto:photoeditor@uniter.ca)

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Callie Lugosi** — [callie@uniter.ca](mailto:callie@uniter.ca)

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
**Keeley Braunstein-Black** — [keeley@uniter.ca](mailto:keeley@uniter.ca)

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR  
**Gabrielle Funk** — [gabrielle@uniter.ca](mailto:gabrielle@uniter.ca)

FEATURES REPORTER  
**Keesha Harewood** — [features@uniter.ca](mailto:features@uniter.ca)

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER  
**Isabella Soares** — [isabella@uniter.ca](mailto:isabella@uniter.ca)

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER  
**Vacant**

CITY REPORTER  
**Callum Goulet-Kilgour** — [cityreporter@uniter.ca](mailto:cityreporter@uniter.ca)

CAMPUS REPORTER  
**Reese Estwick** — [campus@uniter.ca](mailto:campus@uniter.ca)

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR  
**Holly Liu** — [volunteer@uniter.ca](mailto:volunteer@uniter.ca)

## CONTRIBUTORS

WRITERS  
**Hannah Penner**  
**Alyssa Warga**

## MOUSELAND PRESS

MOUSELAND PRESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: **Kristin Annable (chair), Anifat Olawoyin, Larissa Peck, Andrew Tod and Jack Walker** — For inquiries email: [board@uniter.ca](mailto:board@uniter.ca)

## CONTACT US

GENERAL INQUIRIES  
[editor@uniter.ca](mailto:editor@uniter.ca)

ADVERTISING  
[businessmgr@uniter.ca](mailto:businessmgr@uniter.ca)

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UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
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Submissions of articles, letters, graphics and photos are encouraged, however, all new contributors (with the exception of letters to the editor) must attend a 45-minute volunteer orientation workshop to ensure that the volunteer understands all of the publication's basic guidelines.

**In-person volunteer orientations are currently suspended due to COVID-19, but over-the-phone and remote orientations can be arranged. Please email [volunteer@uniter.ca](mailto:volunteer@uniter.ca) for more details.**

Deadline for advertisements is noon Friday, six days prior to publication. The Uniter reserves the right to refuse to print material submitted by volunteers. The Uniter will not print submissions that are homophobic, misogynistic, transphobic, ableist, racist or libellous. We also reserve the right to edit for length/style.



# A CINEMATIC RENDEZVOUS

## Cinémental celebrates its 30th edition

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FICTIONALCIERRA](#) [@CIERRABETTS](#)

From Nov. 5 to 7, a curated selection of French-language films will hit screens at the second half of Cinémental.

The festival, which takes place at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain (CCFM), was established in 1991, when three cinema enthusiasts (Martine Bordeleau, Lucie-Madeleine Delisle and Chantal LeDorze) saw the need for a French film festival in Manitoba.

Now celebrating its 30th edition, festival coordinator Mélanie Bédard says Cinémental will screen a diverse selection of local, national and international French-language films.

“We’re not only (programming) those who have been in the industry for a long time and those that have their roots, but also the newbies that are getting out there and exploring their passions,” Bédard says.

*Vous ne parlez pas français?* Not a problem! Bédard says the vast majority of the films will include English subtitles, and those that do not will be specified in the program.

Aside from the screenings, Cinémental also coordinates a series of outreach projects with the vision of expanding appreciation for French films. Their school program engages French and French-immersion students between the ages of eight and 18 through screenings and workshops catered to different grade levels.

“It’s always important to be able to explore your own culture and language

within the day-to-day that you’re able to do in any other language. We’re surrounded by the English language, but it’s important for us to be able to do those things, have fun, be creative and bring the community together,” Bédard says.

Caroline Monnet, an Anishinaabe/French filmmaker and multidisciplinary artist from Outaouais, Que., screened her feature film *Bootlegger* in the October half of the festival. *Bootlegger* chronicles the journey of Mani, an Indigenous graduate student who witnesses the consequences of illegal alcohol trafficking after returning to her reserve.

“It’s really a movie about self-determination and intergenerational resilience,” Monnet says.

For many francophone Indigenous filmmakers in Canada, Monnet says there is an additional degree of marginalization due to an English language barrier. Festivals like Cinémental provide a platform for francophone Indigenous voices to reach audiences outside of Quebec.

“If you don’t speak English, you don’t have access to all the resources and the other filmmakers that are out west and vice versa,” she says. “There’s a gap between the francophone and anglophone Indigenous (film) communities, so it’s very important, for me anyway, to create francophone Indigenous cinema.”

As Indigenous representation emerges as increasingly necessary in Canadian



SUPPLIED PHOTO

film and media, Monnet stresses the importance of narrative sovereignty. While institutions are beginning to recognize that need, she says it is crucial to accept a diversity of genres and stories.

“We need to be given the opportunity to (tell) very diverse stories. We’re not just

one single thing. We have very different realities, and I think that’s important to take into account,” Monnet says.

For Cinémental’s festival schedule, ticket information and programming, visit [en.cinemental.com](http://en.cinemental.com).



# VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES!

It’s back! The Uniter 30 readers’ poll aims to put the spotlight on your favourite local people, places and things of 2021.

Voting deadline is Nov. 12, 2021 at noon, with winners being announced in the Dec. 2 issue of *The Uniter*.

To submit your vote, visit us online at [uniter.ca/vote](http://uniter.ca/vote).



SUPPLIED PHOTO

An image of Odudu Umoessien's work in *Sanctuaries*, which runs until Dec. 19

## ENVELOPED IN ART

### *Sanctuaries* goes beyond the confines of traditional art exhibitions

ALYSSA WARGA | VOLUNTEER | [ALYSSA\\_WARGA](#) [ALYSSA.WARGA](#)

Let the world fall away and lose yourself in an immersive experience with *Sanctuaries*, a curatorial, architectural and artistic masterpiece that is rewriting the rules of art viewership.

*Sanctuaries* is an interactive exhibition presented by Gallery 1C03 in collaboration with Mahlet Cuff, Shaneela Boodoo and Chukwudubem Ukaigwe, otherwise known as the curatorial team Patterns Collective.

Running until Dec. 19, the show features the work of artists Anique Jordan, Akum Maduka and Rajni Perera as displayed in a dynamic digital viewing platform created

by Odudu Umoessien.

The architectural viewing space Umoessien created is full of warm colours and fluid lines that foster a nurturing and maternal environment for viewing the female body. The only standing structure in the vast, digitally created ocean and sea of stars is modeled after a flower. The “petals” are meant to guard the artwork within and provide a safe space in which it can simply exist.

Umoessien further elaborated on the intent behind his work in an artist-talk discussion with Patterns Collective. He re-

vealed that themes of “femininity,” “body” and “sanctuary” emerged when he collectively viewed pieces by Jordan, Maduka and Perera.

“They’re telling very different stories, very powerful stories, but in completely different ways ... my job was to find a way to create a space where all of this work could live, and they could live together,” Umoessien says.

In an interview with *The Uniter*, curator Mahlet Cuff stressed the importance of viewing the body and identity in a nonconventional way. She emphasized that *Sanctuaries* is meant to be a safe space where conversations about abstract ideas like body and identity can take place beyond preordained constructs that lead to narrow interpretations.

At the artist talk, Jordan, Maduka and Perera expressed interest in expanding conversations around and perceptions of their art. They emphasized that their work has many layers and should be linked to productive and complex ideas of progress and discovery instead of a restrictive identity

placed upon them by colonial frameworks.

“People need to see (our) work for the layers of complexity that’s in it, instead of just trying to find that answer and that singular question around ... oppression and identity,” Jordan says.

“The complexity of how our identity functions within the world connects to way more than just the selfhood ... there are so many more interesting things that we could be talking about when it comes to how our work is read.”

Although details remain limited, the Patterns Collective has future exhibitions in development that will be digitally accessible to community members and viewers across the globe.

***Sanctuaries* will remain open for exploration until Dec. 19 and can be accessed at [thesanctuaries.ca](https://thesanctuaries.ca). For information on upcoming workshops, programs and interviews with the involved artists and curators, follow [@collective.patterns](#) on Instagram or visit the Gallery 1C03 webpage at [uwinnipeg.ca/art-gallery](https://uwinnipeg.ca/art-gallery).**

## THE WAR BEING WAGED WITHIN

### PTE production explores intergenerational Indigenous experiences

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [BELLASOARES0601](#) [BELLA\\_SOARES16](#)

Through a play, dance segments and poetry, *The War Being Waged* takes the stage from Nov. 3 to 21 at the Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE). Also hosted online from Dec. 2 to 12, it tells the story of three generations of Indigenous women as they try to find their voices and uplift their community.

Darla Contois is a Cree-Salteaux theatre artist and the playwright behind *The War Being Waged*.

“In general, it is a response to the question we Indigenous peoples ask ourselves every day, and that is ‘What are you fighting for?’ There are so many different contexts that we face today. Am I fighting for myself, or my family, or my people?” Contois says.

Contois was approached by Thomas Morgan Jones, PTE’s artistic director three years ago about working on a commission. After a long process of putting everything together, this production is heading to the stage. This show will also be available for high-school classroom presentations as part of PTE’s virtual tour from March 15 to April 30, 2022.

“It’s been pretty magical and emotional to believe that I wrote this show and that it was on my desk as a couple piles of paper, and

now it has got this whole beautiful life. It’s incredible,” Contois says.

One year before rehearsals began, everyone related to the project met and studied the material together to make sure that it was given justice when the time came to perform it for a live audience.

