

# THE WALRUS 2022 IN REVIEW



# The Power of Independent Media

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**WHAT A YEAR 2022 WAS.** We recognize that was also said about 2020 and 2021. On top of new peaks of COVID-19 cases, there was the devastating impact of global conflict, ongoing supply chain issues, inflation, disruptions to the labour market, growing polarization, attacks on democratic institutions, and a looming recession. This dismantled any idea of returning to normal as we came out of lockdowns—or even a new normal—and created a climate of uncertainty throughout the year.

While these issues have created historic cultural shifts and a greater anxiety about the state of the world, this is where journalism comes in. Independent, fact-based media helps us make sense of the world. At The Walrus, through our stories and events, we ask the big questions, unpack the complicated issues, and offer reflection on Canada's place in the world—now and looking forward. We recognize that individual and Canadian experiences of these big global events are unique, and we aim to capture that perspective.

We believe a healthy society relies on informed citizens, and preserving journalism is preserving democracy. Throughout 2022, the Canadian Association of Journalists (CAJ) sounded the alarm regarding the rise in the harassment of and threats against journalists. We've also witnessed the rise of misinformation and disinformation, which shakes the foundations of what we believe to be true or credible.

This makes the work and mission of The Walrus essential. During historic times of turmoil, it's vital that Canadians have access to independent, national, long-form media they can count on and trust. As a forum for Canada's conversation, we believe in the power of facts, voices, and ideas in their many forms as a shining light in times of darkness. It was exciting to reconnect with our community in person last year through The Walrus Talks in Vancouver, Toronto, Halifax, and Ottawa, having conversations across the country.

A big thank you to the team and community that is The Walrus. Thank you to our staff, contributors, partners, sponsors, and clients. Thanks to our donors, supporters, and volunteer members of our Board of Directors, Educational Review Committee, and National Advisory Council. And thank you—for reading and strengthening journalism and democracy.

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*Jennifer Hollett*

*Executive Director, The Walrus*

*Jodi Butts*

*Board Chair, The Walrus*

**AS EDITORS**, we don't typically look back. No sooner do we complete one story than we start on the next. Like most magazines, The Walrus practises a careful mix of speed and stamina. We rush to meet deadlines with stories that have taken weeks and months to report. A year-end review provides us with the rare pleasure of seeing, in one place, the gamut of content we've published as well as its reach and impact. It also provides a bird's-eye view. We see each individual item—poem, feature, essay—in its relationship with each other.

With much of the planet emerging from a pandemic, 2022 became the year of consolidation as we prepared ourselves for what awaited us. It was a year in which, to understand where the world was going, we worked hard to catch the national mood. COVID-19 had challenged long-standing beliefs about society, refocusing our attention on injustices in health care, the economy, and housing. We continued probing Canada's vulnerabilities; taking stock of its resilience; exposing its failures. It was the year that, once again, cut to the chase of The Walrus's mission. The year when we asked ourselves how we could possibly represent the "Canadian conversation" at a time when it is hard to conceive of a national identity that can bridge a divided country. It was the year we rallied to try harder.

The Walrus is more of a collective enterprise than it has ever been. Its genius is in making people feel they are part of a project, one that is bigger than any one person, or editor, or writer. This year is a special tribute to you, our reader—maybe our most important stakeholder. Your support and loyalty makes all of this possible.

—

*Carmine Starnino*

*Interim Editor-in-Chief, The Walrus*

## A Message from Our Interim Editor-in- Chief

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# Making Sense of the World

**FOR MANY ORGANIZATIONS,** 2022 marked a cautious return to a new normal. The Walrus was no exception. One thing we were most proud of in another year of uncertainty and unrest was the increased strength of our organization. With our continued mission to provoke new thinking and spark conversation on matters vital to Canadians, we grew our digital journalism, expanded our reach and the ways we tell stories, and returned to our beloved in-person events to engage and inspire audiences across the country.

The Walrus's first print issue of 2022 asked: "Will Canadian Journalism Survive?" The cover story of the issue was "Tomorrow's News," our annual O'Hagan Essay on Public Affairs. In the story, then Editor-in-Chief Jessica Johnson offered us a deep dive into an industry in transition and the implications for its future with the rise of tech and emerging financial models.

We also looked at the power of words to heal in stories like "Can Reading Treat Depression?" In "Textual Healing," Katrya Bolger explored bibliotherapy as a new option for treatment—a therapy based on the notion that books can be vehicles for

healing. One of the individuals interviewed in the essay described books as "old friends." The Walrus is now in its twentieth year of operation: we certainly hope that many of our readers and audience members will consider back issues of the magazine to be old friends they can turn to, with future issues creating new and enduring bonds.

More than ever, we hope that The Walrus, in all its forms, offers community to those in Canada and beyond. Audience feedback tells us that The Walrus helps make sense of a fast-changing world and Canada's place in it. Anne Shibata Cassleman's

essay, "How the UK Is Winning the Race against Climate Change," took an international view of how Canada is faring in the face of big promises on a big topic. Sadiya Ansari's "Child Care Revolution: What Canada Can Learn from Germany" looked at another country's success in examining Canada's announced child care reform. In October 2022, The Walrus Talks landed in Ottawa to explore global food insecurity (The Walrus

"It's one thing to read about topics in the news but so valuable to gain insights from those experiencing the issues on the front lines."

—  
*Audience member,  
The Walrus Talks  
Advancing Work*

Talks Global Hunger Crisis), with seven speakers bringing Canadian and international expertise to an increasingly urgent issue.

We thank our donors, partners, and sponsors for another incredible year. Read on for a look back on the stories, conversations, poetry, and art we brought to readers, audiences, and households across the country and beyond.

**The Walrus Events**

In 2022, The Walrus events offered national and international audiences nuanced conversations, accessible virtually and, for the first time since 2020, in theatres and at conferences across Canada. Our event series reached over 8,000 households via ten virtual and nine in-person events in Vancouver, Toronto, Halifax, and Ottawa. Audiences enjoyed the return of lively in-person connections while also valuing the ability to participate from home and on demand through The Walrus’s livestreams and online video room.

In person, The Walrus Talks hosted events with Concordia University—about artificial intelligence, sustainability, and the social and political innovations shaping our future—and partnered with TD Bank Group for important conversations about the changing landscape of work and how the arts and culture sector is navigating the pandemic. The Walrus Talks also took place at conferences, convening expert speakers

Cover image credits (clockwise from top left): Frankie Perez, Marzena Skubatz, Min Gyo Chung, Grant Harder

on Canada’s net-zero future at GLOBE Forum 2022 and on the global hunger crisis at the International Cooperation Futures Festival.

Over 2022, The Walrus Talks at Home covered topics such as inequality and growing wealth disparity at home and abroad, the state of trust in our institutions, what post-pandemic economic recovery looks like for women, emerging

“How wonderful to hear from four female veterans with such diverse armed services experiences. Thanks to you all for sharing your experiences.”

—  
*Audience member,  
The Walrus Talks  
Veteran Identities*

solutions for the mental health challenges of Canadians, youth and the climate crisis, pharmacare, digital citizenship, and going beyond the headlines to understand veterans’ experiences.

The Walrus Leadership Dinners and virtual roundtables brought together leaders in the business, government, media, public policy, and nonprofit sectors from across Canada. These conversations tackled urgent and complex issues, including the sustainability of news media, mental health care, health system resilience, and water security.

We are grateful for the partnership of Air Canada, Indspire, Labatt Breweries of Canada, and Rogers for their sustained national support of our annual event programming.

**AT A GLANCE**

206 articles published in print and online

4.2M page views on *thewalrus.ca*

160,000 followers on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, LinkedIn, YouTube)

125,000 downloads of *The Conversation Piece*

8,094 households and attendees registered from 65 countries for The Walrus Talks (live and virtual)

**TOP FIVE COUNTRIES**

**READING THEWALRUS.CA: UNITED STATES, CANADA, UNITED KINGDOM, INDIA, AND AUSTRALIA**

**TOP FIVE COUNTRIES**

**ATTENDING THE WALRUS TALKS AT HOME: CANADA, UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, UNITED KINGDOM, AND NEW ZEALAND**

98 artists featured in print and online

9 fellows trained in long-form journalism, fact checking, digital production, and marketing

# THE FACTS

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**THE WALRUS PRIDES ITSELF** on the rigour and discipline of its fact checking. Every article published in the magazine’s pages and on *thewalrus.ca* is fact-checked exhaustively to ensure its accuracy. Our award-winning journalism means audiences turn to us for vital reporting on many important, and often fraught, issues that shape, and sometimes divide, our society.

