

The Get Publishing story

Begun in 2002 as an initiative of then-Grant MacEwan Community College, Get Publishing became well respected for providing conferences and workshops where writers could connect intimately with mentors, learn about the writing life and discover publishing opportunities. The college reached out to seasoned professionals to help shape those conferences; that relationship spawned the Get Publishing Communications Society, which was entrusted with continuing the conferences. The society included representatives from several local writing groups; those organizations and others also provided financial support to help keep registration fees low.

In recent years, Get Publishing teamed up with the WGA and the Editors' Association of Canada to co-host Words in 3D conferences that offered insights about writing, editing and publishing. Get Publishing brought significant assets to the table, including volunteer energy and a strong bursary program that added to the rich mix of conference attendees.

Over time, Get Publishing played an important role in accelerating numerous writing careers. But its all-volunteer board experienced the same burnout that has plagued other grassroots organizations recently. Running the society was eating up energy that could better be devoted to the mission of helping writers get published. Meanwhile, opportunities for writers to network and learn were becoming more abundant in the region. Having enjoyed a strong working relationship with the WGA in the past, the society voted to close its virtual doors and entrust its brand to the WGA. We are pleased that the phrase "Get Publishing" will continue to reach wordsmiths who want to learn more about ways to make their work saleable—and to get published.