“These meetings and meaningful conversations have led to an extraordinary process. It is a beautiful and critically important piece of theatre because of the process that brought it to life – and because of Darla’s voice and story at the centre of it all,” Jones says.

This is Contois’ debut as a playwright in a major theatre season. Instead of taking on an acting role, she worked behind the scenes during rehearsals as an associate director alongside Jones, who was responsible for directing this production.

“The process of being an associate director was great, because it allowed me to get involved in the process and have agency over my own story. I really thank PTE and Tom for allowing me to be a part of the process literally the whole way through,” she says.

The playwright is excited for audiences to absorb the real-life struggles and relation-



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A scene from *The War Being Waged* featuring actors Tracey Nepinak and Emily Solstice Tait

ships she wrote about and see many different artistic forms taking centre stage.

“It is one of those things in which you have to see it to understand it, but it does take all of those elements (play, poetry, dance) to show the audience all that (Indigenous peoples) face and all that the characters face. It is all supportive of the story,” Contois says.

**Tickets for this production are already available on the PTE website, with limited spots. All seats are \$45 each. For more information about *The War Being Waged*, as well as public-health instructions to be aware of before watching the show, visit [pte.mb.ca/performances/the-war-being-waged](https://pte.mb.ca/performances/the-war-being-waged).**

# LOCAL QUEER SPACES (RE)OPEN THEIR DOORS

## Nightclubs return, new establishments emerge

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | [FICTIONALCIERRA](#) [CIERRABETTENS](#)

For several months, public-health restrictions compromised the existence of a handful of 2SLGBTQIA+ spaces in Winnipeg. Some chose to pivot virtually, while others were more or less forced to shut their doors indefinitely.

With Winnipeg's nightlife scene slowly being brought back to life, many of its beloved queer clubs and spaces are beginning to reemerge.

On Oct. 29, Fame Nightclub, one of Winnipeg's most popular 2SLGBTQIA+ clubs, reopened its doors at a new 110 Market Ave. location. The Halloween party that followed on Oct. 30 brought back drag queens Vida Lamour DeCosmo and Eva Nebula, as well as DJ Huffnpoof. Though the nightclub has moved from its 279 Garry St. location, its spirit remains intact.

Jennifer Watson, the club's manager, says the response from attendees has been wonderful so far.

"We had great feedback," Watson says. "It's very important for us at Fame to reopen for the community and give people another space to come to."

For many, the reopening of 2SLGBTQIA+ nightclubs like Fame and Club 200 provides a safer space for people to mingle, drink and dance. However, evening social spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+

folks looking for an alternative to the intensity of a nightclub environment and drinking spaces are often few and far between in Winnipeg.

At Little Brown Jug, Kristin Sheffield, the head of corporate operations, noticed this lack. Though nightclubs remain a core way of bringing people together, there are a multitude of reasons why someone may want to refrain from environments with a heavy alcohol presence.

"We wanted to create something that would allow for a really chill vibe (and) a low-barrier event not focused on alcohol," Sheffield says.

On Oct. 23, Little Brown Jug piloted its first Fruit Salad Queer Lounge. In its cozy warehouse space, tucked in on 366 William Ave., the event opened the floor to DJs Lucky Sharms and Kilusan.

While the brewery continues to offer a local selection of beer on tap, Sheffield says Little Brown Jug created a non-alcoholic cocktail to make the event more welcoming to folks in the community who aren't interested in consuming alcohol.

"I got a lot of feedback from people just being like 'oh, it's great to come and do something that ends at 11,'" Sheffield says. "It's about trying to create something that's a bit more nuanced and defi-



PHOTO BY CALLIE LUGOSI

Little Brown Jug created the Fruit Salad Queer Lounge as an event for 2SLGBTQIA+ Winnipeggers to gather in a mellower atmosphere than a nightclub.

nitely more accessible."

Sheffield says she and the team at Little Brown Jug hope to host Fruit Salad Queer Lounge nights more regularly. She adds that those who are interested in attending can visit the event page on [littlebrownjug.ca](#) or follow their Facebook page for regular updates.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic temporarily closed the doors of many premier 2SLGBTQIA+ spaces in Winnipeg,

it gave those like Watson time to ponder gaps in existing community offerings. As Fame reopens its doors, Watson says she hopes to get more involved with the community through fundraising events for organizations like Sunshine House.

"A lot of venues have (been) hurt, and there's a lot of people who need more resources," she says. "We just want to try and give back to the community."

# CRANKING UP THE STORIES

## Winnipeg Crankie Festival mixes media and talent

ISABELLA SOARES | ARTS AND CULTURE REPORTER | [BELLASOARES0601](#) [BELLA\\_SOARES16](#)

Combining image arts with the sounds of local music, the Winnipeg Crankie Festival redefines a popular storytelling tradition from the 19th century. This year, the festival will run from Nov. 5 to 7, with live shows taking place at the West End Cultural Centre and at the Crescent Fort Rouge United Church.

A crankie is a modern-day reimagining of the moving panorama, a device that captivated audiences before the advent of motion pictures.

"The reason why it's called Crankie Festival is because there are moving panoramas mounted on spindles with cranks at the top. As the spindles crank, artwork starts to move in the form of storytelling," festival producer Leonard Podolak says.

Organized by themes, each night will include hosts, music with a storytelling angle and visual art. Some confirmed performers in the lineup are Al Simmons, The Small Glories, Big Dave McLean and Scott Nolan.

"It's been a really tough two years for artists, but the one silver lining we can take away from this (COVID-19 pandemic) is that it is showing us some new paths, forcing us all to be creative and disseminate music," Podolak says.

The second live show at the festival, celebrating the Day of the Dead, will incor-

porate Mexican tunes and cultural interactive programming hosted by The Mariachi Ghost. Other guests featured that day include a live-streamed appearance from Toronto-based rapper Boogát and a segment with magician Brian Glow.

"The Crankie fest is an excellent source of original creativity, so we are honoured to be a part of it. They gave us free range and encouraged us to think outside of the box," Jorge Requena Ramos, vocalist and guitarist for The Mariachi Ghost, says.

For the first time, the 2021 edition will include a Prairie Panorama evening. This portion will celebrate emerging rural Manitoba musicians as they showcase songwriting projects they worked on alongside established artists.

"It was a project that we did that was funded by (Canadian Heritage), in which we partnered with five community organizations around the province. We paired a songwriter and performer with an aspiring musician in a mentorship program," Podolak says.

The pairings audiences will get to see on Nov. 6 are Keri Latimer with Hailey Hunter (Killarney), MJ Dandeneau with Imrianna Jones (Flin Flon), Del Barber with The Heide Sisters (Clearwater), Walking Wolf Ray Co-Co Stevenson with Kael Sauer-



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Winnipeg Crankie Festival producer Leonard Podolak demonstrates a crankie, a modern-day version of a moving panorama.

born (Gimli) and Andrina Turenne with Alexandre Tétrault (Lorette). Each of these pairings aim to tell a story about thought-provoking themes.

"When I heard (Stevenson and Sauerborn's song), it was like reconciliation in action. They put together this beautiful song about understanding and approaching everything from friendship and not judgment," Podolak says.

**To attend the Winnipeg Crankie Festival, event-goers must have proof of vaccination, photo ID and a mask handy. Tickets for each show are available for purchase, ranging from \$20 to \$35. For more information about the attractions, visit [crankiefestival.com](#).**



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# KIMMAPIIYIPITSSINI: THE MEANING OF EMPATHY

Plays Nov. 19 at Cinematheque



KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER | @KEESHAHAREWOOD

Elle-Májjá Tailfeathers's documentary *Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* walks through the impact of the substance-use and overdose epidemic in her community, the Kainai First Nation in Alberta.

It's difficult to summarize the depth and perspective *Kimmapiiyipitssini* presents, but, simply put, this documentary is a tapestry. It holistically but meticulously highlights each

thread that constitutes the multifaceted issue of addiction in Indigenous communities. But each thread is framed by one joining message: have empathy.

One core aspect of *Kimmapiiyipitssini: The Meaning of Empathy* is the personal narratives of recovering addicts. Each of their stories bring forth an honest account of overcoming addiction.

These stories are difficult, due to the fact that they touch on the generational and ongoing trauma that permeates Indigenous communities and often drives people to substance use. As difficult as it can be to engage with what they say, it's important to hang on to every word.

Aside from the heavy subject matter, however, actively listening to this film isn't challenging. In fact, the film is incredibly evocative and engaging. It just knows how to draw viewers in and keep their attention locked. Every piece of information it presents is easy to grasp and will stay with audiences.

But the documentary goes beyond personal narratives. It includes a medical point of view, walking through what it means for Indigenous people to receive treatment. Unsurprisingly, it's not accessible.

An interesting angle *Kimmapiiyipitssini* takes is the way it discusses two schools of thought for treating substance-use disorders: abstinence and harm reduction.

The film discusses how the abstinence model (quitting altogether) is the dominant approach and often heralded as the only way to treat addiction.

*Kimmapiiyipitssini* demonstrates how

harmful this outlook is while presenting a case for harm reduction, which focuses on weaning a patient off a substance and gradually curbing their addiction. The film doesn't advocate for the erasure of the abstinence school of thought. Rather, it tries to make a case for harm reduction to be considered as an alternate approach.