As our editorial team will often say, we present the facts so that audiences can make their own informed decisions. Several events shook the country in 2022: the war in Ukraine, the ongoing impact of US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Canadian health care crisis, the emergence of a new Canadian Conservative leader, the continued climate crisis, and the acquisition of Twitter by one of the world’s richest people. The Walrus covered many of these topics, and more, with timely yet evergreen articles whose insights continue to illuminate.

Launched in early 2021, our Ask an Expert series addressed key issues across our journalism pillars, seeking fact verification and advice from industry experts. With post-pandemic product shortages becoming the new normal, we opened 2022 with “Ask a Supply Chain Expert.” Harish Krishnan explained the interconnectedness of several factors (labour shortages, disruption in the pandemic-related demand for key goods, such as

toilet paper), and the challenges to collaboration posed by the pandemic. In “Ask an Ecology Expert” (March/April), Madhur Anand offered a fascinating account of how the climate crisis is changing our seasons and its possible consequences. Our “Ask an Inflation Expert” contributor, Amy Peng (May), explained some of the reasons behind rising inflation rates and what 2023 might have in store.

Mentorship remains a key educational endeavour. In 2022, we continued to work with emerging young writers, speakers, and podcasters to address some of the big issues they’ve faced over the past couple of years. We launched Teen Walrus, a series of essays written and illustrated by teens, in mid-2022 (see page 16 for more). Part of our work with youth included a six-part podcast series, *Youth for Youth*, which launched in line with the 2022/23 school year, and the continuation of The Walrus Talks at Home featuring young speakers. At a time when many young people are turning to social media and known sources of misinformation for answers, connecting them to the importance of fact-checked reporting—and coaching them on how to source accurate information—is vital.

We thank The Rossy Foundation for supporting this important work.

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Illustration (opposite, top) by Romain Lasser. Illustrations (opposite, below) by Irma Kniivila

“Thanks so much for all the incredible, invaluable work that The Walrus does in providing thoughtful, nuanced, fact-based journalism to Canadians.”

—  
*Kyle Hiebert, donor,  
 Winnipeg*

**TRUTH IN JOURNALISM CONFERENCE**  
 In 2022, a first-of-its-kind conference on fact checking in journalism was held in Ottawa. “Truth in Journalism: How Should Journalists Think about Accuracy” was conceived of and organized by Allison Baker, Head of Research at The Walrus, along with Viviane Fairbank, former Head of Research (and both former editorial fellows). Turn to page 25 to read more.



**Tomorrow's News**  
 by Jessica Johnson



Ask an Expert series

# HEALTH

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### Top 3 health stories published online in 2022:

**Underwire under Fire: How the Pandemic Changed the Bra**  
by Nicole Schmidt

**Why Was the Lyme Disease Vaccine Tossed Away?**  
by Laura Hensley

**Faith and Access: The Conflict inside Catholic Hospitals**  
by Wendy Glauser

**THIS YEAR**, The Walrus brought to light several major stories about the roadblocks as well as the innovations in Canadian health care. Katharine Lake Berz investigated Canada’s sperm donation system in “Finding a Father on Facebook Marketplace,” highlighting the difficulty many prospective parents face in finding sperm donors due to strict regulations that have left only one sperm bank functional in the country. Another story, “How Two Doctors Are Hacking the Transplant System” by Karin Olafson, looked at the barriers to organ donation in Canada and a recent invention that makes it possible to transport healthy lungs and hearts across long distances.

As the country reeled from two years of pandemic-related stress, The Walrus also highlighted some of the most compelling questions around COVID-19. At The Walrus Talks What’s Next? in Ottawa, *Globe and Mail* health columnist André Picard spoke about how older Canadians were affected by early pandemic policies. At the talk, later turned into an episode of *The Conversation Piece*, Picard said, “In some parts of Canada, we had explicit policies saying nursing home residents should not be sent to hospital. They were left to die. That’s just one example of how agism is baked into our public policies.”

And in “COVID-19 Brings the Importance of Indoor Air Quality to the Forefront,” John Lorinc wrote about the role of ventilation and indoor

air quality after it was found that the COVID-19 virus was able to spread through aerosols in the air. The lessons learned during the pandemic could have even further-reaching effects, Lorinc argued. “As the pandemic has shown and contemporary public health experts have only grudgingly conceded, the air in buildings can be as deadly as contaminated tap water.”

With new techniques and research emerging constantly, the health care industry is always changing. Katria Bolger looked into one such innovation in her story “Textual Healing: The Novel World of Bibliotherapy,” which outlines a “growing body of research” that suggests that a treatment plan that includes literature could bring relief to people suffering from mental health challenges. New digital platforms like TikTok have also had an impact on the health care industry, and in “Doctors on TikTok: The Dark Side of Medical Influencers,” Miranda Schreiber investigated how patients’ “privacy and dignity” are compromised when doctors become viral TikTok stars.

The Walrus brought the conversation around health care to audiences directly through The Walrus Talks at Home event in April that tackled the issue of pharmacare. Canada being the only country in the world with universal health care that does not include prescription medicines, a panel of four experts discussed the question “Would universal prescription drug coverage create a healthier Canada?”



In 2022, our coverage of key health issues caught the attention of news outlets across the country and around the world, an example being Katriya Bolger's story "Textual Healing: The Novel World of Bibliotherapy," which was referenced in the Italian daily newspaper *Il manifesto*.

Our contributors have also been interviewed about their work by numerous outlets. Katharine Lake Berz spoke to Jim Richards on News-talk 1010 about her story "Finding a Father on Facebook Marketplace," and Carine Abouseif, who is also a features editor at The Walrus, appeared on CBC Tapestry to discuss her article "Feeling the Burn: The Workout Video from Jane Fonda to Peloton" about the popularity of at-home exercise, especially during COVID-19 lockdowns. "Instead of exercising for mobility or flexibility or for improved mental health, which I think is something we all really needed when we were locked down... we [sometimes] start exercising only for toned legs and tiny waists," Abouseif told host Mary Hynes. "It's okay to want those things... but it takes away so much of what exercise can offer."

The Walrus has also been cited by outlets like CTV News, which referenced Wendy Glauser's story "Faith and Access: The Conflict inside Catholic Hospitals," and *Canadaland*, which featured Matthew Halliday's story "New Brunswick's Mystery Disease: Why Did the Province Shut Out Federal Experts?"



**Faith and Access:  
The Conflict inside Catholic Hospitals**  
by Wendy Glauser

Two events held by The Walrus in November also dealt with the topic of health — The Walrus Leadership Roundtable: Bridging the Gap between Mental Illness and Mental Health and The Walrus Leadership Dinner: Investing in Health System Resilience.

"I was so impressed with the pharma panel last week, which made me realize I should pay more attention to what The Walrus is doing. Now, you've really got my attention!"

