



MEDIA ADVISORY

Goose Lane Author Shortlisted for Translation — French to English The Canada Council for the Arts 2008 Governor General's Literary Awards

For immediate release

Fredericton (October 21, 2008) — Goose Lane Editions is proud to announce that Jo-Anne Elder has been named by the Canada Council for the Arts 2008 Governor General's Literary Awards Jury as one of five finalists in the category Translation — French to English for her translation of *Beatitudes* by His Honour the Lieutenant- Governor of New Brunswick Herménégilde Chiasson.

Published simultaneously in French by Prise de Parole, Chiasson's book-length poem draws on the organic forms of Walt Whitman and the beat poetry of Jack Kerouac. A post-modern tour de force, *Beatitudes* introduces men and women performing simple tasks, tending to their chores, and trying to make sense of a sometimes absurd world. Beginning in mid-sentence and ending with a comma, the book is punctuated not by periods but by the people who populate its pages.

The Governor General's Literary Awards jury cited that "In translating Herménégilde Chiasson's *Beatitudes*, Jo-Anne Elder has met the challenges of both the emotionally charged content of the original, and its specific literary form, the litany. She has movingly rendered the complexity expressed in this contemporary 'sermon on the mount,' while providing an English text rich with sensuality, rhythm and a sense of communion."

The Canada Council for the Arts funds, administers, and promotes the Governor General's Literary Awards. Each winner will receive \$25,000 and a specially bound copy of the winning book. The publisher of each winning book will receive \$3,000 to support promotional activities. Non-winning finalists will each receive \$1,000 in recognition of their selection as finalists, bringing the total value of the Awards to approximately \$450,000.

The winners will be announced on Tuesday, November 18 at 10 a.m. EST at the McCord Museum of Canadian History in Montreal.

BMO Financial Group has been the sponsor of the Governor General's Literary Awards since 1988. BMO's generous contribution has allowed the production of material aimed at promoting the finalists and winners.

Herménégilde Chiasson will be reading from *Beatitudes* at the International Festival of Authors (IFOA) on the following dates:

Thursday, October 23, 8 pm
Premier Dance Theatre
207 Queen's Quay West, Toronto

Friday, October 24, 8:00 pm
Brigantine Room
235 Queen Quay West, Toronto

Jo-Anne Elder will be joining Herménégilde Chiasson for the following events:

Wednesday, November 12, 6:00 pm
Noche de poesia, Le Dépanneur Café
206, rue Bernard Ouest, Montréal

Jo-Anne Elder and Herménégilde Chiasson will be reading with Nela Rio and Joe Blades.

Thursday, November 13, 7 pm
la Bibliothèque multiculturelle de Laval
Université Laval, Montreal

Jo-Anne Elder and Herménégilde Chiasson will read from the French and English editions of *Beatitudes*, followed by a Q&A.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For review copies of *Beatitudes*, publication excerpts, or to schedule an interview with Jo-Anne Elder or Herménégilde Chiasson, please contact Susan Baker at sbaker@gooselane.com or call (888) 926.8377. High-res book cover and author image files are available at www.gooselane.com.