Even with the heavy topics that *Kimmapiiyipitssini* brings to light, it still maintains a hopeful tone. The documentary takes time to celebrate those who are treating their addictions, showing how badly people want to heal and thrive. The mood is far from depressing. If anything, it's honest. It's a representation of a collection of emotions that surface around living with a substance-use disorder.

This film needs to be watched. It's beautiful in the way it blends the personal histories of Indigenous people within the opioid epidemic with its advocacy for different kinds of treatment. At its core, *Kimmapiiyipitssini* is a message of love and compassion. It's a call to action. Anyone who watches this documentary will be better off for having done so.

## ARTS BRIEFS

CIERRA BETTENS | ARTS AND CULTURE EDITOR | @FICTIONALCIERRA | @CIERRABETTENS

### Drag brunch goes live

This Saturday, Nov. 6, Club 200 (190 Garry St.) will present Simply the Best of Miss Conception for an early afternoon of live drag brunch. The brunch festivities begin at 12:30 p.m., and advance tickets can be purchased for \$25 through eventbrite.ca.

### Two generations of art

A father-daughter duo are the latest artists to be featured in an exhibit at creBery (125 Adelaide St.). Shariff and Tanisha Salakoh's *Baba Ati Omo-Two Generations* exhibition will be shown at the studio from Nov. 11 to 23. The studio is open Tuesday through Friday from 12 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 12 to 5 p.m.

### Field Guide releases lead cover single

As part of a Coldplay cover album, Winnipeg-based artist Field Guide released a cover of "Yellow" featuring Lizzie McAlpine. The artist will make a tour pitstop in Winnipeg on Jan. 28, 2022 at the Park Theatre as a supporting act for Leif Vollebakk. Listen on any major streaming platform.

### Jocelyn Gould Quartet jazzes up the WECC

Internationally acclaimed jazz guitarist Jocelyn Gould will perform with a quartet featuring Rodney Whitaker (bass), Quincy Davis (drums) and Will Bonness (piano) on Nov. 12 at the West End Cultural Centre (586 Ellice Ave.). Tickets are available through Eventbrite and range from \$25 to \$30. Doors open at 7:15 p.m., and the show begins at 8 p.m.

### *The Telephone & La voix humaine*

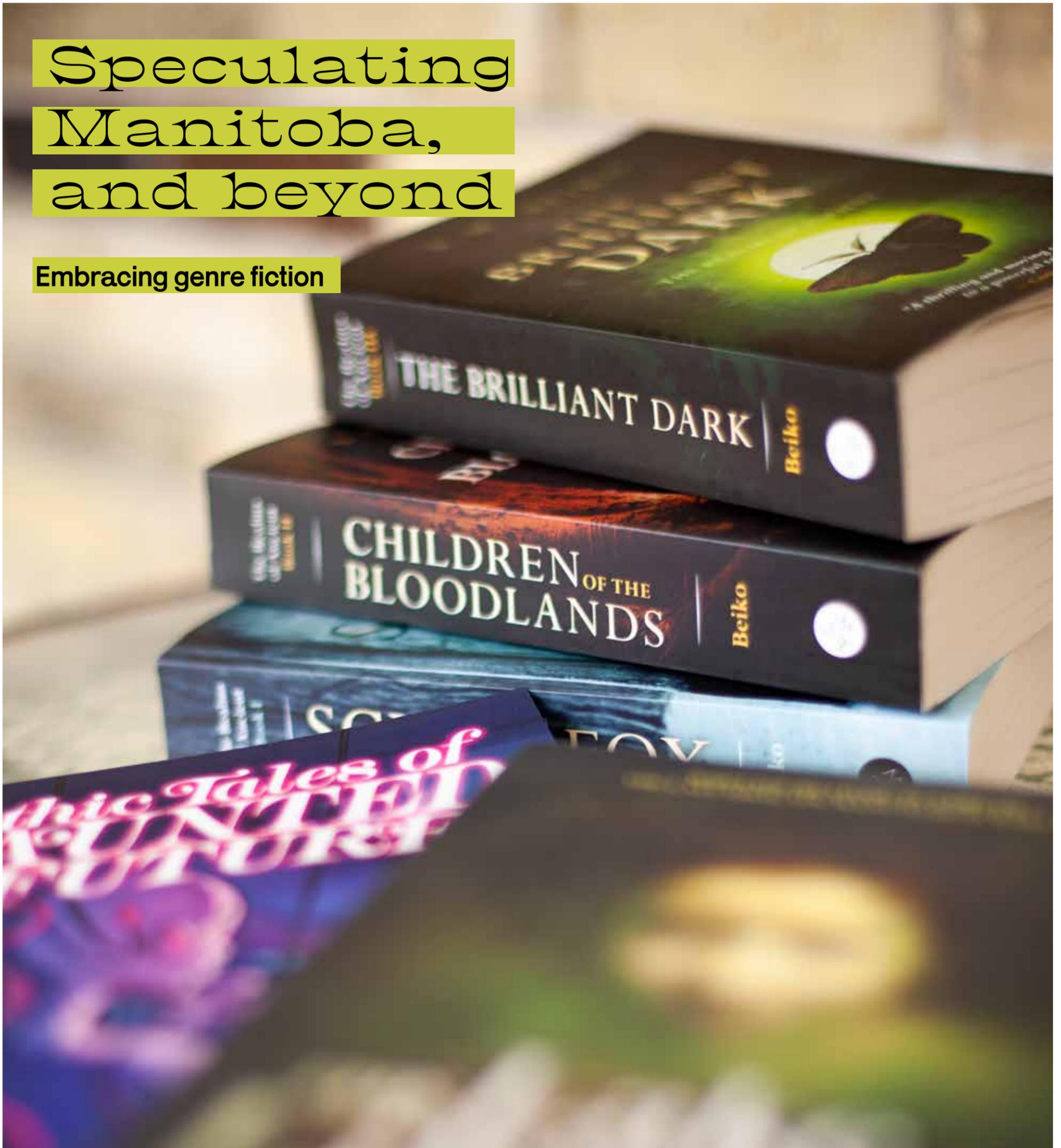
On Nov. 5 and 6, a double feature of theatrical opera shows in English and French will play at the Centennial Concert Hall (555 Main St.). *The Telephone* (sung in English) is described as a "charming romantic comedy," while *La voix humaine* (sung in French with projected English translations) is described as a "theatrical tour-de-force of drama, tension and anguish." Ticket information and more can be found at mbopera.ca.

### Rise Again, virtually

The Home County Music and Art Festival and Winnipeg music non-profit Home Routes are hosting a virtual celebration of Stan Rogers songs at *Rise Again!* Starting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 26, Winnipeg musical artists JD Edwards, Leonard Podolak, Nathan Rogers and Gilles Fournier, along with musicians from London, Ont. and Mahone Bay, NS will pay tribute to the late folk singer. Tickets prices start at \$20 and are available at homeroutes.ca.

# Speculating Manitoba, and beyond

Embracing genre fiction



Fantasy author S.M. Beiko's trilogy *The Realms of Ancient* is just one example of how Manitoba authors are making their mark on genre fiction.

Literary fiction has been forever in conflict with its sibling and nemesis: genre fiction. In general, the literary world sees literary fiction as “highbrow” works that cannot be defined by their relationship to any specific genre.

Genre fiction, on the other hand, is often considered more commercial and is generally meant to appeal to specific audiences, relying more heavily on tropes, archetypes and formulas. Genre fiction can be anything from fantasy to romance to mystery to horror to sci-fi to western.

This distinction, like any attempt to classify writing,

unfortunately fails to account for the nuances and complexities of storytelling. Genre labels often say more about the companies that promote and sell books than they do about the actual stories being told.

“A lot of these genres are just kind of made up by bookstores,” YA (young adult) fantasy author S.M. Beiko, who lives and works in Manitoba, explains. “They just want to know where to put you.”