Audience member,  
The Walrus Talks at Home: Pharmcare

## THE WALRUS EVENTS

**The Walrus  
Leadership Forum:  
Technology and  
Treatment**  
presented by Brain  
Canada (March)

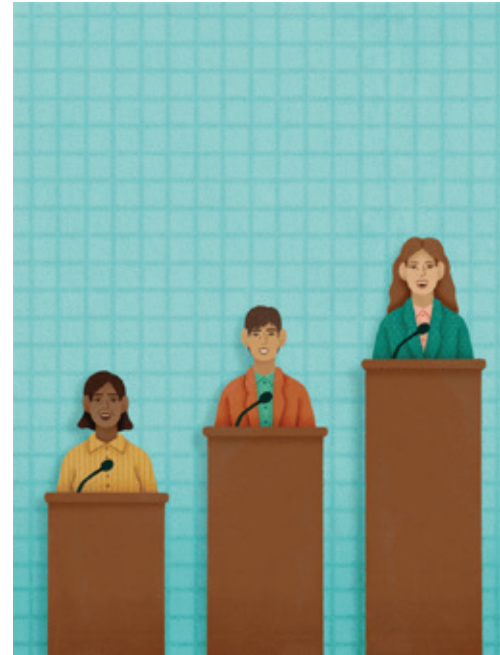
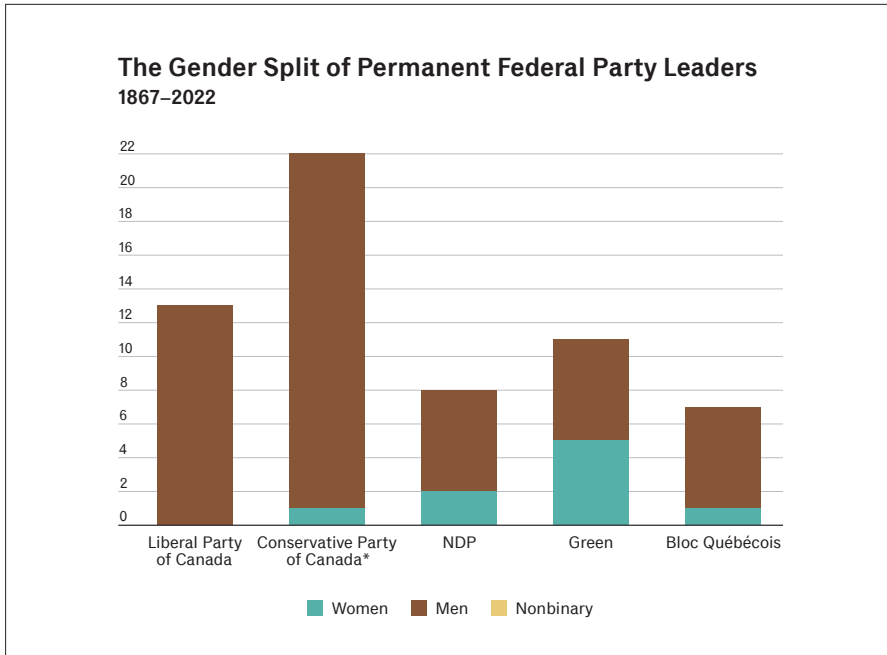
**The Walrus Talks at  
Home: Pharmcare**  
presented by the  
National Association  
of Federal Retirees  
(April)

**The Walrus  
Leadership Dinner:  
Investing in Health  
System Resilience**  
presented by Amgen  
Canada and Gilead  
Sciences Canada  
(November)

**The Walrus  
Leadership  
Roundtable:  
Bridging the Gap  
between Mental  
Illness and Mental  
Health**  
presented by Otsuka  
Pharmaceuticals  
(November)

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Illustration  
(above) by Sébastien  
Thibault



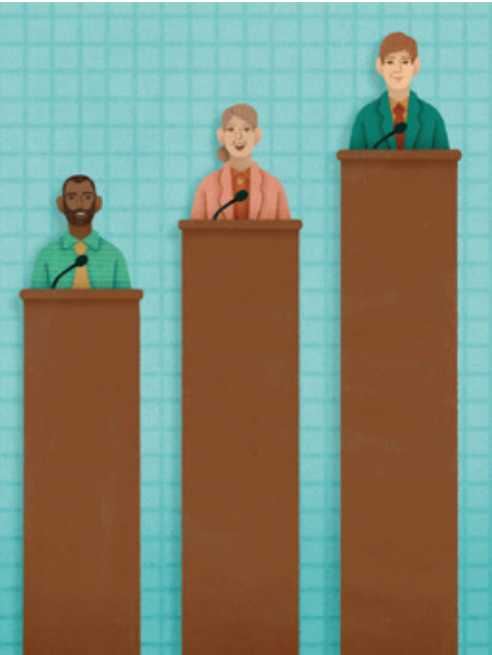
## Why Are There Still So Few Women Leaders in Politics?

by Angela Misri

# POLITICS

**IN 2022**, The Walrus published a number of stories that dealt with some of the biggest questions facing Canadian politics, including equity, voting rights, and leadership.

In “The Notwithstanding Clause: Is It Time for Canada to Repeal It?” Ira Wells examined the recent debates around section 33 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which makes it possible to “temporarily override certain Charter rights” and which has been used to enact controversial legislation across the country. At the provincial level, Lisa Fitterman profiled Québec solidaire party leader Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois in “Most Quebecers Don’t Want Sovereignty. Can This Politician Change Their Minds?” while seventeen-year-old Aymaan Abid wrote for Teen Walrus on the topic of “Why the Voting Age Needs to Be Lowered to Sixteen.” Lowering the voting age would allow young people to “actually participate in elections rather than forcing us to sit out and comment from the sidelines,” argued Abid. Youth participation is especially important in policy issues like climate change



that have a narrowing time frame in which to take action.

Other stories considered the need for major shifts in politics, including “Why Are There Still So Few Women Leaders in Politics?,” Angela Misri’s analysis of gender representation in Canadian political parties and the tendency for women to be relegated to interim roles while passing them over for permanent leadership. And in “Why Is Politics Getting Nastier?,” Stephen Maher examined the rise in verbal and physical threats against Canadian politicians, fuelled by social media and political polarization, leaving some wondering if working in politics “has become too dangerous a job.”

Early in the year, *The Walrus Talks at Home: Inequality*, presented by Oxfam Canada, discussed growing income inequality in Canada and across the globe. Later, *The Walrus Leadership Forum: Trust in Tumultuous Times*, presented by Proof Strategies, analyzed the results of the 2022 CanTrust Index, a nationwide study that measured the level of trust Canadians had in public services, institutions, and political leadership.

### Endless Exile: The Tangled Politics Keeping a Uyghur Man in Limbo

by Annie Hylton

Stories from *The Walrus* were frequently recognized as key pieces of commentary on Canadian politics. *The Big Story*, a daily news podcast, featured Stephen Maher’s article “Why Is Politics Getting Nastier?,” as did *Politico*. Both outlets also featured Lisa Fitterman’s “Most Quebecers Don’t Want Sovereignty. Can This Politician Change Their Minds?”

*The Walrus* also had its articles frequently appear in *Politico*’s “Ottawa Playbook” newsletter, including Martin Patriquin’s profile of Tamara Thermitus, “How Quebec’s Human Rights Commission Drove Out Its First Black Female President,” Ira Wells’s article “How an Unstable US Threatens Canada’s National Security,” and “The Surprising History of Christmas Carols.”

Other stories caught the attention of long-read enthusiasts, and Annie Hylton’s “Endless Exile: The Tangled Politics Keeping a Uyghur Man in Limbo,” which followed Ayoob Mohammed’s efforts to join his family in Canada, was selected for “Longreads Best of 2022” list.

### HIGHLIGHTS

**Top 3 politics stories published online in 2022:**

**When \$500,000 Disappeared from a Small Town**  
by J.R. Patterson

**Pierre Poilievre: The Secret to His Success**  
by Frank Graves, Stephen Maher

**Why Is Politics Getting Nastier?**  
by Stephen Maher

### THE WALRUS EVENTS

**The Walrus Talks at Home: Inequality**  
presented by Oxfam Canada (January)

**The Walrus Leadership Forum: Trust in Tumultuous Times**  
presented by Proof Strategies (March)

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Illustration (opposite left)  
by Paige Stampatori.  
Illustration (top right)  
by Jeremy Leung

# SCIENCE AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS



## HIGHLIGHTS

**Top 3 science and climate crisis stories published online in 2022:**

**Revenge of the Earthworms**  
by Moira Donovan

**Arsenic and Gold: My Family's Role in the Poisonous Legacy of Giant Mine**  
by Eva Holland

**How the UK Is Winning the Race against Climate Change**  
by Anne Shibata Casselman

**CONVERSATIONS AROUND** climate change only grew more pressing in 2022, and The Walrus brought readers essential stories to help them understand its causes, impacts, and potential solutions.

In “Burning Up: The Controversial Biofuel Threatening BC’s Last Inland Rainforests,” Brian J. Barth investigated the effect that the growing wood pellet industry has had on BC’s inland rainforest, which has lost 95 percent of its core habitat in the last fifty years and could experience ecological collapse within the next decade. And in “Revenge of the Earthworms,” Moira Donovan looked at an invasive earthworm species that has been “quietly and slowly reshaping our ecosystems” for decades and “wreaking havoc” in the process.

Nathan Whitlock’s “Sewergate: There’s Something Rotten in the State of Our Waterways” examined the environmental impact



**Burning Up: The Controversial Biofuel Threatening BC's Last Inland Rainforests**  
by Brian J. Barth

of sewage leaks into our waterways, including a lake and marshland area near Hamilton, Ontario, which was affected by a major leak in 2014. “The story is a depressingly apt illustration of the struggle many older urban centres face in dealing with their effluent,” and that has caused damage to many previously thriving local ecosystems, wrote Whitlock.

