

Canadian Writer's Awards

A Firefly Guide

Hey friends!

Welcome to the world of Canadian literary contests.

In contrast to our "Grants for Canadian Writers" resource, there are a ton of awards for "emerging writers" here in Canada. With almost every literary magazine ("lit mag" for those in the know!) running open contests, there are many opportunities for getting your work out there. There are also some awards for those "established" writers.

We've separated this resource into two parts, Part One is for emerging writers, Part Two is for people who already have a foothold in the "established" world, maybe a book or two published. Excitingly, Part One is a LOT longer.

Our advice? Focus on Part One. Kill it out there. And meanwhile, find every possible way to build your presence as a writer outside of these contests. Send your work out to magazines and anthologies. Stand in bookstores looking for magazines that publish your kind of writing. Don't just blanket the publishing world with your work — find your niche and don't give it up. Check "Places for Writers," "Literestic," and "Duotrope" often and send pieces in whenever you see a call for submission that sounds like you.

Find places to read your work out loud and to share your writing online. Build your audience. Believe in yourself relentlessly, even when you secretly don't. That's how the people who are winning the "Part Two" awards got there.

But also? Don't lose the joy of writing. If you ask us, the deep joy and satisfaction of writing is the very best kind of award.

Have fun,
~ **Chris and the Firefly Team**

Where to Look Next...

Places for Writers

If you're looking for a quick hit, this is an *amazing* website, constantly updated with calls for submissions, contests and all things writerly. <http://www.placesforwriters.com/>

Literistic

Let someone else keep track of all the upcoming deadlines – Literistic is an email newsletter that links to upcoming deadlines. If you get their paid version you can tailor it to your interests. <https://www.literistic.com>

Duotrop

Once you've got really into the whole submission process maybe you'll want to check out this tool – a huge database of publications, a way of tracking what pieces you've sent where, and what's been published! (Subscription based) <https://www.literistic.com>

Part 1: For Most of Us – Awards for 'Emerging' Writers

Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story Literary Competition for Emerging Writers

Award: First Prize: \$600
Second Prize: \$400
Third Prize: \$200

Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates

Eligibility: International. Entry fee of \$25

More info: <http://alicemunrofestival.ca/>

The Antigonish Review Poetry and Fiction Prizes

Award: \$1,500 adults / \$500 youth

Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates

Eligibility: Open to Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents/Refugees, and those living in Canada.
Unpublished in book format, and who do not have a contract with a publisher.

More info: <http://www.antigonishreview.com>

The Antigonish Review Poetry and Fiction Prizes

Award: \$1,500 adults / \$500 youth

Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates

Eligibility: Open to Canadian Citizens, Permanent Residents/Refugees, and those living in Canada.
Unpublished in book format, and who do not have a contract with a publisher.

More info: <http://www.antigonishreview.com>

ARC Poem of the Year

Award: \$5,000 first prize
\$500 honourable mention prize

Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates

Eligibility: International. Entry fee \$35 (includes magazine subscription).

More info: <http://arcpoetry.ca/contests-page/#poty>

Aspiring Canadian Poets Contest

Award: \$1,000 worth of mentorship with contest judge

Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates

Eligibility: Legal Residents of Canada (excluding Quebec)

More info: <http://www.aspiringpoetscontest.org>

Canada Writes

CBC Short Story Prize Deadline: See online
CBC Creative Non Fiction Prize Deadline: See online
CBC Poetry Prize Deadline: See online

Award: \$6000 (per category) + a two week residency at The Banff Centre.
Eligibility: All submitted works must be original and unpublished works.
More info: <http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/literaryprizes/index.html>

Don't Talk To Me About Love Poetry Contest

Award: \$1,000
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: International. Open to poems exploring love in its myriad forms.
More info: <http://donttalktomeaboutlove.org/contest/>

Eden Mills Writers' Festival Competitions

Award: Fiction, Poetry and Creative Non-Fiction Categories. \$250 awarded in each category
Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Open to new, aspiring, and modestly published writers over the age of 16. Open to Canadian Residents.
More info: <http://edenmillswritersfestival.ca/contests/literary-contest-17/>

The Exile Writers: Fiction and Poetry Competitions

Award: \$10,000 for best story by an emerging writer, \$1,500 for best suite (poetry) by an emerging writer, \$500 for best poem
Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Entries must be previously unpublished
More info: <http://www.theexilewriters.com/poetry-and-fiction-competitions/>
NB: A category for established writers also exists – see below