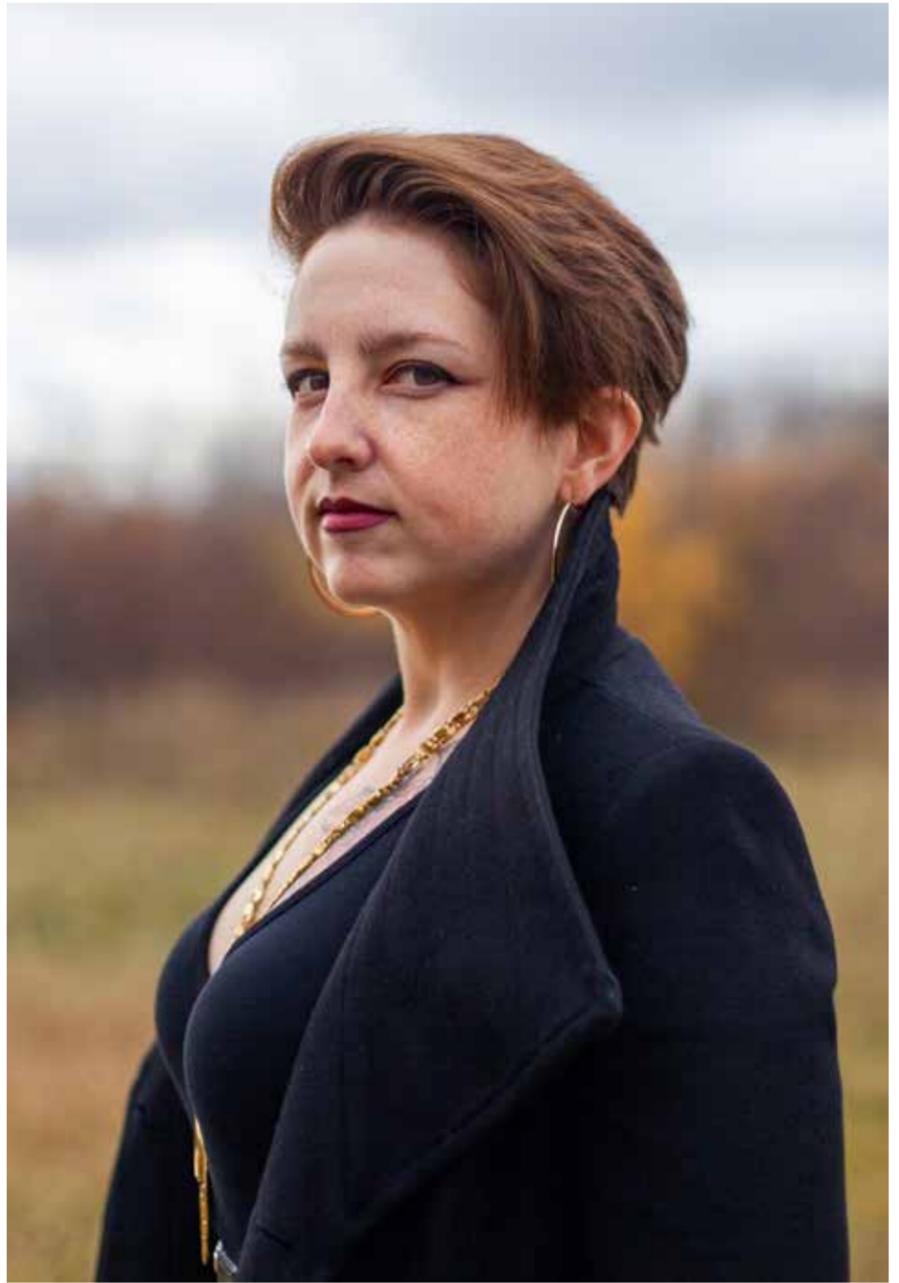
The distinction between literary and genre fiction sometimes feels hard to pinpoint and certainly doesn't mean

that “genre” works cannot be highly acclaimed in literary circles. Take the popularity of Ursula K. Le Guin, Octavia Butler, J.R.R. Tolkien, Frank Herbert, Shirley Jackson and even Mary Shelley, who are all technically writers of genre fiction.

Today, we have N. K. Jemisin, Stephen Graham Jones, Cherie Dimaline, Neil Gaiman and Stephen King – all renowned, brilliant world-builders who use certain generic elements to tell their stories. And guess what? Audiences love them.



Adam Petrash is the co-editor of the speculative fiction *Parallel Prairies* and *Alternate Plains*.



Representation “just tells the reader, ‘hey, you exist, and you’re allowed to be the hero of the story.’” -S.M. Beiko

### The rise of speculative fiction

Though there has been some debate about the term “speculative fiction,” in general, it is a form that allows genre authors to define their work more flexibly, waving down certain boundaries that feel arbitrary and restrictive.

The term “speculative fiction” was introduced by Robert Heinlein in 1947 and was initially associated with the science-fiction genre. Since then, the term has expanded to include fantasy, horror and dystopian literature. Broadly, it refers to stories that use eerie, uncanny, supernatural or futuristic elements to explore a narrative or question.

“I would describe it as the most inclusive and engaging form out there,” Adam Petrash says. Petrash is the co-editor of the Manitoba and Prairie-based speculative fiction anthologies *Parallel Prairies* and *Alternate Plains* alongside Darren Ridgley. “It can be literary, it can be horror, it can be fantasy, it can be sci-fi. It can have these things co-exist beside each other.”

Beiko defines speculative fiction as a form concerned with “what ifs” – like realism, but with no constraints. “I have a question, and I keep asking questions, and a story comes out of that,” she says. “It’s still an investigation of what it means to be human. It’s just in a different environment ... maybe it’s in space or underground.”

### Ghosts and gods on the Prairies

Beiko’s first novel *The Lake and the Library* is set in a small, fictional Manitoba town. “It really drew on the landscape,” she says. “The endlessness, how in those kinds of landscapes there isn’t much going on, so you retreat inwardly and build these fantastic worlds.”

She explains how a rural Prairie setting, ridden with ghosts and abandoned buildings, allowed her to raise questions about the power of reading and the way people

– especially young people – get sucked into their own fantasies.

Chadwick Ginther, a fantasy and speculative-fiction author based in Winnipeg, says Manitoba has a rich history of mythology and folklore, which inspired his fantasy series *Thunder Road*.

Ginther, who is from Morden, became interested in Norse mythology and began to make connections between these myths and Manitoba’s Icelandic communities.

“Gimli is the name of the place after the end of the world in Norse myths ... there’s all of these connections right there,” he says.

When Ginther initially submitted *Thunder Road* to a larger American publisher, they said they liked his writing but couldn’t sell his book. Eventually, he went with Ravenstone Press, an imprint of Turnstone Press. He explains that if he had tried to translate “small-city Canada into small-city America ... it wouldn’t have been anywhere near the same book.”

The second book in the series is more of an “urban fantasy,” drawing on Winnipeg’s history as a “reputedly haunted city.”

“Winnipeg has a lot to offer in a fantasy setting,” Ginther says. “I doubt I’ll ever be done telling stories in Winnipeg or on the Prairies.”

### Beyond sword and sorcery

Beiko, who has written a trilogy called *The Realms of Ancient*, which she describes as “commercial fantasy,” explains that, at this point, high-stakes fantasies with swords, sorcery and huge mythologies aren’t what she’s most interested in.

Instead, she’s been challenging worn-out tropes in the genre, both as an editor and as a writer. *Gothic Tales for Haunted Futures* is a YA graphic-novel anthology series that has seen two editions, spinning stories that re-imagine romantic connections in futuristic, technological and time-travel settings. As the sole editor for the second edition,

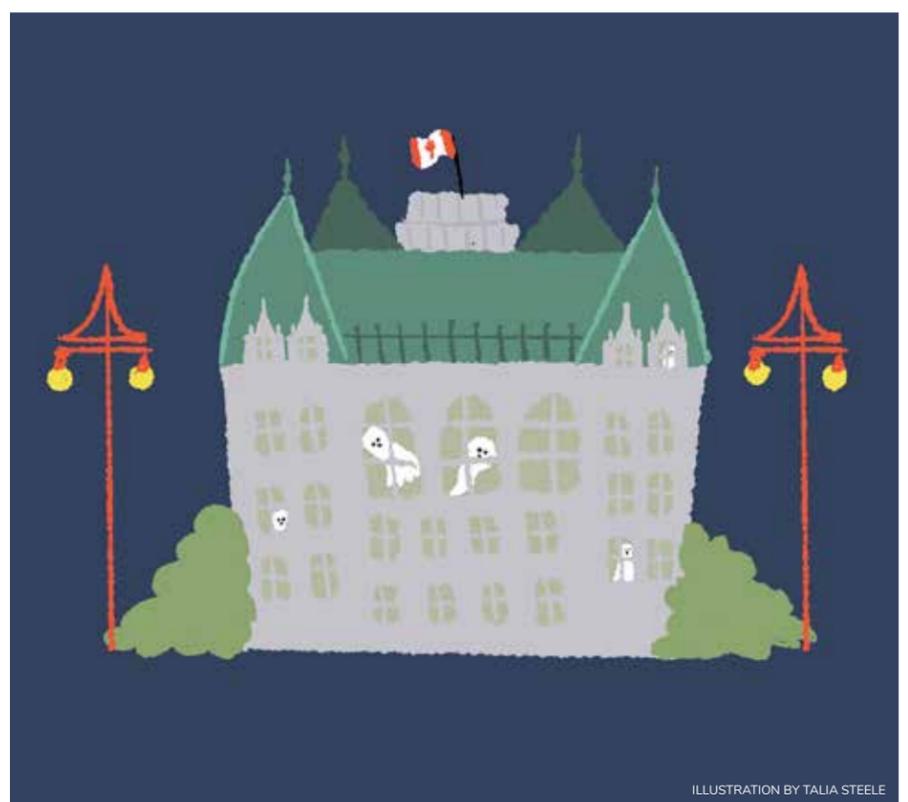


ILLUSTRATION BY TALIA STEELE

Beiko wanted to ensure the anthology was representative of real teenagers and their experiences.

*Gothic Tales* includes stories in which “trans vampires’ lives intertwine in cybergoth Paris” and “a non-binary chaplain serving a haunted space station becomes enamoured with the ship’s AI.” She explains that the call for submissions was worldwide. “It was completely wild what people came up with, the mythologies that people explored.”

Beiko also produces a webcomic called *Krampus is my Boyfriend!*, a “teen come-

dy-fantasy about a fat 16-year-old girl who is going to school in a made-up Prairie town in Manitoba ... (who) accidentally summons a monster named Krampus at a slumber party as a joke to defeat all her bullies.”

As both an editor and a writer, Beiko strives for representation. “It just tells the reader, ‘hey, you exist, and you’re allowed to be the hero of the story.’”

Some other key components to good fantasy writing are hopeful narratives and believable characters, Winnipeg-based web-fantasy writer Don Nguyen says.



