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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“2017 Northern Lit Awards – Winners Announced”**

SUDBURY, ON – (September 28, 2017) Ontario Library Service – North (OLS – North) is proud to announce the winners of the 2017 Northern Lit Awards! The Northern Lit Awards recognize and celebrate the literary excellence from Northern Ontario authors.

A panel of Northern Ontario public and First Nation librarians reviewed submissions to select a winner in each of the following categories; English Adult Fiction and the Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Award for Non- Fiction. The winners represent literary work written by authors with a connection to Northern Ontario and whose book has been published in the past two years.

**English Adult Fiction:**

Chalk – Doug Diaczuk (Anvil Press)

**Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Award for Non- Fiction:**

Alone Against the North – Adam Shoalts (Viking Press)

The winners were announced and awards presented at the OLS – North conference banquet on Wednesday, September 27, 2017. The awards banquet took place at the Radisson Hotel (85 Ste Anne Road) in Sudbury as part of the OLS – North Conference 2017: “Hidden Gems: Finding and Creating Value in Libraries.”

The Honourable Eleanor McMahon, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport said “Ontario’s great and beautiful North is the inspiration for the Northern Lit Awards that celebrate the excellence of work by Northern Ontario authors. It is my privilege to congratulate this year’s 2017 winners and finalists for your contribution to Ontario literature. Thank you for sharing your love of the North through your stories, which draw us into the unique geography, as well as the traditions of Northern Ontario.”

A short description on the winning titles is attached to this media release.

-More-

## English Adult Fiction:

***Chalk*** – Doug Diaczuk (Anvil Press)

“You’ and L, a mysterious third gender runaway, hit the road on a mission to find the meaning of life. Traveling by plane, bus and car, You run into trouble with the cops, mourn a family tragedy, smoke hundreds of cigarettes, attend a retirement party, come to terms with a broken heart, and discover that all roads lead back to where You started - in the flowers drawn by two little girls in coloured chalk on the sidewalk.” – Publisher description.

## Louise de Kiriline Lawrence Award for Non- Fiction:

***Alone Against the North*** – Adam Shoalts (Viking Press)

“When Adam Shoalts ventured into the largest unexplored wilderness on the planet, he hoped to set foot where no one had ever gone before. What he discovered surprised even him. Shoalts was no stranger to the wilderness. He had hacked his way through jungles and swamp, had stared down polar bears and climbed mountains. But one spot on the map called out to him irresistibly: the Hudson Bay Lowlands, a trackless expanse of muskeg and lonely rivers, caribou and wolf—an Amazon of the north, parts of which to this day remain unexplored.” – Publisher description.

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