

## A SUMMARY OF SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR 2008 MEMBER SURVEY

One-third of our membership has responded so far (44 received + 1 unreceived). Three others requested surveys but did not return them.

Based on this sample, here are some statistics:

1. 73% of our members are women, 27% are men
2. Average age is 52, but ages range from 22 to 78. Smallest group is under-35s, at 8%, followed by 65+, at 14%
3. 16% say that writing pays most of their bills. Most of these are journalists or commercial/technical writers
4. In terms of self-perceived place in the writing community (more than one answer was allowed, and the average person chose 2.2. of these),
  - 45% write for pleasure, but are trying to get published
  - 43% have had 3+ works published in commercial or literary media
  - 34% have had one to three works published in commercial or lit. media
  - 32% are author or co-author of one or more published books
  - 20% are beginners/observers
  - 20% write for their own pleasure, may or may not try to get published
  - 14% have self-published some of their work
  - 11% do academic writing, published in learned journals
5. In terms of preferred genres (more than one choice was allowed, and the average person chose 3.75 of these):
  - 55% poetry
  - 50% adult short fiction (short story)
  - 43% adult long fiction (novel)
  - 41% literary nonfiction (memoir, travel...)
  - 39% children's literature
  - 27% young adult fiction
  - 20% popular short nonfiction (e.g. magazine articles)
  - 18% academic writing
  - 18% journalism (deadline-based non-fiction, op. ed., columns)
  - 16% plays or screenplays
  - 9% technical writing
  - 9% weblogs (blogs)
  - 7% popular long nonfiction (e.g. nature books, travel books, cookbooks)
  - 7% copywriting
  - 16% "other" (self-help, biography, educational writing, web content)
6. 30% have been published extensively (multiple books or articles); 25% have won or been nominated for writing awards

7. 25% have websites or their own page on an organizational site, or are in the process of setting up a website; 9% have a blog; 7% are interested in developing a web presence
8. In terms of activities of interest (more than one was allowed, and the average person chose 4.6 of these),
  - 75% want lectures or readings by established writers or writing experts
  - 70% want social events where they can meet other writers
  - 70% want classes or workshops in the craft of writing in their genre(s)
  - 55% want open mikes or other audience readings
  - 43% want critiquing groups
  - 39% want classes or workshops on business-related skills for writing and getting published
  - 30% want classes or workshops on the technical aspects of writing
  - 25% want online discussion forums on writing-related topics
  - 16% want classes or workshops on technology that writers can use
  - 16% want “other” (various)
  - 18% want none of these, just to support the Coop and see what’s happening
9. Our members belong to a variety of national, provincial and local organizations and groups, but the largest by far is this: 52% are also members of the Sask. Writers Guild. In addition 30% are in writing/critiquing groups, 11% in the League of Canadian Poets, 9% in The Writers Union of Canada, 7% in CANSCAIP, as well as a variety of other organizations and online groups. Nevertheless, 23% are members solely of the Coop
10. 93% of our members would be willing to be on a members list (with no contact information) on the Coop website, 2% would definitely not
11. 25% of our members offer business or other services that writers might find useful—teaching/tutoring/mentoring in specific area, art/photography/illustration, editing, web design
12. 68% of our members would be interested in having a brief (75-word) bio or promo on the Coop website, and another 14% said maybe