“Winnipeg has a lot to offer in a fantasy setting ... I doubt I’ll ever be done telling stories in Winnipeg or on the Prairies.” -Chadwick Ginther



Chadwick Ginther’s fantasy anthology *Thunder Road* was inspired by local connections to Norse mythology via Manitoba’s Icelandic communities.

Nguyen publishes long-form fantasy on a platform called Tapread.

“I find great joy and passion out of seeing a character, despite their flaws, try to push themselves to be better,” he explains.

Nguyen is concerned about the tendency of some authors to represent BIPOC characters as “unflawed and paragons of virtue.”

It goes farther than simply undoing harmful tropes like the “noble savage” and “prostitute with a heart of gold” that tend to be found in fantasy writing, he explains.

According to Nguyen, characters need to be believable, humanized and relatable. “In my works, BIPOC characters are just that: characters.”

**Creatures that show us things**

Petrash says one of the most common themes he noticed in the short, speculative fiction that was submitted to the anthologies he co-edited was trauma. “Trauma manifests as a ghost or as some kind of creature,” he explains. “We use these creatures to show the darker sides of humanity.”

Another common theme was the climate crisis: narratives that speculated “about the possible futures now that the world is looking the way it is.”

“Speculative fiction has more of a potential to tell stories that people wouldn’t want to digest in a realism format or that might be too heavy, because it’s too real,” he continues. Sometimes, “people use monsters, but the story isn’t really about the monsters. It’s about the people.”

Meghan Malcolm, the writer behind WillowPress, is a self-published Winnipeg-based fantasy author and bookseller. Malcolm writes stories that re-imagine characters from fairytales, myths and folklore, such as Medusa and Delilah, complicating their narratives and exploring themes of selfhood and identity.

“They’re struggling with their identity, with harm done to them and finding themselves,” she explains.

For example, Malcolm writes Maleficent – known as the villain from *Sleeping Beauty* – as a victim of mental and emotional abuse.

“Her story is quite fragmented, because she doesn’t realize yet the ways that she’s been gaslit ... so she sees herself as the villain,” Malcolm says. They use this narrative structure and the mythology surrounding Maleficent to explore the internalization of abuse and how people struggle to believe their own stories.

Malcolm says fantasy has fallen victim to some unfortunate and uncreative tropes, when what it really should be is a “tool used to highlight things that we need to deconstruct.”

**‘This isn’t just an imaginary world’**

Malcolm adds that it’s important to remember that things that seem otherworldly,

horrific or apocalyptic to people from privileged backgrounds have sometimes already happened to marginalized people.

“This isn’t just an imaginary, terrible world. I think fantasy can highlight things we wish the world could be like and the way the world has been for people who aren’t white or who aren’t super privileged,” they say.

From *Treaty 1*, David Alexander Robertson and Katherena Vermette have been working innovatively with speculative forms, using time travel and supernatural occurrences to tell Indigenous stories and explore Indigenous histories.

Anthologies like *Love After the End*, a collection of Indigiqueer speculative fiction edited by Joshua Whitehead from Peguis First Nation, and *This Place: 150 Years Retold*, a YA graphic-novel series exploring “how Indigenous people have survived a post-apocalyptic world since Contact,” have contributed to a wave of Indigenous voices challenging assumptions made by traditional speculative fiction across the continent.

“We have already survived the apocalypse. This, right here, right now, is a dystopian present,” Whitehead writes, powerfully, in the introduction to *Love After the End*.

**Setting people free**

Speculative fiction is a genre that can be both bound and unbound. It seems to gesture both forward and backward in space and time, to a place unhindered by colonial boundaries and historical truisms. Perhaps this is why it lends itself so well to online platforms with wide readerships.

Nguyen, who writes web fantasy, is aware that online publishing has a bad reputation, since “anyone can publish, and there are a lot of incomplete and unpolished stories.” However, he knows many local people who read and publish web fiction.

“I don’t think escapism is a bad thing,” he explains. “It lets people find relief from their own lives.”

Other writers express similar sentiments. Escaping isn’t necessarily a bad thing, and it can help readers better understand their own worlds.

“I think it has a lot to do with setting people free from their own perspectives and their own preconceived notions about things,” Beiko says. “Speculative fiction really resonates with people when they are surprised. You have to ask yourself: ‘why did that surprise me? Why did that move me?’”

“It allows readers to escape their mundane reality and dare to imagine something different,” Nguyen says.

And when winter is six months long, and it hits -40°C, some imagination can go a long way.



ILLUSTRATION BY TALIA STEELE



S.M. Beiko branched out into comics in 2019 when she created the web comic *Krampus is my Boyfriend!*

The book launch for *Alternate Plains*, the sequel to *Parallel Prairies*, took place on Oct. 30 at McNally Robinson. Both anthologies are available for purchase in-store.

For information about subscriptions to Meghan Malcolm's project, WillowPress, see [willowpressco.com](http://willowpressco.com).

Read *Krampus is my Boyfriend!* online for free on [webtoons.com](http://webtoons.com).

Check out the podcast that was created to accompany *This Place* on CBC Podcasts at [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca).



## CITY BRIEFS

ALEX NEUFELDT | CITY EDITOR

### March against police violence this weekend

On Nov. 6 at 11 a.m., BI-POC Families Against Police Violence, an event created through the collaboration of 10 different organizations, will take place. The event will begin at the Winnipeg Police Headquarters and include a march to the Legislature. There will be COVID-19 safety measures in place.

### Antiquity analysis at the Legislature

Melissa Funke, assistant professor at the University of Winnipeg, will host a virtual talk on Nov. 5 about the classicizing sculptural details on the Manitoba Legislature, their symbolic and allegorical significance and the narrative that they create about settler-colonialism in Manitoba. The talk is free to attend on Zoom.

### Municipal vaccine mandate updates

The City of Winnipeg has identified that 86 per cent of municipal employees making regular contact with individuals at a high risk of contracting COVID-19 have been vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated can choose to receive education on the vaccine by Nov. 15, undergo regular testing after Nov. 15 or be subject to leave without pay as of the same date.

### Manitoba College at 150

On Nov. 5, the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the founding of Manitoba College (which would eventually become the University of Winnipeg), Ryan Eyford, associate professor in the U of W history department, will chair a panel discussion on the legacy of the college. The panel is free on Zoom and will feature Dale Barbour, Karen Froman, Claire Labrecque and Liliana Lopez.

### Strike is in session

The University of Manitoba Faculty Association (UMFA) began striking as of Tuesday, Nov. 2. The strike comes after the U of M's administration failed to offer union members an improvement to their existing contract. The administration has also chosen to take UM Learn, the program used to facilitate course delivery and learning, offline without notifying UMFA members, making all hosted content inaccessible to students and faculty members.

### Career supports from student services

November is Career and Workforce Development Month, and U of W Career Services will provide programming throughout the month to help students looking for employment guidance. Employers and alumni will unpack different career paths in Career Chats on Tuesdays, and there will be two Webinar Wednesday sessions dedicated to applying academic experience outside of university settings.

# COP26 UNDERWAY IN GLASGOW

Experts say climate conference important, yet flawed

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

COP26, the United Nations' climate-change conference, is currently underway in Glasgow, Scotland. World leaders, experts, activists and lobbyists have converged on the city to discuss and create policies to address the climate crisis.

COP26 was supposed to be held in November 2020 but was postponed until now due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Though many events and activities are still taking place virtually, this conference is happening in person.

Christie McLeod is a lawyer with Miller Thomson and a longtime climate activist with organizations like the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Global Steering Committee and Lawyers for Climate Justice.

"The decision to move ahead with an in-person summit in Glasgow will exclude many participants from these vulnerable states due to the lack of access to COVID vaccines in many developing countries," she says in an email to *The Uniter*.

In fact, earlier this year, the Stockholm Environment Institute published a report looking at the relationship between climate negotiations and vaccine supplies. According to the report, "the global vaccination gap reduces the capacity of

developing countries to address climate mitigation and adaptation needs." This is especially concerning since these countries tend to be disproportionately affected by climate change.

"Those most impacted by the present and projected impacts of climate change should have a seat at the table and be listened to," McLeod says, especially since "so much needs to happen at this COP."

"Wealthy countries need to increase their contributions to climate finance in order to meet this goal of raising at least US \$100 billion, although I don't believe that this will occur," she says.

"The new Production Gap report details that governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C."

Curt Hull is Climate Change Connection's project director and extensively involved in climate-policy advocacy in Manitoba.

He says that while "we should have a consistent, appropriate and adequate global approach to the climate crisis, because it is global," local activism and policy-making is crucial, since it is difficult to make decisions



PHOTO BY KEELEY BRAUNSTEIN-BLACK

Curt Hull, project director for Climate Change Connection

at the macro level.

In fact, in recent years, many local grassroots organizations like the Manitoba Energy Justice Coalition have been among the most prominent voices calling for action on climate change. Hull believes this – along with action at the international level – is necessary.

"In Manitoba, we can't solve the climate crisis, but by being able to feed ourselves locally without fossil fuel-based fertilizer, heat all of our buildings old and

new without natural gas, move all goods and people without gasoline or diesel, we will have built a resilience in our province to be able to withstand and survive a lot of the disturbances that are coming our way," he says.

Canada's COP26 delegation is led by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault.

# CONSEQUENCES FOR BOLSONARO?

Report raises questions about accountability for pandemic policies

CALLUM GOULET-KILGOUR | CITY REPORTER |  CGOULETKILGOUR

Jair Bolsonaro, president of Brazil since January 2019, is an extreme political figure. He is an admirer of the brutal Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet, a misogynist and a science denier. Most recently, his disastrous response to the COVID-19 pandemic has led to calls for him to face criminal charges.

