



## CALLING ALL EDITORS

### CODE's Burt Award for Young Adult Literature 2017 Remote Editing Mentorship Program

Are you passionate about the creative process of young adult literature? Are you looking for an opportunity to work alongside African book creators and mentor their creative process? If you answered yes, then this opportunity is for you!

CODE is seeking volunteer editors to mentor African authors, editors, and publishers whose manuscripts are eligible to compete in CODE's Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature – a regional competition open to all 2017 winners and finalists of CODE's national competitions in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania. There are a total of 18 manuscripts that are eligible for the 2017 remote editing mentorship program that runs from November 2017 to March 2018. Mentors will work with mentees to revise the manuscripts so they are ready for the 2018 regional competition. The submission deadline is March 30, 2018. See page 3 for more detailed information on CODE's Burt Literary Awards.

#### **Mentors will work with authors, editors, and publishers in:**

- Substantive editing
- Style and voice
- Copyediting

The mentor and mentee will mutually agree upon the frequency of communication, which can take place by phone, email, Skype, or in-person. We are asking mentors to begin the mentorship on November 30, 2017, provide at least one round of comprehensive feedback by January 31, 2018, and wrap-up by February 15, 2018.

**Benefits to the mentor:** Along with compensation for communication costs, as a mentor you will have the opportunity to share your knowledge and skills with an up and coming author in Africa, support the creation of great young adult fiction, and join a host of CODE volunteers committed to improving literacy and learning around the world.

*"Fostering new writers is critical if we are going to continue to build literacy. New writers, those with the pulse on today's readers, are so vital. They can create the contemporary stories that young readers crave. The elders can speak of the legends and traditions we want our young to remember, but the future belongs to the readers. Volunteering your time means that our combined wealth of knowledge can be shared and passed on. Together we can create success stories!" --Jacqueline Guest, Canadian author and CODE volunteer*



*“CODE is committed to my great passion: the building of a writing and publishing culture so that nations have a strong sense of who they are. Most importantly, if a culture recognizes itself in its literature, youth are better prepared to face the challenges of finding their place in society and functioning as healthy, contributing citizens.”* --Rick Wilks, Director of Annick Press and CODE volunteer

**Benefits to the authors and editors:** The writers get the chance to work with professional editors to improve their stories and writing skills. Winning CODE’s Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature will mean a substantial cash prize for the author as well as a guaranteed purchase of their books for distribution to schools and libraries in four African countries.

*“The premise of pouring energy and resources into promoting youth literacy is one dear to my heart...I felt incredibly blessed to have been one of the few individuals whose passion is rewarded.”* --Elshadai Tesfaye, 2017 Winner, CODE’s Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please complete the expression of interest form on page 4 and submit to CODE **by November 18, 2017**. For more information, please contact Claire Bolton, CODE’s Literary Awards Officer at either [cbolton@code.ngo](mailto:cbolton@code.ngo) or 613-232-3569/1-800-661-2633 ext. 233.

## About CODE's Burt Literary Award

CODE is a Canadian based international development organization that works in partnership with local organizations to expand literacy in Africa, the Caribbean, and Canada by supporting the professional development of teachers and librarians, by providing children and youth with access to high quality reading materials, and helping to strengthen the local book trade and national publishing capacities.

CODE's Burt Award is a literary award and readership initiative that recognizes excellence in locally authored and published literature for young adults aged 12-18. The objective of the prize is to champion literacy, build language skills, and foster the love and habit of reading by ensuring that young people have access to high quality, culturally relevant, and engaging reading materials. In 2008, CODE established the Burt Literary Award with the generous support of Canadian philanthropist William (Bill) Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation. First established in Tanzania in 2008, the program has since expanded to Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Caribbean, and Canada.

From the very beginning of the program, CODE has benefited from the generous support of Canadian volunteers to build the capacity of local writers, editors and publishers. These volunteers include Rick Wilks, Jacqueline Guest, Hadley Dyer, Tim Wynne-Jones, Peter Carver, Helaine Becker, Kevin Major, Richard Scrimger, Sharon Jennings, and Ted Staunton.

In 2017, CODE established its first regional competition in Africa known as CODE's Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature. This award is given annually to an outstanding work of English-language, young adult literature by an author, illustrator (if applicable), and translator (if applicable) from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, or Tanzania. One title is named the winner, with its creator(s) receiving a prize of \$10,000 CAD. A second title is designated an honour book, its creator(s) to receive a prize of \$2,000 CAD. The remaining finalists each receive a prize of \$1,000 CAD. CODE purchases 3,000 copies of the winning title and 3,000 copies of the honour book for each of the four participating countries, up to 12,000 copies per title. These books are donated to schools, libraries, community centres, and NGOs.

Works eligible for CODE's Burt Award for African Young Adult Literature are determined by national competitions in each participating country: CODE's Burt Award for Ethiopian Young Adult Literature; CODE's Burt Award for Ghanaian Young Adult Literature; CODE's Burt Award for Kenyan Young Adult Literature; and CODE's Burt Award for Tanzanian Young Adult Literature. With the exception of Ethiopia where the author/illustrator/translator can submit directly to the competition, only eligible publishers operating in one of the participating countries may submit titles for consideration. One title per country is named the national winner, the creator(s) to receive a prize of \$1,000 CAD. The publisher of the winning title receives a guaranteed purchase of 3,000 copies, which CODE donates to schools, libraries, community centres, and NGOs in its country of origin. The national winners together with the finalists are all eligible to compete in CODE's regional competition.

To learn more about CODE's Burt Award program, please visit: <https://www.burtaward.org/>.



## VOLUNTEER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

### CODE's Burt Award for Young Adult Literature

Please complete the form below and send to Claire Bolton ([cbolton@code.ngo](mailto:cbolton@code.ngo))  
by **November 18, 2017**

<b>1. Name:</b>	
<b>2. Address:</b>	
<b>3. Telephone:</b>	
<b>4. Email:</b>	
<b>5. Website:</b>	
<b>6. Skype:</b>	
<b>7. Areas of focus (select all that apply):</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Non-fiction <input type="checkbox"/> Children's literature <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult literature <input type="checkbox"/> Academic or Reference  Other _____
<b>8. Are you affiliated with a publishing house? If yes, which one?</b>	
<b>9. Tell us why you would like to be a mentor / provide editing advice to a Burt Award author?</b>	
<b>10. Have you edited Children's or Young Adult fiction before? If yes, please list the Young Adult titles that you have edited (max 10):</b>	

**11. Can you commit to mentoring from November 30, 2017 – February 15, 2018?  Yes  No**  
**If yes, is there a particular time within this period that your availability is limited?**

**12. Are you willing to work with more than one mentee?  Yes  No**  
**If yes, indicate any conditions that would apply.**

**13. Is there a particular area in editing that you specialize in?**

**14. Do you have any previous experience as a mentor?**

**15. Any questions you have for CODE?**