

***A Mind Spread Out on the Ground* Voted as  
the 2020 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™ Winner**

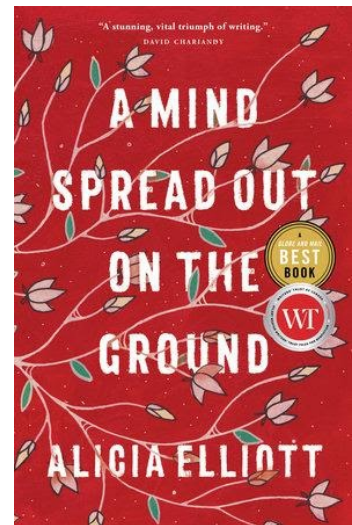
*Readers across Ontario vote for the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction*

**NEWS RELEASE**

**TORONTO, ON** (October 22, 2020) – After months of reading the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction for adults, readers from over 85 Ontario libraries have chosen Alicia Elliott’s *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground* (Doubleday Canada) as this year’s Evergreen Award winner.

[\*A Mind Spread Out on the Ground\*](#) is a “a bold and profound meditation on trauma, legacy, oppression and racism in North America from award-winning Haudenosaunee writer Alicia Elliott.”

“It is uplifting to know that *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground* was chosen as this year’s Evergreen winner,” says Erin Kernohan-Berning, chair, Evergreen Award Committee. “Alicia Elliott’s important work clearly connected with readers, and I hope that leads to continued learning, understanding, and positive change. I’m grateful to have Alicia Elliott added to the list of Evergreen Award winning authors.”



Readers participated in the Evergreen Award program through book clubs, their public libraries, and other community forums. The program is designed for adults and comprised of the best titles in Canadian fiction and non-fiction. It is one of ten programs that form the Forest of Reading, Canada’s largest recreational reading program of its kind.

A committee of library professionals chooses the titles nominated for the Evergreen Award that are announced every January. Votes are tallied for the award in the month of September and the award is announced during the kickoff event to Ontario Public Library Week.

**About *A Mind Spread Out on the Ground*:** In an urgent and visceral work that asks essential questions about the treatment of Native people in North America while drawing on intimate details of her own life and experience with intergenerational trauma, Alicia Elliott offers indispensable insight into the ongoing legacy of colonialism. She engages with such wide-ranging topics as race, parenthood, love, mental illness, poverty, sexual assault, gentrification, writing and representation, and in the process makes connections both large and small between the past and present, the personal and political—from overcoming a years-long battle with head lice to the way Native writers are treated within the Canadian literary industry; her unplanned teenage pregnancy to the history of dark matter and how it relates to racism in the court system; her childhood diet of Kraft Dinner to how systemic oppression is directly linked to health problems in Native communities. With deep

consideration and searing prose, Elliott provides a candid look at our past, an illuminating portrait of our present and a powerful tool for a better future.

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**About the Ontario Library Association:** The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events and programs include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program. Follow us on Twitter @ONLibraryAssoc and like us on Facebook at Ontario Library Association.

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