As of Oct. 29, 607,462 Brazilians have died of the virus. This is equivalent to 2,838.69 deaths per million people. While this is one of the worst rates in the world, many other countries are not far off. The United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Italy have had 2,238.94, 2,064.52, 2,234.63 and 2187.22 deaths per million people, respectively. In fact, six US states have worse death rates than Brazil: Mississippi, Alabama, New Jersey, Louisiana, New York and Arizona.

Throughout the pandemic, Bolsonaro has downplayed the severity of COVID-19 and the efficacy of vaccines. As Matheus Coelho, a Brazilian conductor studying in Manitoba, points out, Bolsonaro's track record of spreading misinformation is long.

"He encouraged people to agglomerate, to not use masks, to take ineffective medicine, ignored the offer of vaccines, discouraged people (from taking) the vaccine shots by spreading fake news and its origin and so on," he says in a statement to *The Uniter*.

"If a president is doing that, obviously the democracy is weak, since it is not preventing him from committing so many crimes," Coelho says.

In an attempt to hold Bolsonaro accountable, a committee of Brazil's senate recently approved a report that calls for him to be indicted for nine crimes related to his handling of the crisis.

Regiane Garcia, a research associate with the University of Winnipeg's Global College, is from Brazil.

"In terms of people actually being punished, I am not entirely sure, since there is the legal situation and the politics behind the legal situation," she says. "From this report, we have enough evidence to impeach (Bolsonaro), but (not) the political support."

Brazil's political landscape is complex, with 24 different parties having at least one seat in the Chamber of Deputies and 16 parties having at least one seat in the Federal Senate.

"In the short term, the president, who I would love to see punished severely, I don't think will be affected," Garcia notes. She adds that some individuals might be scapegoated and face accountability.

Regardless, she believes that accountability for the mishandling of the pandemic is crucial. Many deaths could have been avoided, and such accountability would also prevent Brazil's leaders from continuing their disastrous policies.

While Canada has had better outcomes than the aforementioned jurisdictions, many have called for greater accountability for our political leaders and public-health officials over their handling of the COVID-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS(SUPPLIED)

The Brazilian senate recently approved a call for the country's president, Jair Bolsonaro, to be criminally charged for his mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Could other leaders face similar repercussions?

19 pandemic.

While elections are the primary mechanism to hold politicians accountable in Canada, the country may see attempts to establish further accountability mechanisms. For example, Alberta's NDP has called for an all-party committee to examine the provincial government's handling of the

pandemic.

Coelho urges Canadians to learn from the Brazilian situation.

"Be careful with politicians who threaten democracy, mainly those with fascist tendencies," he says. "Also, trust in science!"

# THE INTERSECTION OF COLONIZATION, CLIMATE CHANGE AND MENTAL HEALTH

## Prairie Climate Centre adds new content to Canadian Climate Atlas

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

The University of Winnipeg's Prairie Climate Centre (PCC) released new content regarding the intersection of climate change and mental health in the Climate Atlas of Canada on Oct. 10 – also known as World Mental Health Day.

The new content is a collection of videos and articles that share stories about how the climate crisis has impacted people. Additionally, there are resources that discuss possible coping strategies for those facing challenges due to the impacts of climate change.

"An increasing number of people in Canada are experiencing mental-health impacts from climate change – whether from direct experience of extreme events or from broader climate anxiety," Laura Cameron, research associate with the PCC, says.

"These new resources aim to help people better understand these impacts and how to cope with them, which is essential to ensure well-being and sustained engagement with the issue in the long term."

On a global scale, many important dialogues are being had about the health impacts of climate change. However, mental illness and distress are often stigmatized, and conversations around health tend to focus on physical ailments like heatstroke, dehydration and respiratory issues.

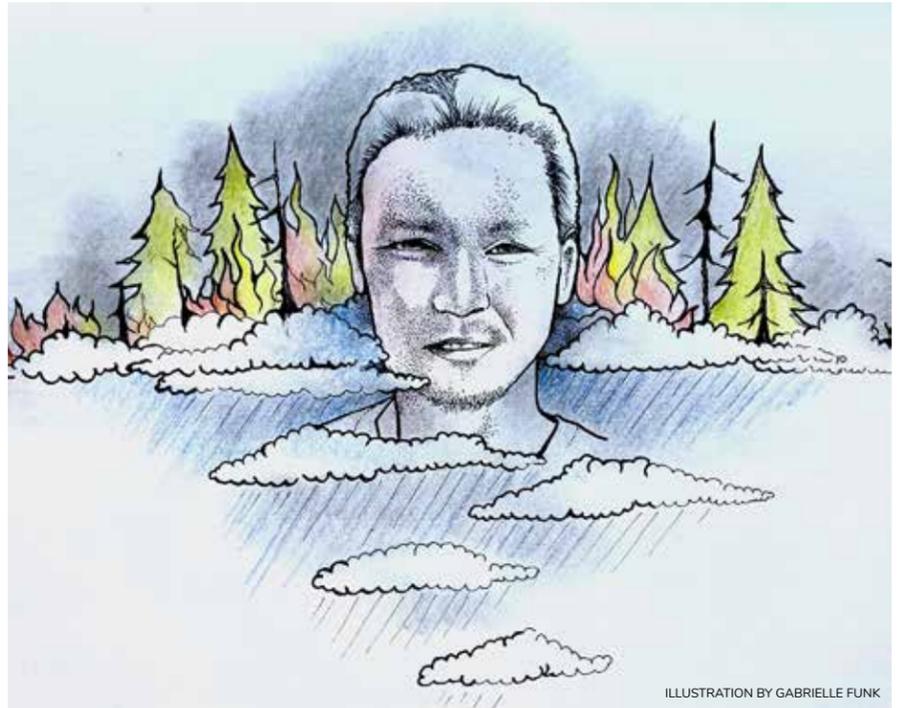
"With an increasing number of people affected psychologically by climate events and experiencing climate anxiety, the intersection of mental health and climate change is gaining visibility," Cameron says.

When discussing climate change in Canada, it is important to turn to those with experience, who can teach people about patterns, histories and necessary next steps. Considering the fact that Indigenous people have already lived through intense climate and ecological change upon this land, many Indigenous communities and elders are experts in this area.

Indigenous people who have lived on this land for "many thousands of years have had our world turned upside down in a mere 150 years," Brett Huson, research associate and media specialist with the PCC, says in an email to *The Uniter*. Huson is from Gitksan Nation and also known as Hetxw'ms Gyetxw.

"Perhaps a good connection for many youth, who are just now beginning to experience climate anxiety, would be to connect with (I)ndigenous knowledge-keepers, ceremony leaders and communities near them to help them better understand the shock they are only now starting to experience."

"Everything that is my culture, my



identity, my language and my physical being is from Gitksan lax yip (Gitksan Territory)," Gyetxw says. "Git means 'people of,' and xsan is a variation of a word that means 'river of mists.' So in our name itself, there is a direct link to the land we come from. If you travel to other nations along the coast, you will see that their names are directly tied to the land they come from."

European colonists forced a separation between Indigenous peoples and the land, which still is taking place today upon treaty and unceded territory. Canadian governments continue to perpetuate barriers for Indigenous peoples, further developing climate-related mental-health struggles.

"Canada focuses on the land as being a possession to be sold and commodified as they so choose," Gyetxw says. "Indige-

nous communities view the land as a life support system that we are spiritually and biologically connected to."

The Canadian Climate Atlas is a tool for researchers and storytellers that "carries with it many vibrant and rich stories and articles that express the impacts of climate change from the perspectives of all Canadians," Huson says.

"We have worked with many knowledge keepers and elders from different nations who have requested that we develop a dedicated space for (I)ndigenous knowledge," Huson says.

This informed research has guided the ongoing development of the soon-to-be-launched Indigenous Climate Atlas, which will create a dedicated space for articles and videos about Indigenous knowledge, stories and research regarding climate and the environment.

# U OF W RESEARCHERS WORKING ON GLOBAL HBV STUDY

## Approximately two people die from HBV each minute

REESE ESTWICK | CAMPUS REPORTER |  REESEESTWICK

Members of the University of Winnipeg's (U of W) Caribbean Research Institute have been working with a team of researchers from across the globe to uncover the historical evolution of the hepatitis B virus (HBV).

The research has been conducted by examining the virus' evolution between 10,500 and 440 years ago from 137 human remains of ancient Eurasians and Indigenous Americans.

"The results provided new insights into the diversity and phylogeographic history of HBV, supporting that all known HBV strains evolved from a lineage that diversified later than previously thought," Dr. Yadira Chinique de Armas, associate professor in the U of W's anthropology department, says.

The importance of studying the evolution of a virus goes far beyond strictly the understanding of the particular virus itself, as many patterns and histories of the transmission and mutation of viruses are applicable to other contexts and studies.

Researchers working on this study have been "tracing (the) history of different diseases that can help understand their origin, dispersal and evolution," Dr. Mirjana Roksandic, a U of W anthropology

professor, says. "In and of itself, this research is not immediately applicable to solving (a) global health crisis but it helps us understand the evolution of disease."

Understanding the origins of HBV allows researchers to track the patterns of mutation and growth, as well as the way that centuries of global colonization facilitated the spread of the virus.