The Fiddlehead Literary Competition

Award: Fiction and Poetry Categories. \$2,000 award in each category.
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Open to both Canadian and International Entries.
More info: <https://thefiddlehead.ca/contest>

Freefall Annual Prose & Poetry Contest

Award: First Prize (Poetry and Fiction) \$500
 Second Prize (Poetry and Fiction) \$250
 Third Prize (Poetry and Fiction) \$75

Honourable Mention (Poetry and Fiction) \$25
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: International. \$25 entry free.
More info: <http://freefallmagazine.ca/contest.html>

Geist Writing Contests (Various)

Award: \$500
Deadline: Rotating – multiple contests throughout the year
Eligibility: International. \$20 entry free.
More info: <http://www.geist.com/contests>

Glass Buffalo Writing Contests (Poetry and Fiction)

Award: \$500
Deadline: Summer – check online for current dates.
Eligibility: Residents of Canada. \$30 entry fee (includes year subscription)
More info: <https://www.glassbuffalo.com/contest/>

Jacob Ziller Prize for Short Fiction

Award: \$1,500 grand prize, \$600 runner up, \$400 second runner up
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates.
Eligibility: International. \$35 entry fee Canadian residents, \$40 US residents, \$45 international residents (includes year subscription)
More info: <http://prismmagazine.ca/contests/>

Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize for Canadian Youth

Award: \$400
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates.
Eligibility: Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents, Grades 7-12
More info: <http://poets.ca/stursberg/>

Leaside and Riddlefence Fiction & Poetry Contest

Award: \$3,000 in prizes to be split among winners and publication in Riddlefence
Deadline: Fall – check online for current dates.
Eligibility: International. \$25 entry fee Canadian residents, \$30 US residents, \$40 international residents (includes year subscription). Entries must be previously unpublished.
More info: <http://www.riddlefence.com/news/2017/6/30/2017-rf-leaside-group-suite-of-prizes-open-now>

Lina Chartrand Award

Award: \$500
Deadline: N/A
Eligibility: An emerging woman poet, published in Contemporary Verse 2 in

the previous year. Winners are selected by the editor.
More info: <http://www.contemporaryverse2.ca/en/lina-chartrand-award>

The Malahat Review – Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction and Poetry

Award: \$1,000
Deadline: Annually on May 1
Eligibility: International. Only open to writers who have yet to publish a book in their genre. Entry fees apply.
More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/contests/contests_info.html

Matrix Lit POP Award

Award: Travel, accommodation, and entry to the POP Montreal festival
Deadline: Summer – see website for current dates
Eligibility: Citizens and residents of Canada and the United States (excluding HI/ AK)
More info: <https://www.matrix-magazine.org/litpopawards>

Montreal International Poetry Prize

Award: \$20,000
Deadline: Spring (every two years) – see website for current dates
Eligibility: International. Entry fees apply.
More info: <http://montrealprize.com/>

The Nick Blatchford Occasional Verse Contest

Award: \$1,000
Deadline: September
Eligibility: Canadian Citizen or Resident. \$40 entry fee (includes 1-year digital magazine subscription).
More info: <https://tnq.ca/contests/>

The Peter Hinchliffe Short Fiction Award

Award: \$1,000
Deadline: September
Eligibility: Canadian Citizen or Resident. \$40 entry fee (includes 1-year digital magazine subscription). Only open to writers who have not previously published a first novel or short story collection.
More info: <https://tnq.ca/contests/>

Prairie Fire – Poetry, Fiction, and Creative Non-Fiction Awards

Award: First Prize: \$1,250
Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: International. \$32 entry fee (includes 1-year subscription).
More info: <http://www.prairiefire.ca/contests/>

Prism Pacific Spirit Poetry Prize

Award: \$1,500
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: International. \$35 fee for Canadian entries.
More info: <http://prismmagazine.ca/contact/>

Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry

Award: Trade paperback contract with Insomniac Press
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: North American Emerging Writers (2 or fewer books)
More info: <https://www.matrix-magazine.org/robert-kroetsch-award>

Prism Pacific Spirit Poetry Prize

Award: \$1,500
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: International. \$35 fee for Canadian entries.
More info: <http://prismmagazine.ca/contact/>

Room Magazine Contests (Various)

Award: First Prize: \$500 + publication in *Room*
Second Prize: \$250 + publication in *Room*
Honourable Mention: \$50 + publication on the *Room* website
Deadline: Throughout year, depending on contest – check website
Eligibility: International and open to women, trans*, two-spirited and genderqueer people. Entry fee of \$35 CAD for Canadian residents, and \$42 USD for non-Canadian residents (includes 1 year subscription to *Room*)
More info: <http://roommagazine.com/contests>

