

2025 Stephen Leacock Medal Author Bio

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Leanne Toshiko Simpson, author of *Never Been Better*

LEANNE TOSHIKO SIMPSON is a mixed-race Yonsei writer who lives with bipolar disorder. She was named Scarborough's Emerging Writer in 2016 and was nominated for the Journey Prize in 2019. She co-founded a reflective writing program at Canada's largest mental health hospital and teaches at the University of Toronto. Since her hospitalization, Simpson has connected with students, cultural centres, companies and media outlets about the power of storytelling in shaping recovery. *Never Been Better* is her debut novel.