

**NEWS RELEASE
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**Ian Duncan, Garth Webb Secondary Teacher,
to Receive Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching**

WINNIPEG, January 20, 2026 – For his exceptional commitment to sharing Canadian history from a new perspective, **Ian Duncan**, who teaches at Garth Webb Secondary School in Oakville, Ontario, has been named a recipient of a **Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching**, the country's most prestigious honour in the field of history.

Administered by Canada's History Society, this award recognizes the work of teachers and schools in furthering our understanding of the past and each other, and encourages them to strive for excellence in the teaching of Canadian history. This year, eight teachers representing six schools from across the country are being honoured. The 2025 laureates will receive their awards from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada, at an upcoming ceremony.

"These outstanding teachers inspire their students to learn more about each other and our country through thoughtful explorations of our history," said Melony Ward, President and CEO of Canada's History Society. "That enables young people to think critically about the past, to better understand each other and Canada itself, and to see that they have a role to play in building the future."

Through the Historytellers Project, Duncan's Grade 10 students delved into The ArQuives: Canada's LGBTQ2+ Archive to explore overlooked histories of struggle and resilience of Canada's diverse queer and trans communities. He invited activists, artists and community leaders, who helped students approach their research with empathy and creativity as well as powerful historical thinking skills. They shared the resulting physical and digital exhibits in their school and with the community, as well as online.

"In my classroom we say, 'The past is the past. History is a story written about the past,'" Duncan said. "Students learn how to deconstruct and construct historical narratives. It is an honour to watch a new generation of Canadians become the storytellers, the historians, the archivists, and curators of our shared history."

Each award is accompanied by a \$2,500 prize, as well as \$1,000 for the teacher's school.

The other recipients of the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Teaching are:

- **François Desmarais** and **Véronique Picard**, École secondaire De Mortagne, Boucherville, Quebec;
- **Heather Howell**, M. M. Robinson High School, Burlington, Ontario;
- **Kathryn Laframboise** and **Jonathan McPhail**, Exchange Met School, Winnipeg, Manitoba;
- **Manouchka Otis**, École Manikanetish, Uashat mak Mani-Utenam, Quebec;
- **Erin Quinn**, Parkdale School, Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

To learn more about any of these recipients, please visit CanadasHistory.ca/GGHA2025.

More information:

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About the Governor General's History Awards

The Governor General's History Awards recognize excellence in five categories: Teaching, Museums, Scholarly Research, Community Programming, and Popular Media. Each award category has its own jury, selection process, and prize structure. The Governor General's History Awards are administered by Canada's National History Society, in partnership with the Canadian Museums Association and the Canadian Historical Association, and with the support of the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, and Power Corporation of Canada.

About Canada's History Society

Canada's History Society is a national charitable organization based in Winnipeg that works to connect Canadians through history. Canada's History Society aims to strengthen understanding of the complex and diverse histories of our country and their part in shaping contemporary Canada. It publishes the magazines *Canada's History* and *Kayak: Canada's History Magazine for Kids* (available digitally at CanadasHistory.ca), and oversees education and award programs, including the Governor General's History Awards and Heritage Fairs.