Surrey International Writing Conference Contest

Award: First Prize: \$1,000 + publication
Honourable Mention: \$150 + publication
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: Open to all writers. \$15 entry fee.
More info: <http://roommagazine.com/contests>

The Thomas Morton Prize in Literary Excellence (Fiction and Poetry)

Award: First Prize: \$1,000 + publication

Honourable Mention: \$200 + publication
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: Open to all writers. \$20 entry fee.
More info: <http://puritan-magazine.com/writing-contest/>

Thunderbird Stories Indigenous Writing Contest

Award: \$2,000
Deadline: Winter – check website for current dates
Eligibility: Canadian Writers of Indigenous Ancestry. Stories must contain Indigenous content.
More info: <http://www.thunderbirdstories.com>

Toronto Star Short Story Contest

Award: \$5,000 and tuition at the Humber School for Writers
Deadline: Winter – check website for current dates
Eligibility: Ontario residents
More info: <http://www.thestar.com/shortstory>

Unhanged Arthur Ellis Award for Best Unpublished First Crime Novel

Award: \$500
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: Canadian Citizens and permanent residents who have never had a novel of any kind published commercially. Entry fee \$25.
More info: <http://www.crimewriterscanada.com/awards/unhanged-arthur-award>

Vallum Chapbook Award

Award: \$125 + publication
Deadline: Winter – check website for current dates
Eligibility: International. Entry fee \$25.
More info: <http://www.vallummag.com/chapbookrules.html>

Vancouver Writer's Festival Short Story and Poetry Award

Award: First Prize: \$500 cash prize, publication in SubTerrain Magazine and editorial evaluation (value \$500)
Second Prize: \$350 + publication on www.writersfest.bc.ca
Deadline: Fall – check website for current dates
Eligibility: International. Entry fee \$29.
More info: <http://writersfest.bc.ca/programs/writing-contests/>

Writer's Trust RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for emerging writers

Award: \$5000 prize, \$1000 finalists
Deadline: March – check online for current dates

Eligibility: *Candidates must be:*
Under the age of 35 as of the deadline
Unpublished in book form and without a book contract
Previously published in an independently edited literary magazine,
journal, or anthology

More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/RBC-Bronwen-Wallace-Award-for-Emerging-Writers.aspx>

Writer's Trust Award: Dayne Ogilvie prize for LGBT emerging writers

Award: \$4000
Deadline: March – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Writers who identify themselves as gay or lesbian
More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Dayne-Ogilvie-Grant.aspx>

Writer's Union of Canada Short Prose Competition for Emerging Writers

Award: \$2,500
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Canadian Citizens or permanent residents who are unpublished or
only have one book published. Entry fee \$29.
More info: <https://www.writersunion.ca/short-prose-competition>

Young Buck Poetry Prize

Award: \$1,000 and publication in Contemporary Verse 2
Deadline: Winter – check online for current dates
Eligibility: Writers under the age of 35
More info: <http://www.contemporaryverse2.ca/en/contests/young-buck-poetry-prize>

Part 2: For down the road – Awards for “established” writers

The Exile Writers: Fiction and Poetry Competitions

Award: \$5,000 for best story, \$1,000 for best suite (poetry) by an emerging writer, \$500 for best poem

Deadline: Spring – check online for current dates

Eligibility: Entries must be previously unpublished

More info: <http://www.theexilewriters.com/poetry-and-fiction-competitions/>

NB: A category for emerging writers also exists – see above

The Malahat Review – Open Season Award in Poetry, Fiction, and Creative Non-fiction

Award: \$4,500

Deadline: Annually on November 1

Eligibility: International. Entries must be previously unpublished. Entry fees apply.

More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/contests/open_season/info.html

The Malahat Review – Novella Prize

Award: \$1,500

Deadline: Annually on February 1

Eligibility: International. Entries must be previously unpublished. Entry fees apply.

