



WAKEFIELD WRITERS FETE 2021 PROGRAM WITH SPOTLIGHT ON HOMELESSNESS

Wakefield, QC, October 21--Wakefield, QC, October 18--The 2021 bilingual Writers Fête returns for its seventh year with a program of both in person and online events that are happening from October 26 to 31 in Chelsea and Wakefield. This year's theme is the "Power to Transform" and includes seven main events highlighting works that offer ways to heal the damaged earth, challenge assumptions about homelessness, empower women to escape abuse and to thrive, explore displacement and refuge, and speak to the lives and challenges of Indigenous Peoples.

"We hope to build on the festival's reputation for frank talk to push the dialogue to an even more thoughtful level and to act as a springboard for action," says Festival Director Hélène Giroux. "We wish to show how the arts can contribute to wider social and environmental movements that are critical to our global future."

This year, the festival welcomes award-winning playwright Joel Bernbaum who will read from his critically acclaimed play *Home is a Beautiful Word* on homelessness. For this piece, Bernbaum interviewed over 500 people in Victoria BC, between 2012 and 2014. The interviews were transcribed and edited into a script. Actors of all ages, genders and backgrounds shift between people of different ages, genders, and backgrounds.

Kaite Burkholder Harris, Executive Director of Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, will join Joel Bernbaum in conversation hosted by Ottawa actor, musician, and performance coach Leah Cogan.

Ottawa Poet Laureate Albert Dumont will also read his poem *The Sky, The Pavement – dedicated to good human beings, living on the city's streets*, a world premiere commissioned by the Writers Fête.

"With colossal social and environmental upheaval, we are given new opportunities to create meaningful change," says Giroux. "We invite you to join us in the Gatineau Hills, and from your homes, as we welcome diverse and compelling writers from a range of genres and milieus."

For more information on this event, see: [Home is a Beautiful Word](#)

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