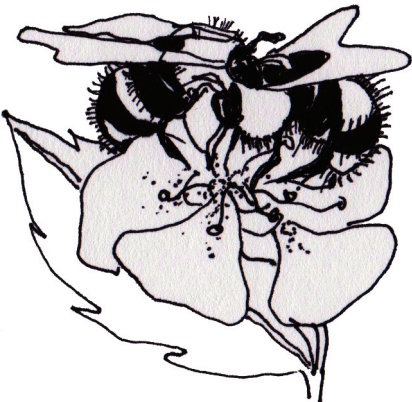




### **Inside the Garden: Bees**

*Wendy Morton*

Outside the garden, the newspaper lands  
on the driveway each morning , bringing terrible words.  
Inside the garden,  
we speak another language.  
We say esmeralda, brunia, arugula, cylindra;  
we say bordeaux, bolero, fiesta.  
We speak in flowers:  
we say alstromeria;  
we say sweet juliet, wildeve.  
We say tango.  
Bees hear us,  
dance.



**Wendy Morton** has written 6 books of poetry and a memoir, *Six Impossible Things Before Breakfast*. She is the founder of Canada's Random Acts of Poetry. She is the recipient of the 2010 Spirit Bear Award, The Golden Beret Award, and was made an Honorary Citizen of Victoria for her contribution to the arts in 2011. In 2012, she was awarded the Colleen Thibaudeau Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Poetry by the League of Canadian Poets. In 2016, she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal by the Governor General of Canada for her contributions which have brought honour to Canada. She has been working with school districts in British Columbia on The Elder Project since 2009. She works with First Nations students and trains them to write a poem. Then their Elders arrive and they turn their Elders' stories into poems. She has also worked with Inuit youth at Torngat Mountains National Park. Fourteen Elder Projects have been completed; the chapbooks can be viewed at: [www.theelderproject.com](http://www.theelderproject.com).



This poem is one of ten poems selected to appear in The Pollinator Poetry Post, a public art project of Border Free Bees. Over 130 original poems were submitted from contributors throughout Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The Post will be installed in various locations in Kelowna and Richmond, British Columbia, Canada from 2016-2017. The poets whose work is published are as follows: Yvonne Blomer, Meri Culp, morgan downie, Tami Haaland, Lisa Huffaker, Guillaume Loslier-Pinard, Christine Lowther, Rhona McAdam, Wendy Morton, Phoebe Reeves.

Border Free Bees is a long-term public art initiative headed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, in collaboration with numerous strategic partners. The initiative's mission is to raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, empower communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss, and transform under-utilized urban sites into aesthetically pleasing and scientifically viable pollinator pastures. Border Free Bees is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Judges for the contest were poets Nancy Holmes and Fionncara MacEoin, pollinator scientist Dr. Elizabeth Elle, and public art theorist and artist Dr. Cameron Cartiere. Border Free Bees thanks Fionncara MacEoin, S. Megan Hunter and Kaila Burke for building the Poetry Post. The poetry pages were designed by Fionncara MacEoin with illustrations by Rhythm Hunter.

[www.borderfreebees.com](http://www.borderfreebees.com)