The Walrus also published stories featuring more creative approaches to the conversation around climate change. In “Early Warning Signals: How Poetry Helps Us Understand Our Impact on Ecology,” Madhur Anand wrote about melding her interest in poetry with her work as an ecologist. “Perhaps it’s less about what we say than it is about how we say it to one another,” Anand wrote as she considered new ways to communicate the impact of climate catastrophe. And Anne Shibata Casselman’s “How the UK Is Winning the Race against Climate Change” wrote



### How the UK Is Winning the Race against Climate Change

by Anne Shibata Casselman



Eva Holland's story "Arsenic and Gold: My Family's Role in the Poisonous Legacy of Giant Mine" was featured in a number of Canadian and American outlets, including *Longreads* and *The Narwhal*, and gained even wider circulation after Holland was interviewed on the *The Big Story* podcast about the article.

### THE WALRUS EVENTS

**The Walrus Talks at Home: Youth and the Climate Crisis** supported by The Rossy Foundation (March)

**The Walrus Talks Energy at GLOBE 2022** presented by Suncor (March)

**The Walrus Talks What's Next?** presented by Concordia University (April and May)

**The Walrus Leadership Dinner: Groundwater** presented by the Global Institute for Water Security (September)

♦ ♦ ♦

Photographs (opposite, left) by Grant Harder. Illustration (top right) by Min Gyo Chung. Photograph (below) by George Hunter / NWT Archives

about how successful the UK has been in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while Canada has underdelivered on its climate-action plans.

Likewise, in "Why Climate Change Is Not an Environmental Issue," Chris Turner challenged readers to think of climate change as primarily about political impediments rather than science and facts. Climate change, wrote Turner, is "the biggest, baddest collective-action problem humanity has ever faced," and solving it will require "providing irresistible incentives to accelerate the global energy transition."

The Walrus Talks further delved into science and climate topics. The events included The Walrus Talks at Home: Youth and the Climate Crisis, supported by The Rossy Foundation; The Walrus Talks Energy at GLOBE 2022, presented by Suncor; and The Walrus Leadership Dinner: Groundwater, presented by the Global Institute for Water Security.

# BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

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**THE WALRUS** explored the changing business and technology landscape from several different angles in 2022—from rising inflation and the future of Canadian retailers to the industry behind cleaning up our digital footprints.

Increasing grocery prices were top of mind for many Canadians this year, and in “Rising Food Prices: Could a Grocer Code of Conduct Help?,” Emily Baron Cadloff examined a potential solution in the form of a code of conduct to prevent price gouging at the grocery store. Cadloff also investigated ways that the complicated and error-prone credit score system can hurt consumers, in “How Credit Scores Can Run—and Ruin—Our Lives.” Similarly, Maggie MacDonald wrote in “Why Are Sex Workers Forced to Wear a Financial Scarlet Letter?” about barriers imposed by financial systems, specifically in the case of sex workers who are sometimes turned away by both traditional institutions and tech platforms.

The Walrus also published in-depth stories about changing market trends in the business world. In “How Do You Make the Perfect Toy?,” Matthew Braga investigated the billion-dollar toy market, while Aaliya Dasoo’s story

“Is Simons Canada’s Next Great Department Store?” examined the surprising success of the Simons department store chain, which has managed to “not just stay afloat but actually succeed and expand.”

Meanwhile, in the tech world, Paul Gallant’s “The Dirty Work of Cleaning Online Reputations” investigated the burgeoning industry of “reputation fixers” who, for a hefty fee, make it possible to clean up your image online. And in “How Canada Accidentally Helped Hack Computer Translation,” Christine Mitchell highlighted the Canadian connection behind the technology used by tools like Google Translate.

The Walrus held a number of business and technology-related events in 2022, including The Walrus Leadership Forum: Technology and Treatment, presented by Brain Canada, which explored the advances being made in treating mental illnesses in Canada and was moderated by suicide prevention activist Lynn Keane. Other events included The Walrus Talks at Home: Digital Citizenship, presented by MediaSmarts and Meta; The Walrus Talks Advancing Work, presented by TD Bank Group; and The Walrus Leadership Dinner: Sustainability of News Media, presented by Meta.



How Do You Make the Perfect Toy?  
by Matthew Braga

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Top 3 business and technology stories published online in 2022:**

The Dirty Work of Cleaning Online Reputations  
by Paul Gallant

How Do You Make the Perfect Toy?  
by Matthew Braga

How Credit Scores Can Run — and Ruin — Our Lives  
by Emily Baron Cadloff

**THE WALRUS EVENTS**

The Walrus Talks at Home: Digital Citizenship  
presented by MediaSmarts and Meta (October)

The Walrus Leadership Dinner: Sustainability of News Media  
presented by Meta (October)

The Walrus Talks Advancing Work  
presented by TD Bank Group (November)

♦ ♦ ♦

Illustration (top) by Hudson Christie.  
Illustration (bottom left) by Jeannie Phan.  
Illustration (bottom right) by Anson Chan



How Credit Scores Can Run — and Ruin — Our Lives  
by Emily Baron Cadloff



Paul Gallant's "The Dirty Work of Cleaning Online Reputations" was translated into French and published in *L'actualité*. It also appeared in the "Reader Favourites" section on Apple News, and Gallant was interviewed about his article as a guest on *The Big Story* podcast.

# UP NEXT

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## THE WALRUS AMPLIFIES YOUNG CREATORS

**Teen Walrus:  
Young People  
on What  
Matters Now**

**Youth for  
Youth podcast,  
presented by  
The Walrus Lab  
with support  
from The Rossy  
Foundation**

♦ ♦ ♦

Illustration (opposite top) by Tasnia Tiasha.  
Illustration (opposite left) by Anaïs-Aimée Rafaelsen.  
Illustration (opposite right) by Théo Lambert

IN 2021, we reported on the work we had initiated to amplify the voices of young people. The Walrus was keen to recognize that youth perspectives on social issues are becoming increasingly influential in public policy. We were proud to continue this work throughout 2022.

As part of a project supported by The Rossy Foundation, The Walrus rolled out an editorial series—Teen Walrus—that began with an invitation to youth to submit essays on topics most important to them. In line with the 2022/23 school year, we published six essays accompanied by illustrations, all created by youth aged fourteen to nineteen. From cancel culture and the proposition of lowering the voting age to lab-grown meat and the implications on climate change, this series captured powerful emerging perspectives on some of the most important issues of our time.

“How the Pandemic Messed Up My Education” was Trudeau Gulati’s poignant account of something many Canadian students were experiencing: the not-yet-seen consequences of the pandemic on his learning. In “The Gate of Heavenly Peace,” Yan Xi Li offered a vivid account of intricate family ties between China and Canada, with the memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre as a backdrop.

Young people have increasingly been at the centre of critical conversations around big issues—think Greta Thunberg. In “Why the Voting Age Needs to Be Lowered to Sixteen,” Aymaan Abid put forth a powerful case

for capturing this demographic within democratic decision making. Thivya Jeyapalan’s “Cancel Culture and the Pressures of Being a Teen Online” urged readers to consider if we are shutting down potentially meaningful conversations when we block out offenders, as well as those who are less offensive, so readily on social media and other platforms.

“Don’t Have a Cow, Man: Why Young People Should Embrace the Future of Lab-Grown Meat” was a well-researched essay on cellular-grown meat. Avery Parkinson went on a journey, beginning with her visceral memories of her grandmother’s traditional Malayali dishes, through an account of why lab-grown meat can not only satisfy our palates but also create a healthier planet.

We hope that this series will continue to resonate with our audience and have an impact on the way we engage young people in matters that determine their future.

In fall 2022, The Walrus also produced a six-episode podcast series, *Youth for Youth*, featuring six youth hosts who each interviewed a subject matter expert on issues ranging from the perils of cancel culture to leadership and the arts, lowering the voting age, and more. Following its launch, *Youth for Youth* was featured on Apple Podcasts under “New and Noteworthy.” The initiative served as one of the few available outlets where youth could develop an audio portfolio to help them embark on a career in digital journalism.



Every year, The Walrus Lab produces the Amazon Canada First Novel Award: Youth Short Story Category. Read more on The Walrus Lab's work on this annual award on page 28 and its impact on emerging Canadian authors.



**How the Pandemic Messed Up My Education**  
by Trudeau Gulati

In August 2022, Isabel Armiento from Indiegraf spoke to Teen Walrus editor Daniel Viola about centring teen voices in The Walrus. Viola noted: "A lot of publications are happy to quote young people, but it still sometimes feels like they're talking down to them. Giving them space to develop these pointed essays about problems that they see in the world, and what they see as solutions — that's just not something we get to see too much of."



