Milton Acorn Margaret Atwood Nelson Ball Maxwell Bates Doug Beardsley Earle Birney bill bissett Jagna Boraks George Bowering

Jill Hoffman Robert Hogg Alexander Hutchison Waclaw Iwaniuk George Johnston D.G. Jones Penny Kemp Leo Kennedy A.M. Klein

D.M. Price Al Purdy Joseph Quesnel James Reaney Goodridge Roberts Joe Rosenblatt Helene Rosenthal W.W.E. Ross Allan Safarik

Raymond Knister

Elizabeth Brewster Fred Candelaria Leonard Cohen Don Coles John Robert Colombo Jeni Couzyn **Gwladys Downes** Mike Doyle Louis Dudek R.G. Everson George Faludy Robert Finch R.A.D. Ford Gail Fox Judson France C.H. Gervais Roland Giquère John Glassco Jacques Godbout Phyllis Gotlieb Deborah Gore Elizabeth Gourlay Eldon Grier Ralph Gustafson

Anne Hébert

Patrick Lane Irving Layton Dorothy Livesay Malcolm Lowry Pat Lowther Gwendolyn MacEwen L.A. MacKay Jav Macpherson Eli Mandel John Marshall Tom Marshall David McFadden Floris Clark McLaren Rona Murray Emile Nelligan Jerry Newman John Newlove bp Nichol Alden Nowlan Howard O'Hagan Michael Ondaatie Fernand Ouelette Richard Outram P.K. Page

Christian Schenk Stephen Scobie F.R. Scott Joseph Sherman Robin Skelton A.J.M. Smith Kay Smith Francis Sparshott Rosemary Sullivan Robert Sward Colleen Thibaudeau Gael Turnbull W.D. Ulrich Jean Vanier Miriam Waddington Fred Wah Tom Wayman Phyllis Webb P.F. Widdows Anne Wilkinson George Woodcock J. Michael Yates lan Young Robert Zend

CANADIAN POETS FROM A TO Z

Edited and introduced by P.K. Page

CLC PR 9051 T6

c. 2



SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PR 9051 T6 c.2 To say the least To Say the Least

TO SAY THE LEAST

Canadian Poets from A to Z

Edited by P.K. Page

Press Porcépic Ltd. Toronto

Copyright © 1979 by P. K. Page

Information on permissions for individual poems may be found in the acknowledgements, which constitute an extension of copyright notice, at the back of this book.

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review.

This edition is published by Press Porcépic Limited, with the assistance of the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council.

Printed in Canada

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under titles:

To say the least

ISBN 0-88878-174-1

Canadian poetry. I. Page, Patricia K.,
 1916 PS8279.T6 C811'.008 C79-091156-6
 PR9195.25.T6

Jerry Lampert, writer and friend of writers, died too young in 1978.

Those of us who knew him have wanted to establish and contribute to a Gerald Lampert Memorial Fund to be administered by his widow, Arlene. At her wish the fund will finance an annual scholarship for a young writer.

Selections from the work of 102 poets appear in this book. All those contacted, and in some cases their estates or publishers, have generously waived their permission fees and all royalties have been assigned to the fund.

示 Song

What a wonderful way To come into the city All over the bridge

O ver the bridge.

Fred Wah

Tree in a Street

Why will not that tree adapt itself to our tempo? We have lopped off several branches, cut her skin to the white bone, run wires through her body and her loins, yet she will not change.

Ignorant of traffic, of dynamos and steel, as uncontemporary as bloomers and bustles she stands there like a green cliché.

Louis Dudek



CANADIAN POETS FROM A TO Z Edited and introduced by P.K. Page

In this unique anthology, P.K. Page puts together her favourite short poems from over 100 of Canada's finest poets. Each was chosen because it is a tour de force and because its brevity makes it easy to recall, providing an instantly memorable treasury.

Over 200 poems have been artfully arranged around linked themes, reacting against each other to create a special insight into the poetic process and a superb overview of the breadth and depth of Canadian poetry.