More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/contests/novella_contest/info.html

Scotia Bank Giller Prize

Genre: Full-length novel or collection of short stories

Deadline: August – check online for current dates

Award: \$100,000 (prize), \$10,000 (finalists)

More info: <http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca/about/submissions/>

Trillium Book Award

Genre: Fiction, non-fiction, drama, children’s books and poetry

Deadline: Check online for current dates

Award: \$20,000

More info: http://www.omdc.on.ca/book/trillium_book_award.htm

Rogers Writers' Trust Awards

Genre: Novel or short-story collection

Deadline: Check online for current dates
Award: \$25,000 (Prize), \$2,500 (Finalists)
More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Rogers-Writers--Trust-Fiction-Prize/PrizeHistoryandGuidelines/Prize-Guidelines.aspx>

Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing

Genre: Literary political non-fiction
Deadline: Check online for current dates
Award: \$25,000 (Prize), \$2,500 (Finalists)
More info: [http://www.writerstrust.com/awards/shaughnessy---cohen---prize---for--- political---writing.aspx](http://www.writerstrust.com/awards/shaughnessy---cohen---prize---for---political---writing.aspx)

Montreal International Poetry Prize

Genre: Poetry
Deadline: March, May – check online for current dates
Award: \$20,000
More info: <http://montrealprize.com/>

Writers' Trust Hilary Weston Prize

Genre: Nonfiction, which includes personal or journalistic essays, history, biography, memoirs and commentary
Deadline: Check online for current dates
Award: \$60,000 (Prize), \$5,000 (Finalists)
More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Hilary-Weston-Writers-Trust-Prize/Prize-Guidelines.aspx>

British Columbia's National Book Award

Genre: Non-fiction

Award: \$40,000

More info: <http://www.bcachievement.com/nonfiction/quick.php>

The Donner Prize

Genre: Public policy writing and research

Deadline: November – check online for current dates

Award: \$50,000 (Prize), \$7,500 (Shortlisted titles)

More info: <http://www.donnerbookprize.com/>

Governor General's Literary Awards

Genre: Fiction, Literary Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, Children's Literature

Award: Up to \$25,000 (seven awards)

More info: <http://canadacouncil.ca/council/prizes/find---a---prize/prizes/governor---generals---literary---awards>

Writers' Trust Engel/Findley Award

Genre: Fiction

Deadline: Check online

Award: \$25,000

More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Writers--Trust-Notable-Author-Award.aspx>

TD Canadian Children's Literature Award

Genre: Children's literature

Award: \$30,000

More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/td-canadian-childrens-literature-award/>

The Charles Taylor Prize

Genre: Literary non-fiction

Award: \$25,000 (Prize), \$2,000 (Finalists)

More info: <http://www.thecharlestaylorprize.ca/submissions.asp>

Writers' Trust Matt Cohen Award

Genre: Poetry or prose, in English or French.

Deadline: Check online for current dates

Award: \$20,000

More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Matt-Cohen-Award--In-Celebration-of-a-Writing-Life.aspx>

Amy Mather's Teen Book Award

Genre: Original work in English aimed at readers ages 13-18.
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$5,000
More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/amy-mathers-teen-book-award/>

Geoffrey Bilson Award for Historical Fiction for Young People

Genre: Original historical fiction in English aimed at readers up to 18 years of age.
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$5,000
More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/geoffrey-bilson-award-for-historical-fiction-for-young-people/>

John Spray Mystery Award

Genre: Original mystery writing in English aimed at readers up to 18 years of age.
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$5,000
More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/john-spray-mystery-award/>

Marilyn Baillie Picture Book Award

Genre: Original picture books for young readers ages 3-8.
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$20,000
More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/marilyn-baillie-picture-book-award/>

Monica Hughes Award for Science Fiction and Fantasy

Genre: Original fiction in the sci-fi/fantasy genre for young readers ages 8-18
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$5,000
More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/monica-hughes-award-for-science-fiction-and-fantasy/>

Norma Fleck Award for Canadian Children's Non-Fiction

Genre: Original fiction in the sci-fi/fantasy genre for young readers up to 18 years of age
Deadline: Check online for current dates.
Award: \$10,000

More info: <http://bookcentre.ca/programs/awards/norma-fleck-award-for-canadian-childrens-non-fiction/>

Writers' Trust Latner Poetry Prize

Genre: Poetry

Deadline: Check online

Award: \$25,000

More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Latner-Writers--Trust-Poetry-Prize/Prize-Guidelines.aspx>

Writers' Trust Vicky Metcalf Award for Literature for Young People

Genre: Children's Lit

Deadline: Check online

Award: \$20,000

More info: <http://www.writerstrust.com/Awards/Vicky-Metcalf-Award-for-Children-s-Literature/Prize-Guidelines.aspx>

Writer's Union Danuta Gleed Literary Award

Genre: Short fiction

Deadline: Check online
for current
dates

Award: \$10,000

More info: <http://www.writersunion.ca/danuta-gleed>