**The Gate of Heavenly Peace**  
by Yan Xi Li



**Why the Voting Age Needs to Be Lowered to Sixteen**  
by Aymaan Abid

As part of our work with young writers and innovators in 2022, three youth leaders spoke in March about their experiences with climate change anxiety and proposed solutions at The Walrus Talks at Home: Youth and the Climate Crisis.

# JUSTICE AND SOCIETY

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## HIGHLIGHTS

**Top 3 justice and society stories published online in 2022:**

**Chalk River: The Forgotten Nuclear Accidents**  
by Mélissa Guillemette

**Why Don't Millennials Have Hobbies?**  
by Alisha Sawhney

**The Humboldt Crash: How Much Punishment Is Enough for Jaskirat Singh Sidhu?**  
by Sharon J. Riley

**THE WALRUS REPORTED ON** notable shifts in Canadian society over the past year, with writers publishing thoughtful coverage of Canada's struggling social safety net, the legacy of colonization, LGBTQ2S+ issues, and many other topics.

In "The New Residential School System': How a First Nation Rallied against the Foster Care System," Amy Romer investigated the lasting impact of the foster care system on Indigenous communities, and Andrew Hunter examined Canada's significant yet under-discussed ties to the transatlantic slave trade in "Tainted Wealth: Canada Has Tried to Erase Its History of Slavery."

Despite some advancements in LGBTQ2S+ rights, gay bars across the country have shuttered due to a number of factors, including a shift toward more digital spaces, as reported by KC Hoard in "It's a Drag: Many Gay Bars Are Closing, but We Can Still Save Them." And inaugural Justice Fund writer-in-residence Julia-Simone Rutgers conducted a thorough analysis of the homelessness crisis in Canada in her cover story "No Place to Live" by following one man's difficult journey to finding housing in Winnipeg.

Other writers asked important questions about the everyday things that shape our society. Alisha Sawhney asked "Why Don't Millennials Have Hobbies?" by examining the importance of leisure time for a generation struggling to

find its financial footing. Discussions around mental health have also shifted in recent years, leading to increasing awareness and acceptance. In "Gabor Maté Wants to Overhaul Society," Nathan Sing interviewed the bestselling author about his latest book on trauma that "promises clear-eyed truths at a moment of confusion and despair for many." Sing discussed a range of topics with Maté, from loneliness and isolation to ADHD and Maté's optimism about the future.

The Walrus Talks delved even further into a number of questions related to justice and society. During April's The Walrus Talks What's Next? event, presented by Concordia University, mental health and resiliency strategist Shannon Gander spoke about the challenges facing Canadians after two years of pandemic-related stresses, including one statistic which found that 35 percent of Canadians suffered from burnout. "We know that burnout doesn't belong to the pandemic; it came long before the coronavirus. But what this time has done is shine a light on this issue," Gander said.

Other events discussing the state of Canada and the world today included The Walrus Talks Global Hunger Crisis, presented by Cooperation Canada; The Walrus Leadership Forum: Fueling the She-covey, presented by YW Calgary; and The Walrus Talks at Home: Veteran Identities, presented by the National Association of Federal Retirees.



**No Place to Live**  
by Julia-Simone Rutgers



**Why Don't Millennials Have Hobbies?**  
by Alisha Sawhney

“I just renewed my subscription to @thewalrus on the strength of this feature and this issue’s cover story on COVID-19 and building design. We need more long, in-depth feature reporting like this in Canada.”

—  
*Allison Jane Smith on Twitter,  
November 2022*

The recording of The Walrus Talks at Home: Veteran Identities was aired twice on CPAC, including on Remembrance Day. Ahead of April’s The Walrus Talks What’s Next?, speaker Kelly Jazvac was interviewed on the CBC’s *All in a Day* radio show about her work as a visual artist and professor of studio arts at Concordia University and her research on plastic pollution. And on the CBC’s *Ottawa Morning* with Robyn Bresnahan, The Walrus Talks Global Hunger Crisis speaker Rachel Blais was interviewed about her work on food security and sovereignty in Nunavut.



“How Quebec’s Human Rights Commission Drove Out Its First Black Female President” garnered attention in print, online, and broadcast news outlets. Martin Patriquin was interviewed about the article on CTV News Montreal, and the article was lauded as “the piece of the week” by the Great Canadian Longform Twitter account and was also cited in *Le Journal de Montréal*.

**THE WALRUS  
EVENTS**

**The Walrus Leadership Forum: Fuelling the She-covey**  
presented by YW Calgary (March)

**The Walrus Talks What’s Next?**  
presented by Concordia University (April/May)

**The Walrus Talks at Home: Funding Change**  
presented by TakingITGlobal (October)

**The Walrus Talks Global Hunger Crisis**  
presented by Cooperation Canada (October)

**The Walrus Talks at Home: Veteran Identities**  
presented by the National Association of Federal Retirees (November)

♦ ♦ ♦

Illustration (top left) by Romain Lasser.  
Illustration (below) by Isabella Fassler.  
Photograph (below right) by Kenya-Jade Pinto

# ARTS AND CULTURE



**Breaking Through: One Photographer's Mission to Capture Hip Hop's Underground Roots**  
by Connor Garel

**THE WALRUS CONTINUED** its coverage of Canada's latest arts and culture trends, controversies, and major figures in 2022—from high art to popular culture.

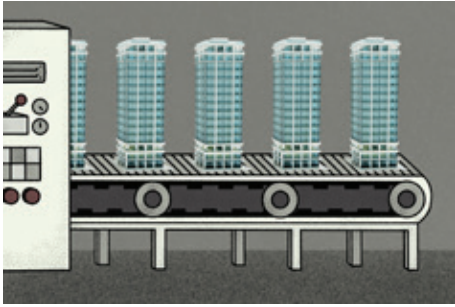
In “Why This Poet Declared War on Her Own Book,” Connor Garel reported on M. NourbeSe Philip’s battle to have the Italian version of her 2008 poetry book destroyed over translation issues. Garel also profiled dancer and photographer Frankie Perez, in “Breaking Through: One Photographer’s Mission to Capture Hip Hop’s Underground Roots,” about their recent work celebrating the world of breakdancing. And Sarah Liss painted a compelling portrait of one of Canada’s most well-known directors and actors with “Who Does Sarah Polley Think She Is?,” a spotlight on Polley’s personality, career, and evolution into an Academy Award-winning screenwriter.

The Walrus also delved into timely discussions about popular culture, as in Sakeina Syed’s analysis “*The Rings of Power* Has a Troll Problem,” which examined the backlash to the new Lord of the Rings series by “self-anointed Tolkien purists” who took issue with the show’s diverse cast. Lisa Levy’s “Groupies Deserve More Credit” considered the important role that groupies have played in “the ecosystem of

rock,” often acting as both muse, critic, and chronicler of the bands they follow.

In “*The Great Canadian Baking Show* Is a Pile of Wet Dough,” Alex Tesar offered a critique of the Canadian iteration of the popular British television show, which he argued failed to capture any uniquely Canadian identity and relied too much on kitsch and cliché. Soraya Roberts also tackled the world of Canadian television in her essay “The Superficial Diversity of Canadian TV.” She decried the industry’s risk-averse tendencies, which have failed to capture younger and more diverse audiences.

In September, The Walrus brought together a range of artists in Halifax for The Walrus Talks Reconnecting Arts and Culture, presented by TD Bank Group, including filmmaker Melissa D’Agostino, theatre director and playwright Peter Hinton-Davis, and musician Owen “O’Sound” Lee. Lee spoke about the impact the pandemic had on his career and the hope he found in his community by sharing his music virtually. “When you’re presented with an obstacle, you can either dwell on how difficult the obstacle is or you can shift your focus, find a solution, and pivot,” said Lee.



The Walrus arts and culture stories were shared widely across digital as well as traditional media outlets. Tracey Lindeman's story "Why Is Canadian Architecture So Bad?" was featured on *The Big Story* podcast, and Harley Rustad's "The Women's National Team Taught Canada How to Be a Soccer Country" earned a mention in Al Jazeera.



Gabrielle Drolet's "In Defence of Garlic in a Jar: How Food Snobs Almost Ruined My Love of Cooking" made a splash in the food world, earning a mention in the popular *Smitten Kitchen* newsletter and shout-out from celebrity chef Nigella Lawson on Twitter. The story was featured on the Firefox homepage (curated by Pocket) and in *Memoir Monday*, and Gabrielle was interviewed by Radio-Canada.



