



## **Diaspora Dialogues GTA Long-Form Mentorship Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Can I email or fax my submission?**

Yes. You can send your submission by **email only**.

### **What if my manuscript is far below or above the length limit specified in the open call?**

If your manuscript is not long enough, please apply to the short form mentorship, **TOK Digital**, instead. More information can be found on the website.

If your manuscript is in excess, only submit material up to the specified amount, omitting chapters, poems or stories of your choice and adding brief bridging material where necessary.

### **What level does the work need to be?**

If some/any of the following apply to you, you're most likely to benefit from the program: you have spent at least a year working through drafts, developing character, voice, theme and plot; you have an ending or something close to it. It's been read/workshopped in writing groups and mentorship programs; you have a good sense of what you are trying to achieve and where you are in relation to that goal and what need to do to reach it; you feel like you can't go any further without set of outside, expert eyes; you are able to receive, consider and incorporate criticism.

### **What does it mean to have the greater Toronto region exist in the novel or collection?**

This means more than just using the city as a physical setting, although it can certainly be that. It can mean exploring what the city means to you in a psychological or metaphorical way. It can mean writing about a person, issue or geographic location that is Toronto-specific. The definition is broad, but Toronto must be somehow present in the work.

To get an idea of how some Canadian authors have treated Toronto in their work, please consult the excellent book *Imagining Toronto* by Amy Lavender Harris (Mansfield Press, 2011) or visit [imaginingtoronto.com](http://imaginingtoronto.com)

### **When will results be announced?**

Email notifications will be sent out by mid-late November.

### **If accepted, when do I have to confirm my participation?**

Within one week of the notification email.

**How often does the program run?**

Once every year. The next open call will be in September 2019, for a program start date of January 2020.

**When does the 2019 program start?**

Monday January 8, 2019.

**When does the program end?**

Monday July 30, 2019.

**What does the program offer?**

A subsidized opportunity to complete a revised draft of a full manuscript with the guidance of an established author who is also an experienced mentor, helping mentees hone their craft and bring their work closer to publication standard.

**Who have been your mentors in the past?**

Lawrence Hill, George Elliott Clarke, Cherie Dimaline, Cynthia Holz, Shyam Selvadurai, Nino Ricci, Olive Senior, Moez Surani, David Layton, Martin Mordecai, Ian Williams, Leanne Simpson, Elizabeth Ruth, Shani Mootoo, and many others from our short-form mentorship program, who can be found at [diasporadialogues.com/tok](http://diasporadialogues.com/tok)

**How does the program work?**

On Monday January 8, accepted writers email the full draft of their manuscript to Diaspora Dialogues and to their mentor. If the mentor prefers hard copy, Diaspora Dialogues will provide printing and couriering services.

Some mentors prefer to work on a limited number of manuscript pages at a time. In this case the mentee will send a full draft to Diaspora Dialogues, but only the requested number of pages to the mentor (either directly by email or post via DD).

The mentorship proceeds by correspondence. The basic cycle is thus: based on a frequency and page count mutually agreed upon by mentor and mentee, the mentee sends the mentor his/her manuscript pages, receives feedback from the mentor, and either resends the same pages after working on them or sends the next set of pages. The latter is recommended so that the mentee can receive the benefit of having the mentor's input on the full manuscript. This is the point of the program.

Each mentor and mentee will decide on a frequency that suits their schedules and work habits, while ensuring that the full manuscript will have been worked on by the end of the program.

Please note: mentees should send their last set of pages to the mentor by mid-June, so that mentors have enough time to complete their feedback by the end of the program.

### **What kind of feedback should I expect?**

The mentoring process will address character, story, structure, pace, writing style and substantive aspects of the work, and no copy editing (i.e., spelling, grammar, word usage etc.) will be provided.

### **What happens after the program ends?**

After July 30, mentees can take up to three months to polish their manuscript before sending it to DD for review. Within three months of receipt, during which the manuscript will be read and reviewed internally and externally, DD will hold a meeting with the writer to advise him/her on the readiness of the manuscript ready to be sent out to publishers. If ready, DD will create and facilitate a plan for manuscript submission (publication, however, is *not* guaranteed), leveraging our relationships within the Canadian publishing community and adding an enthusiastic letter of support. Otherwise, DD will suggest areas of improvement and remain committed to reading further drafts and providing consultation.

### **Is there a fee?**

No.

### **Can I choose my mentor?**

No. But you are welcome to suggest author(s) who would be ideal mentors for your work. DD will make an effort to contract those writers or similar. But the ultimate decision stays with DD.

### **How do I know who my writing mentor will be?**

At the time of acceptance, or shortly thereafter, DD mentees will be introduced to their mentors via email.

### **Will I meet my mentor in person?**

Close to the start of the program (mid-December or late January) DD will hold an informal Long-Form Mentorship 2018 Wrap/2019 Launch party. If both you and your mentor are able to attend that party, you will meet at the party. Otherwise, mentors and mentees can arrange their own meeting(s) or phone calls at any point during the program, but this is at the mentor's discretion.

### **Will I meet the other writers?**

Yes, as many as are able to attend the 2018 Wrap/2019 Launch. DD is also looking into the possibility of distributing an email list and/or hosting up to four optional writers' support group meetings at two month intervals during the program, during which writers can discuss aspects of their work or share their writing.

DD also holds three professional development seminars, called Lunch N' Learn. These seminars are open to past and current participants of DD writing programs, so writers can also meet then.

**Who can I contact if I still have questions?**

DD's Program Manager Zalika Reid-Benta is available to mentees Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, by phone or email.