"Results suggest that the early settlers of the Americas spread the disease as they migrated into different territories," Chinique de Armas says.

"This type of research is very important for our project in Cuba. This study confirmed that the virus was present in archaeological populations from the Canimar River in Matanzas since at least 1,600 years ago."

As research about HBV continues, the Caribbean Research Institute is looking forward to further collaboration with the Max Plank Institute to screen members of the Cuban Indigenous population.

Research of this nature provides "a new line of evidence to understand aspects related to health, disease and interactions among Cuban Indigenous groups," says Chinique de Armas.



University of Winnipeg anthropology professor Dr. Mirjana Roksandic

Although HBV isn't a significant cause of death in Canada, it is one of the most common serious liver infections in the world, with one in three people infected globally.

"In Canada, (HBV) can be considered rare, however, there are some regions in the world, such as the Western Pacific or Africa in which many millions of people are chronically infected," Chinique de Armas says.

"It is my understanding that, in 2016, the

World Health Assembly put in place the first global health strategies on viral hepatitis, and they are supporting countries in eliminating hepatitis as part of (the) WHO agenda."

Most children in Canada receive the HBV vaccine before the age of 12, which is 98 to 100 per cent effective against the virus. It also helps prevent the possibility of complications such as chronic disease or liver cancer.

# PHILOSOPHY IS?

Carolyn Garland, contract instructor, philosophy department, U of W

KEESHA HAREWOOD | FEATURES REPORTER |  KEESHAHAREWOOD

During her undergrad, Carolyn Garland – contract instructor for the University of Winnipeg’s (U of W) philosophy department – was initially divided between two fields of study.

“My first few years as an undergrad, I was very torn between ‘science-y’ classes and more creative-writing, liberal-arts classes,” Garland says.

“What I found about philosophy was it sort of let me combine the things I liked about each field into one class.”

With science, Garland appreciated learning precise methods of investigation for the purpose of understanding reality. But she equally enjoyed the more creative aspects of her English courses. Fortunately, Garland found a happy medium in philosophy, where she was able to unite her analytical thinking and creative ingenuity into a single critical process.

Now, as an instructor, Garland is met with some exceedingly tough philosophical questions. Specifically, she mentions how her students will ask her to define philosophy.

When asked that all-too-complicated question, Garland quotes an answer she heard from a fellow educator in a teaching group she’s a part of.

“I say, ‘philosophy is questions that five-year-old(s) might ask, approached with the rigor of professional lawyers.’”

For Garland, this captures the spirit

of her field: digging into seemingly basic understandings and assertions that are often glossed over and arriving at a more well-rounded conclusion.

That kind of work is no small feat, but it’s what Garland is thrilled to do.

—  
**What is something you’ve learned from your students?**

“Being confused is, a lot of times, a gift.”

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

“Spend time with family, watch some hockey and some baseball.”

**If you could have any superpower, what would it be?**

“I’ll give a philosophical answer: I would like to be able to causally interact with abstract concepts, as opposed to concrete particulars.”

**What is the philosophical concept that stays with you all the time?**

“One thing I think I’m constantly coming back to is this question ... of how much (of) who I am and what I am is determined by the people around me.”



SUPPLIED PHOTO



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

## Student Services

### Student Success Workshop

Student Success is hosting a Student Success Workshop via Zoom on Tues, Nov. 9 from 12:00-12:50 pm. Topics covered include:

- creating a study plan
- study skills
- overcoming challenges
- academic status questions
- appeals

Registration in advance is recommended and is available here: [uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/academic-advising/study-skills-workshops.html)

### Webinar Wednesdays: Tips for Success!

Student Services staff share some valuable strategies and tips to help you succeed at UWinnipeg. They cover a wide variety of topics, including:

- So What Can I Do with My Degree? (Nov. 10)
- Applying Your Learning: Gaining Skills & Experience for Career Success (Nov. 17)
- Seven Dimensions of Wellness (Nov. 24)
- Managing Stress as you Prepare for Exams

### (Dec. 1)

- Preparing for Winter Term (Dec. 8)
- Making the Most Out of the Career Fair (Dec. 15)

**All sessions are from 12:30 to 1:00 pm on Zoom.** For more information and to register online, please go to: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-services/webinar-wednesdays.html)

### Dropping Courses

The last day to drop a U2021F class is **Nov. 16**. No refund is applicable.

### Thrive Week

The annual Thrive Week will be held **Nov. 22 – 26**. Watch the student wellness website for info on events and activities, both virtual and in-person.

### In-Person Service Resumes for Some Departments in Student Services

Some departments in Student Services are now open for in-person meetings. All offices are continuing to offer some remote meeting options.

Please see this webpage for details about each department: [uwinnipeg.ca/student-services](http://uwinnipeg.ca/student-services)

### Use the myVisit App

Need some help from someone in Student Central and/or Academic & Career Services? Download the myVisit app today. The myVisit app enables students to add themselves to a virtual line for drop-in Zoom sessions at Student Central. The app can also be used to book appointments for a Zoom or in-person meeting with an academic or career advisor. Appointments with advisors can also be booked through the website: [myvisit.com](http://myvisit.com).

### Need a Spot for your Winter Coat? Rent a Locker!

Locker rentals have resumed on campus, with options now available in Manitoba, Centennial and Riddell Halls, as well as in Richardson College and the Asper Centre. Find more information on location and cost, along with an online form, here: [uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/locker-rental.html](http://uwinnipeg.ca/accepted-students/getting-ready/locker-rental.html)



# SEEING THE SPECTRUM

## The self-diagnosis debate

HANNAH PENNER | VOLUNTEER | SUBLIMESLUG

In my last column, I wrote about the relief I experienced after receiving my adult autism diagnosis from a psychologist.

As I've learned more about autism, I've questioned why it was so important for me to receive an official, medical diagnosis in the first place. My diagnosis gave me a sense of legitimacy and reassurance. However, I've realized that, with a little more time and experience, I could have given myself that assurance.

Self-diagnosis can be a contentious topic among Autistic people. Some of us only consider official diagnosis legitimate. Some believe self-diagnosis is valid if there are barriers preventing someone from accessing the diagnostic process but encourage official diagnosis as the goal. And others, like myself, believe that self-diagnosis is equally as valid as official diagnoses and deserves to be respected in the same way.

One significant reason many Autistic people value self-diagnosis goes back to the history of autism diagnosis itself. Autism has been understood as a wide variety of different things over time. When autism was first described in 1943, it was viewed as a form of childhood schizophrenia. It had also been characterized as the result of unemotional mothers as well as an "extreme male brain."

It was only in the 1990s that autism was first characterized as existing on a spectrum, and it took until 2013 for the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) to recognize this officially.

Evidently, diagnostic categories are not objective, stable or easily measurable. In fact, studies have shown that psychiatrists all working from the same diagnostic tools have an alarmingly low inter-rater reliability. In other words, there is very little consistency between professionals. One psychiatrist may diagnose one patient with one condition, while another psychiatrist will diagnose the same patient with a different condition.

I have heard many stories of Autistic people receiving an array of different diagnoses from various professionals, which leaves them frustrated and confused.

Not only is professional autism diagnosis extremely subjective, but it's also rooted in a medical, pathologized model of autism that has done incredible harm to Autistic people. Medical, therapeutic and scientific professionals have consistently been some of the greatest sources of abuse and trauma for many of us.

Hans Asperger, the doctor Asperger's syndrome was named after, colluded with Nazis to have Autistic children killed, protecting only those he deemed intelligent enough to be saved. To this day, there are countless horror stories from Autistic people forced into what are essentially conversion therapies focused on repressing Autistic traits.

Clinical texts like the DSM-5 characterize autism as a "disorder" based on "deficits," but much of the autistic community resists this negative framing of what we consider to be a valuable and inextricable part of ourselves.



ILLUSTRATION BY GABRIELLE FUNK

Advocating for self-diagnosis shifts the power away from institutions that have harmed us and gives Autistic people the right to define ourselves.

If you see yourself reflected in our stories, you are allowed to identify with us. You also don't need an official diagnosis to use stim toys, wear ear defenders or ask a restaurant to turn the music down. If you know what you

need, you are allowed to ask for it, regardless of what a doctor has or hasn't labeled you.