Illustration by Odera Igbokwe ("Lord of The Trolls," December)



Illustration by Lily Snowden-Fine ("The Procedure," March/April)



Illustration by Kume Pather ("False Convictions," November)

♦ ♦ ♦

These illustrations were created by emerging artists at The Walrus, with the generous support of RBC.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Top three arts and culture stories published online in 2022:**

**Why Success in Canada Means Moving to America**  
by Tajja Isen

**Why Is Canadian Architecture So Bad?**  
by Tracey Lindeman

**The Rings of Power Has a Troll Problem**  
by Sakeina Syed

**THE WALRUS EVENTS**

**The Walrus Talks Reconnecting Arts and Culture**  
presented by TD Bank Group (September)

♦ ♦ ♦

Photograph (opposite) by Frankie Perez.  
Illustration (top left) by Celina Gallardo.  
Illustration (below) by Keelin Gorlewski

# LITERATURE AND POETRY

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**THE WALRUS SHOWCASED** fiction and poetry by emerging and established authors and poets from across Canada. In 2022, acclaimed writers like Billy-Ray Belcourt, Roxanna Bennett, Rawi Hage, Sadiqa de Meijer, Kayla Czaga, and Tolu Oloruntoba interrogated the lives we've lived and mourned the ones we've lost.

"Going to Afghanistan" by Benjamin Hertwig offered a raw, traumatic account of a Canadian soldier's experience departing his hometown to serve in the Afghanistan war. Jay Teitel's "Saving Robert Zimmerman" followed a young man trying to determine whether the Bob Dylan concert he attended at Massey Hall in 1964 was real or imagined. The narrator recalls Dylan forgetting his lyrics and turning to the audience for help: "I don't remember anything else about the rest of the concert or that night... But it happened. They saved Bob Dylan. I know, because I was there," he says.

In "Bro," Giller Prize-winning author Ian Williams wrote a satirical story about Greg, a man desperately looking to make a Black friend, a task made harder by the fact that Greg doesn't know many—any—Black people. Nola Poirier's "The Beekeeper" examined the interpersonal dynamics of a family through their unique relationship with bees.

As part of our Teen Walrus series, we featured the short story "The Gate of Heavenly Peace" written by seventeen-year-old Yan Xi Li, 2021 Amazon First Novel Award's Youth Short Story finalist. The title referenced the translation of Tiananmen Square, which, in the story, is the centrepiece of a tragic family secret a young girl learns.

The poetry that appears in our pages continues to be well crafted and poignant. We posthumously published Richard Sanger's "November Run," a poem about a man in a cancer ward dreaming of the freedom and exhilaration of going on a run with his friend:

I read your letter, Harold,  
as one nurse describes her new dessert  
—Rice Krispie Squares, peanut butter, chocolate—  
to another who hooks me up to my IV drip,  
and I want nothing more than to go  
for a run with you, as wild  
and muddy and unpredictable  
as your letter, a long November run...

In "Heel Poem/Black-Hooded," Governor General's Literary Award winner Tolu Oloruntoba delved into his subconscious and used the power of poetry to explore his past trauma. And Nyla Matuk compared "a slow summer evening" to "an almost-boiled lobster," exploring memories, sensations, and seasons in her evocative poem "Synchrony."

The Summer Reading issue featured three poems that were wistful and melancholic. Rhiannon Ng Cheng Hin honoured her grandfather's recent passing with "Telephone Repairman," a poem where a stranger discovers a lost hammer and wonders who it belongs to, while Susan Musgrave's "Tears of Things" was a sorrow-tinged memory of summers spent with grandparents now gone. Rounding out the issue was Terese Mason Pierre's "Brink," a vivid recounting of unrequited feelings at a riverside.

## Autofiction

By Billy Ray Belcourt

How we exist in the world  
depends on how we describe it.  
Have I always been in the world?  
No, I've been autumn in the middle of August.  
I've been the wind as well as the tamarack tree  
seconds after its final needles drop.  
Don't tell anyone, but I'm happiest  
when my life feels like autofiction.  
In Alberta, the twentieth century never ended.  
*We are all subjects of the twentieth century,*  
I say to a man I just met on the internet.  
It sounds like a riddle for which the answer is the body.  
Every winter, I take pictures of the snow  
because the snow reminds me  
of my impermanence. Mostly, I want to be undone  
without being ruined. An NDN truth?  
The present is as beautiful as it is brutal.

*Featured in the December issue*

Billy-Ray Belcourt is a poet, author, and scholar from the Driftpile Cree Nation. He won the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize for his debut collection, *This Wound Is a World*.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Top three most read stories and poems on our website:

**The Mission**  
by Troy Sebastian/  
nupqu ?a·kʔam

**The Wave**  
by Rawi Hage

**The Beekeeper**  
by Nola Poirier

♦ ♦ ♦

Illustration  
(below) by  
Mike Feehan

AI technology encroaching on art has become a hot topic, and in 2022, our interim editor-in-chief Carmine Starnino wrote about it in "Robots Are Writing Poetry, and Many People Can't Tell the Difference." Originally published in *The New Criterion*, the reprint addressed how "robopoetics" is indecipherable from art created by humans and the implications for the future of creativity.



**Going to Afghanistan**  
by Benjamin Hertwig

## Thank You to Our 2022 Fellows

**Soraya Amiri**  
JHR Fellow,  
Toronto

**Emma Buchanan**  
Cannonbury  
Fellow, Toronto

**Yasmin Duale**  
CIBC Digital  
Fellow, Toronto

**Trisha Gregorio**  
TD Fellow,  
Hamilton

**Tobin Ng**  
Chawkers Fellow,  
Ottawa

**Emma Wilkie**  
Power Corporation  
of Canada Senior  
Fellow, Portapique

**Aysha White**  
The Walrus  
Editorial Fellow,  
Montreal

.....

**“This fellowship has allowed me to pursue my dream of working in magazine journalism. From learning fact checking to editing, I am grateful for this fellowship that has enabled me to continue working in long-form journalism and to ultimately reach my goal of being an editor.”**

—Mashal Butt,  
Chawkers Fellow,  
2021/22

# Fellowships and Education

IN 2022, we were proud to welcome nine fellows from across Canada. Our sought-after Editorial Fellowship Program has expanded to run for one year instead of the earlier duration of six months. With the support of a growing roster of funders, The Walrus now offers writing residencies as well as fellowships focused on digital journalism and nonprofit management.

Thanks to the ongoing partnership with The Chawkers Foundation and the Cannonbury Foundation, we onboarded two new editorial fellows, Emma Buchanan and Tobin Ng. We thank The Chawkers Foundation and the Cannonbury Foundation for their steadfast support of emerging journalists, and for supporting the evolution of this program. With the partnership of the Power Corporation of Canada, we welcomed Emma Wilkie as our Senior Editorial Fellow. This fellowship gives more experienced journalists the opportunity to mentor and supervise other fellows and grow into a more established role beyond the program.

We also thank CIBC for supporting our inaugural Digital Journalism Fellowship for Emerging Black Journalists. In May 2022, Yasmin Duale joined our digital team as our first CIBC Fellow to deepen her skills in digital journalism and publishing.

We were also pleased to welcome Soraya Amiri, one of several media professionals who arrived in Canada from Kabul, Afghanistan, in early 2022. With the partnership of Journalists for Human Rights through funding from the Meta Journalism Project, we were able to offer Soraya a one-year nonprofit management fellowship at The Walrus. We were glad to be one of several media organizations to offer this supportive framework to journalists and media professionals arriving from Afghanistan.

Generous support from TD allowed us to bring on Trisha Gregorio as our third TD Fellow on Disability and Inclusion. Trisha assisted The Walrus with innovative approaches to the promotion and marketing of our ideas-based events and journalism, with a lens on accessibility.

The Justice Fund has also continued to power the Writing Residency for Emerging Black Journalists at The Walrus.

This has evolved into a one-year opportunity for young Black writers, who are offered the time, resources, and mentorship to work on long-form investigative journalism on a topic of their choice. We were also fortunate to have had the support of the McLean Foundation and the Birks Foundation, who contributed to our Fellowship Fund in 2022. We look forward to developing this program in the coming years.

## Where Are They Now?

Julia-Simone Rutgers, our inaugural Justice Fund Writer in Residence (2021/22), is now the Manitoba reporter for *The Narwhal*

Lucy Uprichard, our 2020/21 Chawkers Fellow, is now Editor-in-Chief of *Maisonneuve*

Leila El Shennawy, our 2021/22 Cannonbury Fellow, is now an Associate Editor at *Reader's Digest Canada*

Tajja Isen, former fellow at The Walrus (2018/19), published *Some of My Best Friends: Essays on Lip Service* in 2022



# Reach and Impact

**THE WORK OF THE WALRUS** goes far beyond its own pages and stages. Many of our staff take on educational roles in other settings, including mentorship programs, conferences, workshops, and panel discussions.

