



## Canada's Top Authors Come Together to Support Youth Empowerment Programs

### Toronto Public Library Foundation's *Biblio Bash*, Presented by TD Bank Group, Returns Thursday, April 26, 2018

- Hosted by Canadian author and TV personality David Chilton, the list of authors expected to attend are: Michael Redhill, Thomas King, Esi Edugyan, Shari Lapena, Matt Dean Pettit, Heather O'Neill and many more! -

- Gala highlights include: cocktails in the library stacks, celebrity chef designed meal, silent auction prizes including a private book club dinner with Margaret Atwood, and the premiere of TPLF's "We Are Library People" documentary short film -

**TORONTO, March 26, 2018 – *Biblio Bash***, Toronto's must-attend gala for library lovers and city builders returns on Thursday, April 26, 2018. The Toronto Public Library Foundation's (TPLF) annual fundraiser, presented by TD, will raise vital funds for Toronto Public Library (TPL), transform the Toronto Reference Library into a glamorous black-tie soirée showcasing the 21<sup>st</sup> century library, and bring together Canada's top authors, local philanthropists, entrepreneurs, arts and culture supporters, donors, business executives and fans of Toronto Public Library.

This intimate evening, led by ***Biblio Bash*** Committee Chair Victoria Webster, will celebrate the world's busiest public library system and shine a spotlight on TPL programs and services that empower vulnerable youth in Toronto neighbourhoods. The Toronto Public Library is so much more than books, and in 2017, ***Biblio Bash*** raised over \$600,000 to support digital innovation at the highest needs branches. This year's ambitious fundraising goal is to surpass 2017, with money raised on the gala night to provide Toronto youth with such essentials as: free access to quality after-school homework help, technology, digital and financial literacy learning, and opportunities to participate in enriching programs that help develop social, creative, life and leadership skills.

"Last year, TPL Youth Hub visits doubled from the year before, so it's very apparent to our Library staff that there's an ongoing need for these dedicated youth-focused initiatives," commented City Librarian, Vickery Bowles. "Toronto Public Library genuinely contributes to positive outcomes for youth with a strong emphasis on personal development, equitable access and learning. The Library is both a space where young people are welcome and supported, and it's because of the tremendous support of ***Biblio Bash*** donors, sponsors and volunteers that we will be able to invest even further in these areas of TPL."

"TD is proud to support **Biblio Bash** 2018 and work with the Toronto Public Library to make a difference in our communities," says Andrea Barrack, Vice President, Global Corporate Citizenship, at TD. "A library is an exciting place where children, families and citizens can enjoy the magical world of books, but it is more than that. It is a place of inspiration, of inclusion, and of belonging. I am thrilled to recognize on behalf of TD the outstanding work the Toronto Public Library does to support at-risk youth through its various programs and services."

More than 470 guests will attend the sold-out event hosted by Canadian author, investor and television personality **David Chilton**. Each table will feature a Canadian author host with the list of 43 authors including *Giller Prize* winners **Michael Redhill** (*Bellevue Square*, 2017) and **Esi Edugyan** (*Half-Blood Blues*, 2011); New York Times Bestseller **Shari Lapena** (*The Couple Next Door*); Toronto chef and cookbook author **Matt Dean Pettit**; novelist, screenwriter and journalist **Heather O'Neill** (*Lullabies for Little Criminals*); Order of Canada recipients, author **Joy Kogawa** (*Obasan*), author **Thomas King** (*The Inconvenient Indian*) and children's poet **Dennis Lee** (*Alligator Pie*); and acclaimed author and playwright **Ann-Marie MacDonald**.

Highlights of this year's **Biblio Bash** presented by TD will include:

- A slam poetry performance, commissioned exclusively for **Biblio Bash** 2018, by Toronto-based group, **The Uncharted**.
- Over 15 unique silent auction packages available for guests to bid on including a trip to breathtaking Fogo Island, a staycation at the Four Seasons Toronto, a trip to New York City and once-in-a-lifetime experiences including a book club dinner with Canadian literary icon, **Margaret Atwood**.
- Custom-designed dinner prepared by Food Network Canada personality and renowned **Chef Cory Vitiello** with 10tation Catering.
- Curated music playlist from the TPL's epic collection of 15,000-plus vinyl records spun by **DJ Bellosound** and accompanied by saxophone player **Miles Raine**.
- The premiere of "*We Are Library People*" – a documentary short film commissioned by the TPLF featuring heart-warming, honest tales from Canadians about how the Library has impacted their life in a meaningful way. Featured Canadians include media personality, **George Stroumboulopoulos**; award winning author, **Joy Kogawa**; Ontario Supreme Court Justice, **Donald McLeod**; and several other passionate Library users.
- A roaming artist creating on-the-spot, original custom bookmarks for guests.
- Pop-up portrait studio by celebrity photographer, **George Pimentel**.

With 100 branches across the city, Toronto Public Library is a world-class, 21st century library, Canada's largest public library system and the world's busiest. Used by over 70 per cent of Torontonians, Toronto Public Library offers a diverse selection of services and programs including welcoming, safe public spaces equipped with books, free Wi-Fi and public computers in neighbourhoods across the city; programs ranging from kids' story time to literary and cultural events; and access to eBooks, streaming video and music. Many of the programs and services are made possible through the Toronto Public Library Foundation's fundraising efforts.

"We know that gifts from individuals and corporations enable the Library to do incredible things that make the lives of all Torontonians better, particularly at-risk youth," said TPLF President, Jennifer Jones. "A donation to Toronto Public Library is an investment in our city. No other public institution in the City of Toronto has the mandate and reach, physical and technical infrastructure, talent and community presence to support the piloting of new, or enhancing of established, youth empowerment initiatives. TPL is uniquely positioned to do this and do it successfully."

Contributing over \$1 billion in total economic impact for the City of Toronto, Toronto Public Library is a legacy institution that serves the diverse communities across the city, ensuring all residents have free and equitable access to the latest content programming, spaces, education and technology.

**Biblio Bash** is proud to have the following sponsors for the 2018 gala: TD Bank Group, Presenting Sponsor; Labatt Breweries of Canada, Dinner Sponsor; Mantella Corporation, Library Lounge Reception Sponsor; Gerald Sheff and Shanitha Kachan, Author Host Sponsor; Whitehots, Event Sponsor; and Rogers Communications, Portrait Studio Sponsor. Media Sponsors are Toronto Life and Toronto Star.

For more information, and the complete list of authors attending **Biblio Bash**, please visit [bibliobash.ca](http://bibliobash.ca). #BiblioBash

#### **ABOUT THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION**

The Toronto Public Library Foundation is a registered charity that raises funds to support the exemplary collections, groundbreaking programs and services, and the innovative community spaces at the world's busiest public library system; Toronto Public Library. Since its inception in 1997, the Foundation has raised over \$75 million thanks to generous donors and corporate partners who have helped fund such popular and beloved programs as the TD Summer Reading Club and the Sun Life Financial Museum & Arts Pass (MAP). Donating to Toronto Public Library is an investment in literacy, education, culture and the vitality of a world-class city.

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