



Literary publisher Ellen Seligman elected President of PEN Canada at 2009 AGM

TORONTO, June 22, 2009 — Ellen Seligman, Publisher (Fiction) and Senior Vice President of McClelland and Stewart, has been elected as the new President of PEN Canada. Seligman was chosen as the successor to journalist and film maker Nelofer Pazira at PEN Canada's 2009 Annual General Meeting, June 18, at Massey College.

"Freedom of expression is something most of us take for granted but should not — even here in Canada," said Seligman. "PEN's work at home and abroad to protect this basic human right and to free writers who have been incarcerated and rendered silent is absolutely vital, and ongoing."

Born and raised in New York City, Seligman moved to Canada in 1976 after working in literary publishing in London and New York. Her distinguished publishing career has been marked by a passionate commitment to writers and to writing. "For most of my working life," she says, "I have been closely allied with nurturing a diversity of creative voices. I have been steeped in the richness of these voices and in the idea that they can and will be heard."

Seligman has been called "the Maxwell Perkins of Canadian publishing." She edits such well-known writers as Margaret Atwood, Elizabeth Hay, Michael Ondaatje, Anne Michaels, Rohinton Mistry, and is also active in finding and developing the work of writers at the beginning of their careers.

Seligman won the Canadian Booksellers' Association's inaugural Editor of the Year Award in 1998 and again in 2006. She has received the Toronto Arts Award for her contribution to the field of writing and publishing (the first person in publishing to receive an award in this category), and she has been profiled in the *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Life*, and, most recently, in the *National Post* — where she was also described as one of Canada's fifty most influential women. In 2009, she was awarded the Order of Ontario.

As a Board member for the last three years (two as Vice-President), Seligman has worked tirelessly for and has already contributed significantly to PEN Canada.

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