Features editor Carine Abouseif participated as a mentor in the 2022 Great Canadian Pitchfest, an event that offers professional freelancers the chance to pitch story ideas to editors at Canada’s best magazines.

Siddhesh Inamdar, copy editor, was a panelist at the 2022 Toronto edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival, as part of a session called “Hyphenations: The Home and the World” focusing on diasporic writing.

Harley Rustad, senior editor, was selected as a mentor for the 2022 Writers’ Trust Mentorship program, which supports emerging creators working in fiction, poetry, and literary nonfiction. Calgary writer Raksha Vasudevan is the

mentorship recipient in the literary nonfiction category and will be working with Harley on her manuscript, *Crossing into Whiteness*.

Carmine Starnino, interim editor-in-chief, was a panelist at “Independent Media and Public Scholarship,” a virtual panel discussion at Concordia University.

Senior editor Daniel Viola led a number of pitch workshops for editorial fellows both at The Walrus and *The Local* as well as at Toronto Metropolitan University. Daniel was also a judge at the 2022 Digital Publishing Awards.

Samia Madwar, senior editor, was selected as a mentor within the National Media Awards Foundation’s BIPOC Mentorship program in spring 2022. Samia was also a speaker at a number of events in 2022, including the Word on the Street, the International Festival of Authors, and the Truth in Journalism Conference, and was a judge at the Digital Publishing Awards.



## Truth in Journalism Conference

In 2022, a first-of-its-kind conference on fact checking in journalism was held in Ottawa. “Truth in Journalism: How Should Journalists Think about Accuracy” was organized by Allison Baker and Viviane Fairbank, the current and former heads of research at The Walrus.

Around 100 attendees took part, in person and online, for three days at Carleton University, with keynote speeches by Pacinthe Mattar on objectivity as a journalist, Tom Rosenstiel on “truth” in journalism, and Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair on journalism and reconciliation. The conference marked the launch of Baker and Fairbank’s *Truth in Journalism Fact-Checking Guide*—a freely available resource at [thetijproject.ca](http://thetijproject.ca) and created by the pair as part of their 2021 Michener-L. Richard O’Hagan Fellowship for Journalism Education.

“Today’s launch of @allybake & @vivianefairbank’s #truthinjournalism Fact-Checking Guide at @JSchool\_CU— it was a day full of fantastic panels, speakers, and moderators. (Pictured: @allybake, @ErinSylvester and @lucyuprichard).”  
—Leila El Shennawy on Twitter, October 2022

# Awards and Accolades

**THE WORK DONE** by The Walrus continues to be recognized and awarded by our peers, and 2022 was no different. We are delighted that the hard work and dedication that goes into creating our stories is acknowledged at these award ceremonies.

We started the year with two gold awards at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards. In the Consumer category, The Walrus won the Best Multicultural Story award for Pacinthe Mattar’s “Objectivity Is a Privilege Afforded to White Journalists” and the Best Virtual Event for Poetry for the Moment, created by former staff members Angela Misri and Sheena Rossiter and former fellow on disability and inclusion Aimee Louw.

We were especially honoured when Nicholas Hune-Brown was awarded the prestigious 2022 Canadian Hillman Prize for Journalism for his investigative piece “The Shadowy Business of International Education.” Nicholas went on to win in the Written Feature category, for the same story, at the Canadian Association of Journalists awards.

Writer Simon Lewsen and photographer Chloë Ellingson were joint winners—along with the *Toronto Star*—for the Mindset Award for Reporting on the Mental Health of Young People for their piece “Inside

the Mental Health Crisis Facing College and University Students.”

The 2022 Michener–Deacon Fellowship was awarded to Rob Csernyik, who will produce a new piece of investigative reporting on the relationship between gambling and suicide in Canada for The Walrus. The 2022 Mark Rosenfeld Fellowship in Higher Education also went to two journalists who will work together to produce a story in The Walrus. Jadine

Ngan and Tahmeed Shafiq were the recipients of the fellowship and will be writing about campus suicides.

The Walrus was once again recognized at the Digital Publishing Awards, where Minelle Mahtani won gold in the Best Personal Essay category for “Finding My Voice as My Mother Lost Hers.”

We capped off a successful year of awards by being named overall winners at the 2022 National Magazine Awards. The Walrus won gold in Investigative Reporting for “Students for Sale” by Nicholas Hune-Brown, in Essays for “Quitting America” by M. E. Rogan, in Profiles for “Citizen of Nowhere” by Adnan Khan, and in

Fiction for “The Mission” by Troy Sebastian (nupqu ?a·kʔam). We also won silver in Long-Form Feature Writing for “Justice on Trial” by Eva Holland.



**The Shadowy Business of International Education**  
Winner of the 2022 Canadian Hillman Prize for Journalism



2022 *Jeopardy!* champion Mattea Roach attended The Walrus Gala and mentioned it on television when she returned for the Tournament of Champions that same year.

“You should be very proud of the evening, but also of the incredible work being done by the Walrus. I’ve been a fan for years, and was really quite excited to go to my first Walrus gala last night—it didn’t disappoint. Thank you for all that you do for good journalism.”

—Cristina Howorun, Citytv

“I had a lot of fun and loved your speakers and your passion. The Walrus is needed more than ever.”

—Guest, The Walrus Gala 2022

## Celebrating Canada’s Conversation

SPRING 2022 signalled a return to a sense of normalcy in many ways. We were happy to bring back The Walrus Gala in person, this time on May 18, 2023—a departure from the event’s traditional January occurrence. More than 300 guests reunited at the Fermenting Cellar in Toronto’s Distillery District and were treated to an opening performance by singer-songwriter Aysanabee, a poetry reading by Canisia Lubrin, and live music by The Walrus House Band. The evening raised \$475,000 in support of our work.

Calgary has long been a stronghold of support for The Walrus, with many of our board members, National Advisory Council members, and donors hailing from the west. We were thrilled when board member Zai Mamdani generously offered to host a gathering of friends of The Walrus, old and new, at her beautiful home. On June 8, over fifty guests had the chance—many of them for the first time—to meet executive

director Jennifer Hollett in person. The crowd ate, drank, and conversed into the small hours, making it an evening to remember.

The annual Optimistic Canadians party at The Walrus is a gathering that celebrates our multi-year supporters and partners. Following two years of virtual events, we were pleased to return in person on November 8, this time at artist Charles Pachter’s superbly renovated studio and home. Over forty supporters came to enjoy a bold evening of art and conversation and to renew their support for The Walrus.

.....  
 Top left, left to right: Gala 2022 co-chairs Roxanne McCaig, Pacinthe Mattar, and Jodi Butts; top right: Jim O’ Reilly, Shaila and Raj Kothari; bottom left: David Skok, Alison Loat, Chima Nkemdirim, Chethan Lakshman, and Krista Webster; bottom right: Mattea Roach and Margaret Atwood

# The Walrus Lab

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The Walrus can help your brand tell its story as part of Canada's conversation. Contact Mihira Lakshman, director of The Walrus Lab, at [mihira@thewalrus.ca](mailto:mihira@thewalrus.ca) to learn more.

**THE WALRUS LAB** has been creating content and providing other storytelling services to top brands in Canada through custom written (print and digital), audio, and events projects. In 2022, The Walrus Lab worked with clients on notable podcasting projects and made a return to in-person events with the annual Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

In 2022, The Walrus Lab began production, in French and English, on its first bilingual podcast, *Canadian Time Machine*. Funded by Heritage Canada, the series features four episodes on key points in Canadian history, including the 1946 Canadian Citizenship Act and an interview with former governor general Adrienne Clarkson on the creation of the Decorations for Bravery.

Also with Heritage Canada, The Walrus Lab produced an eight-page supplement in the January/February issue of the magazine, marking forty years of the Canadian Charter of Rights

and Freedoms. The supplement, which was also published online in English and French, included stories about important Charter cases as well as an essay on the future of the Charter and human rights in Canada, written by human rights advocate Amira Elghawaby.

