



The DONNER Prize

The award *for* the BEST PUBLIC POLICY BOOK by a Canadian

UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL Wednesday, April 3rd, 2013 at 12:01 am ET

15th ANNUAL DONNER PRIZE SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

Books on health care, regional rivalries and international food aid compete for \$50,000 prize

Toronto, April 3, 2013 – The four books vying for the 2012/2013 Donner Prize, the award for best public policy book by a Canadian, were announced today by Allan Gotlieb, Chairman of the Donner Canadian Foundation.

“For our 15th anniversary, we have four strong finalists, all of which deserve recognition for the meaningful contributions they make to Canadians’ understanding of major policy challenges,” said Mr. Gotlieb.

“This year’s nominated titles are an impressive collection of thought-provoking books,” said Jury Chair A. Anne McLellan. She went on to say, “From the tenuous state of the public health care system, to food aid and the politics of hunger, to the history of the constitutional fight for control over Western Canada’s natural resources, these titles help to inform the current public policy debate in Canada, while also looking to the past to provide a unique perspective on how we got to where we are today, and where we go from here.”

The prestigious Donner Prize, established in 1998, annually rewards excellence and innovation in public policy writing by Canadians. In bestowing this award, the Donner Canadian Foundation seeks to broaden policy debates, increase general awareness of the importance of policy decision making, and make an original and meaningful contribution to policy discourse. The 2012/2013 shortlist titles were chosen from a field of 60 submissions; the winner receives \$50,000 while each other nominated title will receive \$7,500.

The winner of this year’s Donner Prize will be announced at an awards ceremony in Toronto on Thursday, April 25, 2013. The ceremony will be hosted by Don Newman, Chairman, Canada 2020.

The 2012/2013 Donner Prize finalists are:

- *Santé: l’heure des choix* by Claude Castonguay (Les Éditions du Boréal)
- *Hunger in the Balance: The New Politics of International Food Aid* by Jennifer Clapp (Cornell University Press)
- *Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark: The West Versus the Rest Since Confederation* by Mary Janigan (Knopf Canada)
- *Chronic Condition: Why Canada’s Health-Care System Needs to be Dragged into the 21st Century* by Jeffrey Simpson (Allen Lane Canada)

Shortlisted authors are available for comment and interview.

For further information, please contact:

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The 2012/2013 Donner Prize Shortlist Jury Citations

Santé: l'heure des choix by Claude Castonguay (Les Éditions du Boréal)

Québec's health care system is experiencing serious problems. No longer sustainable, it consumes nearly half the government's budget. Calling for a paradigm shift, *Santé: l'heure des choix* identifies a number of the barriers that Castonguay believes prevent the creation of a truly patient-focused system, and presents a plan for comprehensive reform. Castonguay, the "father" of Québec health care, puts his decades' long experience thinking about health care to good use in this book, with a passionate focus on solutions to make the public health care system in Québec sustainable for the long run.

Claude Castonguay served as Québec Minister of Health from 1970 to 1973 and chaired the Royal Commission on Health and Welfare from 1966 to 1970.

Hunger in the Balance: The New Politics of International Food Aid by Jennifer Clapp (Cornell University Press)

Food aid has become a contentious issue in recent decades, with sharp disagreements over genetically modified crops, agricultural subsidies, and ways of guaranteeing food security in the face of successive global food crises. *Hunger in the Balance* provides an insightful and comprehensive account of the contemporary politics of food aid, explaining the origins and outcomes of recent clashes between donor nations—and between donors and recipients. Clapp provides us with a serious analysis of important and timely global issues in which Canada and Canadians have been involved as major players for many decades.

Jennifer Clapp is Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability at University of Waterloo.

Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark: The West Versus the Rest Since Confederation by Mary Janigan (Knopf Canada)

The oil sands. Global warming. The National Energy Program. Though these seem like contemporary Canadian subjects, *Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark* reveals them to be a legacy of longstanding regional rivalries. Placing the conflicts between the interests and orientation of the three prairie provinces and the rest of the country into a broader historical political context, Janigan expands not only our understanding of the issues, but also helps to enhance Canadians' understanding of one another. A revelatory read, it presents a unique historical perspective on the challenging public policy issues that the country is now facing, and will continue to face in the future.

Mary Janigan is a journalist who has written extensively about Canadian public policy, including politics and economics, for the *Toronto Star*, *Maclean's* and *The Globe and Mail*.

Chronic Condition: Why Canada's Health-Care Systems Needs to be Dragged Into The 21st Century by Jeffrey Simpson (Allen Lane Canada)

The Canadian health care system, which costs about \$200 billion a year in public and private money, cannot continue as it is—increasingly ill-adapted to an aging population, with public costs growing faster than government revenues. *Chronic Condition* makes a vital contribution to the public's understanding of the cost of health care and delivery issues, examining the tenets of the Medicare system that Canadians cling to so passionately. Breaking the silence about the changes and choices that Canadians face, Simpson has written a book that deserves to be read and discussed.

Jeffrey Simpson, an officer of the Order of Canada, has been *The Globe and Mail's* national affairs columnist for more than twenty-five years.