

For Immediate Release

**30TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS OFFERS
A NUMBER OF EVENTS FOR YOUNG READERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

TORONTO, September 28, 2009 ---- The 30th anniversary International Festival of Authors (October 21–31, 2009) is proud to present an array of programming for young readers and their families. **YoungIFOA**, an integral part of the IFOA for over five years, offers school groups and the public an incomparable experience with some of the top authors writing for young people today.

Families: Thanks to a new partnership with the TD Canadian Children’s Literature Award, YoungIFOA presents family programming on **Saturday, October 24**. Authors shortlisted for this year’s English-language Award read at 11am and 1pm for children aged 5–13 (and their parents). Shortlisted authors taking part are **Nicola I. Campbell, Cary Fagan, Alma Fullerton, Kim LaFave, Susin Neilson and Shane Peacock**. **Tickets to family events on Saturday, October 24 are \$5**, and can be purchased online at readings.org or through the Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416-973-4000.

School Groups: YoungIFOA continues its school visits programming with events for grades K–8 on select weekdays during the Festival (**October 27, 29, 30**). Three “book days,” each tailored to a specific age group, allow schools to create a custom-made trip to YoungIFOA with a combination of author events and book-making workshops. Participants are **Nicola I. Campbell, Jennifer Cowan, Gitty Daneshvari, Cary Fagan, Lynn Johnston, Kim LaFave and Kean Soo**. **Tickets for full-day school group programmes are \$12 per student**, and can be purchased through Harbourfront Centre’s School Visits Registrar at 416-973-4091. The public may also attend author events part of YoungIFOA’s School Visits programme for \$5 each.

Another new YoungIFOA initiative is the **Super Stories Contest**, a partnership with TVOKids and the Ontario Library Association, which asks young readers (and writers) throughout Ontario to put pen to paper and share what they would do to make the world a better place. The contest runs from August 25 to October 4 and submission details can be found online at tvokids.com. Selected from thousands of submissions, the grand-prize winners (one from each YoungIFOA age group) – chosen by an Ontario Library Association selection committee who will judge entries based on imagination, spelling and punctuation – will be awarded a trip to Toronto to present their winning entry onstage at YoungIFOA and be filmed to appear on tvokids.com.

All YoungIFOA events take place in the **York Quay Centre, Harbourfront Centre (235, Queens Quay West)**. Full biographies for this year’s YoungIFOA participants, together with a full schedule of events can be found online at www.readings.org.

The annual International Festival of Authors (IFOA) (October 21–31, 2009) – including YoungIFOA (October 27, 29 & 30, 2009) and IFOA Ontario (October 24 – November 3, 2009) – is part of the annual season programmed by Authors at Harbourfront Centre (AUTHORS). Since its inception in 1974, AUTHORS has hosted over 5,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 16 Nobel Laureates. Its season runs from September to June and, in addition to a weekly reading series, includes the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2010).