Additionally, 2022 marked the launch of The Walrus Lab's first ever podcast with young people, *Youth for Youth*. The six-episode series featured six different youth hosts who received mentorship and training from The Walrus Lab as well as podcast production company Media Girlfriends. Episodes of the podcast covered topics like "Mental Health & LGBTQ+ Youth," "The Anatomy of Cancel Culture," and discussions on climate change.

Existing podcasts produced by The Walrus Lab also performed well last year. *What About Water? With Jay Famiglietti*, The Walrus Lab's podcast for the Global Institute for Water Security, is consistently ranked among the top



### Amazon First Novel Award

We were thrilled to be back in person to celebrate the finalists and winners of the Amazon First Novel Award in May 2022

ten earth science podcasts in North America, according to Chartable. In 2022, the podcast launched its fourth season and saw a 60 per cent jump in subscribers. And last year, two other podcasts produced by The Walrus Lab and The Walrus—*Courage Inc.* and *The Conversation Piece*—were featured as part of Air Canada’s in-flight entertainment for the first time.

2022 was the first year since the beginning of the pandemic that the Amazon Canada First Novel Award ceremony was held in person, taking place at the Globe and Mail Centre in Toronto. Planned and executed by The Walrus Lab, the awards are presented to emerging Canadian novelists and youth writers. In 2022, the top award of \$60,000 went to Pik-Shuen Fung, author of the novel *Ghost Forest*, while seventeen-year-old Caitlin Mah was the winner in the Youth Short Story category for “Mei-Ying, the Heavens Are Crying.”



2022 marked the launch of The Walrus Lab’s first ever podcast for young people, *Youth for Youth*.

In 2022,  
The Walrus Lab  
clients included:

Amazon Canada

Brain Canada

Canada 2020

Canadian  
Museum of Nature

Concordia  
University

Deloitte, Office  
of the Chair,  
Canada, Chile

Fairtrade Canada

Global Institute  
for Water Security

Heritage Canada

Labatt Breweries  
of Canada

Meta

Pfizer Canada

Save the Children  
Canada

TakingITGlobal

TD Bank Group

Visit Buffalo  
Niagara

Visit Cayman  
Islands

Windmill  
Microlending

# The Walrus 2022 Financials

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AS A REGISTERED CHARITY with an educational mandate, the strength of The Walrus lies in its unique funding model. Our work is made possible through the philanthropic support of individuals, corporations, and foundations, as well as sponsorships, client relationships with The Walrus Lab, government funding, and circulation and advertising revenue.

In 2022, more than a third of revenue came from donations and philanthropic partnerships, including sponsorships and donations generated from The Walrus Gala. We are grateful to the many donors, partners, and sponsors for their commitment to elevating Canada's conversation and the public discourse around what matters most to Canadians.

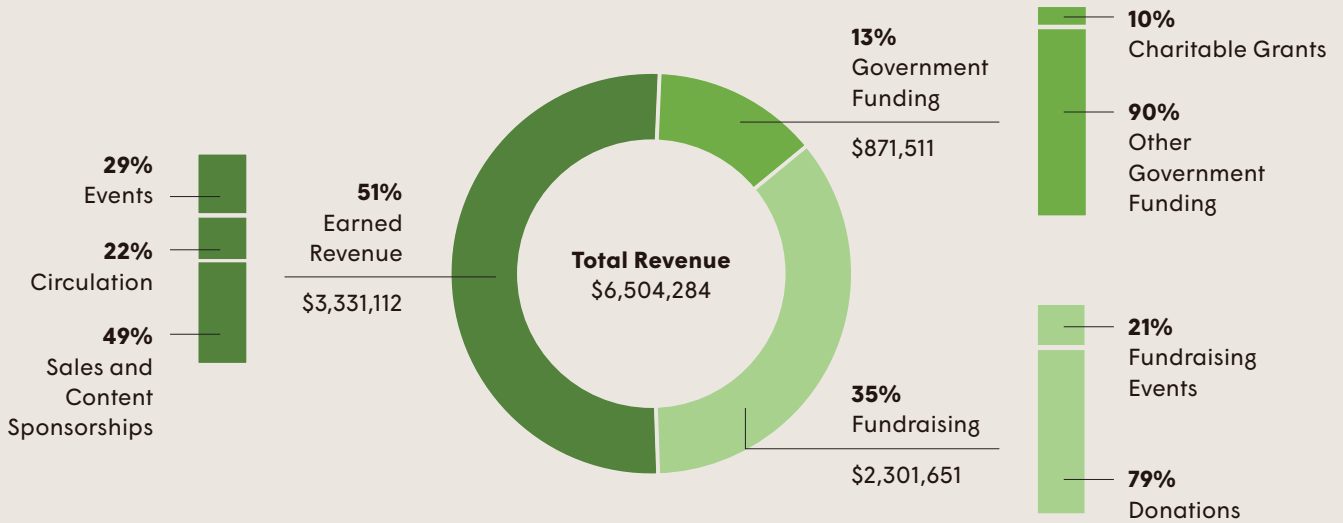
Close to half of our 2022 budget comprised earned revenue. We thank the many partners, sponsors, and clients for their trust in our storytelling and our ability to convene thought leaders, audiences, and new ideas across Canada.

We are especially thankful for the long-standing support of TD Bank Group, Labatt Breweries of Canada, Air Canada, Adventure Canada, and the many others who sustain our work and who are listed on pages 32 and 33 as well as in our 2022 donor listing (visit [thewalrus.ca/donate](http://thewalrus.ca/donate) for more information on our annual supporters).

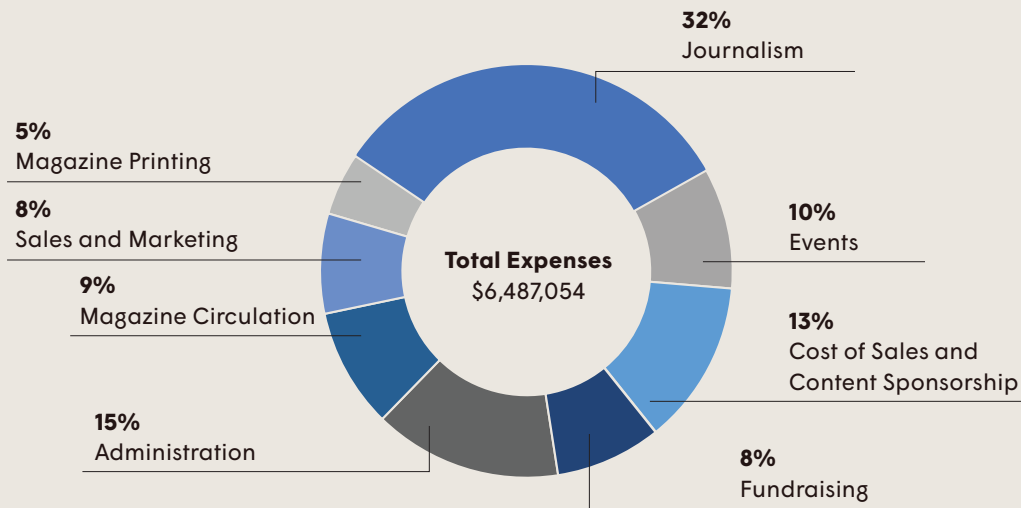
A very special word of thanks goes to The Chawkers Foundation for their years of support, to the visionary commitment of RBC Emerging Artists, and to members of The Walrus Trust. We are also grateful for funding provided by the Government of Ontario and the Ontario Arts Council as well as by the Government of Canada and the Ontario Creates Magazine Fund.

In 2021, we launched a monthly membership program, and at the time of writing, we are proud to have welcomed 310 monthly supporters on board whose generosity is instrumental in supporting our journalism and storytelling.

REVENUE



EXPENSES





We thank the following individuals, foundations, and companies for their commitment to advancing Canada's conversation in 2022

**MEMBERS OF THE WALRUS TRUST**

Diane Blake and Stephen Smith

Ira Gluskin and Maxine Granovsky Gluskin

Janelle Lassonde and Pierre Lassonde, OC, GOQ

The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain, CC, ONB

Rosemary Phelan

Kim Samuel

**OPTIMISTIC CANADIANS**

**Visionary Donors**

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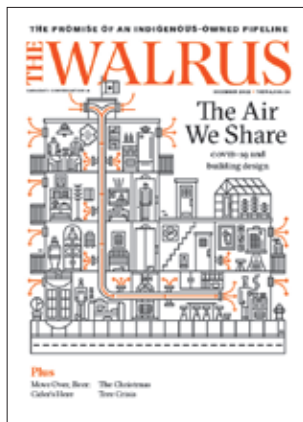
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