Hannah Penner is a criminal-justice student at the University of Winnipeg interested in prison abolition. She is a queer Autistic cat-lover who spends way too much time on Twitter.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
6AM	MORNING BREATH	!EARSHOT 20	Cafecito Latinoamericano	FLY Travel Radio ★	FANTASTIC FRIDAY World - Island music	THE MAN IN THE GREY FLANNEL SUIT SHOW	CKU-SPEAKS	
7AM				CANQUEER				
8AM	CKUW MORNING NEWS / FRONT BURNER (CBC)						WOODEN SPOONS	SHADES OF CLASSICS Classical and New Age
9AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!			DEMOCRACY NOW!			MUD PUDDLE RADIO For Kids (Adults too)	INDIGENOUS IN Music
10AM	DEPARTMENT 13 POP/ROCK	This Way Out WINGS	VOYAGE Jazz	PLANETARY RADIO Cheeze Pleasee	SUNNY ROAD Roots Music			
11AM		BOOTS & SADDLE COUNTRY		ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS	NO FIXED ADDRESS LIVED EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESSNESS	THE ELECTRIC CHAIR	TEMPLE OF JAZZ	
NOON	The Sean Show			!EARSHOT DAILY	HOW TO SURVIVE A TORNADO		NEON BEIGE SOUND EXCHANGE	
1PM	TALKING RADICAL RADIO Truth Before Reconciliation	THE GREEN MAJORITY	ALTERNATIVE RADIO	BINKY PINDER'S FUNHOUSE	GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR	THE IVORY TOWER Eclectic Mix	YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM GOD Gospel	
2PM	GROUNDSWELL New Classical	Your Show Here	Classical Kaleidoscope	RADIO ECOSHOCK	THE BARKING DOG Past 'n Present Folk 'n Roots		Classical Delights	
3PM	PSYCLE RADIO	Winnipeg Arena is on Fire	SPACE CADET MUSIC, OUT OF THIS WORLD	BARKING DOG	What's Up Winnipeg?	Eclectic Residents	The Shortwave Report	
4PM			AMATEUR HOUR So Bad, It's Good	WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?	Chart Noises CKUW's Top 30	THE TRIP PSYCHEDELIC ROCK	Bikini Drive-In	
5PM	INNER CITY VOICES	THE GREEN BLUES SHOW	SYSTEM KIDZ Youth in Care	PAGES	PEG CITY PLAYLIST		Jokes On You Local Comedy	
6PM	THE WORLD World	Lost Chunes	TWANG TRUST Country/Roots/Big, Dumb Rock 'n' Roll	EAT YOUR ARTS & VEGETABLES		WE BUILD HITS Hip-Hop	THE C.A.R.P. The Completely Asinine Radio Program	
7PM	THE TONIC Garage, Punk, Surf, and R&R	BLUESDAY PLAYING THE BLUES	S.A.N.E. * RADIO Local Experimental Music		THE HOW DO YOU DO REVUE	RED BOX Hip-Hop	Rank and File Radio: Prairie Edition	
8PM			Adult Kindergarten		CHECK CA Funky		THE GASHLYCRUMB TINIES	
9PM	DESTINATION MOON Sock-Hop-A-Go-Go		Your Show Here	Dub City Steppers	QUADRAFUNK Electric Dance Party	DANCE HALL FEVER Dancehall and Reggae	ISLAND VIBES Caribbean	
10PM		!EARSHOT DAILY	!EARSHOT DAILY	PHASE ONE Electronic	Brain Drainer Radio			
11PM	!EARSHOT DAILY	MONKEY SPARROW	Two Princes					
MIDNIGHT	BREAK NORTH RADIO ★	LISTENING PLEASURES						
1AM	METAL MONDAY	NIGHT DANGER RADIO	HURLEMENTS SUR LA TOUNDR	THE WONDERFUL & FRIGHTENING WORLD OF PATRICK MICHALISHYN	MANITOBA MOON	CRYSTAL PALACE	Rainbow Country	
2AM								
3AM	MODERN JAZZ TODAY	The Motherland Influence	THE SENTINEL'S MARVELOUS KALEIDOSCOPE					
4AM	AMPLIFIED RADIO		DEEP THREES				Your Show Here	
5AM		Old Parlour Radio	CELT IN A TWIST					
6AM								

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12 Some programs are on hiatus and/or airing different content due to university closure for COVID-19.



# HOROSCOPES

Welcome to Scorpio season!

November opens with the sun in mysterious Scorpio, bringing a creative and passionate atmosphere. A transformative new moon in Scorpio inspires new beginnings, and eclipse season kicks off with the lunar eclipse in Taurus. Sagittarius season is on the horizon, too, encouraging a warm, festive mood!

SOURCE: ASTROLOGY.COM

## ♈ ARIES

New narratives are starting to unfold around your intimate relationships today, Aries. The new moon in sensual Scorpio emerges today, directing your focus towards your sex life, sense of commitment, and shared responsibility in working partnerships in the weeks ahead. Take a beat today to ponder about or jot down fresh new ideas around how you'd like your intimate relationships to prosper in a more functional, emotionally healing light.

## ♉ TAURUS

You can't turn away from the relationship changes budding your world, Taurus. Romance is in the air for you! Whether you're working through an existing partnership, chipping away at a fresh fling, or exploring a renewed interest in the dating scene, embrace your desire to explore relationships in a transformative light. The new moon in intimate Scorpio arrives today, pushing you into a brand-new narrative around exploring the art of intimate partnership in the month ahead.

## ♊ GEMINI

If you've been hungry to mix things up on the work/life balance front, then look no further than the fresh potential offered under Thursday's skies, Gemini. The new moon in sharp Scorpio emerges today, launching you into a brand-new month-long narrative concerning your work environment. This is the best lunation of the year to apply for new jobs, educate yourself on a new skill, or hone a new craft under, so don't be shy about making moves.

## ♋ CANCER

Thursday's cosmic landscape brings some big plans onto the scene for you, Cancer. The new moon in emotionally-rich Scorpio emerges today, bringing with it an exciting, impulsive initiative to latch onto new creative passion projects. The weeks ahead see you exploring your own stage to shine upon with a special talent of your choosing. Opportunities also arrive to spice up your sex life and enjoy some flirtations too!

## ♌ LEO

Your home life has been an ongoing point of interest and frustration recently, Leo. You're deep in the process of discovering what you want your humble abode to look and feel like, so that it can be deeply supportive for your ambitions in your external world. Thursday's skies bring the new moon in transformative Scorpio, offering you a fresh opportunity to deepen your connection to your roots, your family, and the place you call home in the weeks ahead.

## ♍ VIRGO

As a Virgo, you're passionate about educating yourself on the things you love. Learning new things brings you joy and enlivens your sense of self-expression. The new moon in sharp-minded Scorpio arrives today, launching a new month-long journey into educational pursuits, local journeys, and exploring your perceptions through the written or spoken word. This is the best time of year to embark on projects that require your voice, so don't hold back.

## ♎ LIBRA

Are your natural skills getting to shine, Libra? You have a variety of talents that are just waiting to be activated that you need only foster enough self-confidence to bring them to life. Today's skies see the arrival of the new moon in focused Scorpio, offering you the opportunity to have a deeper look at these natural resources — financial and otherwise — and develop them more fully in the month ahead.

## ♏ SCORPIO

One of the most important lunations of the year emerges for you today, Scorpio. The new moon blooms in your sign, providing you with a new opportunity to start a fresh chapter in your life around the development of your identity, individuality, and health. The coming weeks find you bravely redefining who you are and what you're here to do, so take a moment to jot down a few special intentions for yourself today.

## ♐ SAGITTARIUS

As a Sagittarian, you're naturally wired to view life from a big picture perspective. You're always aiming to absorb fresh facts and widen your scope of understanding on life's mysterious ways. Thursday's skies find you reaching a mental capacity in this department as the universe nudges you to release and surrender self-created blockages that cloud your vision. Today's new moon in transformative Scorpio prompts you to explore what outmoded mental habits need releasing in the weeks ahead.

## ♑ CAPRICORN

You're reaching a critical part of your story, Capricorn. Before you can continue to push forward with your goals, you need to hang back and re-examine which of your aspirations are really worth putting your all into. It's also important to re-assess which friends and allies you can actually count on the long road ahead. Thursday's new moon in emotionally raw Scorpio offers you the chance to craft fresh goals and invigorate your social network in the month ahead.

## ♒ AQUARIUS

Things are beginning to become more charged around your current career trajectory, Aquarius. Thursday's skies bring the arrival of the new moon in transformative Scorpio, bringing a brand-new month-long development to your career and reputation. This is the strongest time of year to go after new potentials for advancement when it comes to your ambitions, so be clear about what it is you wish to bring to life and be fearless about making moves.

## ♓ PISCES

Your beliefs about how life functions have been subtly shifting, Pisces. At this juncture, you're widening your scope of understanding and are starting to ponder new opportunities for your continued journey towards self-expansion. Today's new moon in motivated Scorpio helps you pursue a new chapter with your educational pursuits while also deepening your philosophy on life. Be prepared to look into learning something new or simply let go of outgrown misconceptions to which you've clung.

## IT'S SCORPIO SEASON!



Scorpio is the eighth sign of the zodiac, and that shouldn't be taken lightly—nor should Scorpios! Those born under this sign are dead serious in their mission to learn about others. There's no fluff or chatter for Scorpios, either; these folks will zero-in on the essential questions, gleaning the secrets that lie within.

The Scorpio zodiac sign concerns itself with beginnings and endings, and is unafraid of either. They also travel in a world that is black and white and has little use for gray. The curiosity of Scorpios is immeasurable, which may be why they are such adept investigators.

The folks with a Scorpio horoscope sign love to probe and know how to get to the bottom of things. The fact that they have a keen sense of intuition certainly helps.

Dates—  
October 23 –  
November 21

Symbol—  
The Scorpion

Mode + Element—  
Fixed Water

Ruling Planet—  
Mars & Pluto

House—  
Eighth

Mantra—  
"I Transform."

Tarot Card—  
Death

Colors—  
Red & Black

Body Part—  
The Genitals & the  
Bowels

Alive in both a Scorpio woman or Scorpio man, those born with the Scorpion as their rising, sun, or moon sign have a mysterious, intuitive, and power-wielding dynamic in the core of their personality, an echo of the shadowy Autumn season.

As a fixed sign, Scorpio holds the qualities of being a sustainer, being able to apply profound powers of concentration to projects, and discovering hidden truths. As a result, those with the sign of the Scorpion prominent in their charts tend to be magnetic, highly sensitive, intuitive, creative, and secretive at times.



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