



WRITERS'
GUILD
of ALBERTA

2027 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS GUIDELINES

Deadline: December 1, 2026



ALBERTA LITERARY COMPETITIONS 2027



ABOUT THE 2027 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS	<u>PAGE 02</u>
AWARDS SUBMISSION CHECKLIST	<u>PAGE 03</u>
BOOK PRIZES: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES	<u>PAGE 04</u>
Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction	<u>PAGE 06</u>
R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature	<u>PAGE 07</u>
Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction	<u>PAGE 08</u>
Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry	<u>PAGE 09</u>
Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama	<u>PAGE 10</u>
Memoir Award	<u>PAGE 12</u>
SHORT WORKS: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES	<u>PAGE 13</u>
Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story	<u>PAGE 15</u>
James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction	<u>PAGE 16</u>
Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award	<u>PAGE 17</u>
Indigenous Long-form Nonfiction Award	<u>PAGE 18</u>
THE ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE	<u>PAGE 19</u>
THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE	<u>PAGE 22</u>
THE GOLDEN PEN AWARD	<u>PAGE 24</u>
AWARD FUNDERS, SPONSORS, SUPPORTERS	<u>PAGE 25</u>

ABOUT THE ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS

The Alberta Literary Awards were created by the Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA) in 1982 to recognize excellence in writing by Alberta authors. Entries are judged by independent juries recruited by the WGA. Submissions are evaluated on originality, creativity, and quality of writing, as well as an appropriate fit within a category.

Please refer to the WGA website (writersguild.ca) for a history of the awards and more information about the authors for whom our awards are named. The submission deadline is **December 1, 2026**. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in the spring of 2027.

Read the Submission Guidelines & Rules and Submission Procedures carefully before submitting to the Alberta Literary Awards. For short pieces (essays, short fiction, and short nonfiction) and for the Edmonton and Calgary city book prizes there are additional rules and guidelines.

If an award receives less than eight entries, entries will be held for next year, or entries will be reassigned to other categories at staff discretion.

Submissions that fail to fulfill the Guidelines and Rules or that do not follow the proper Submission Procedures may be disqualified or withdrawn, and entry fees will not be refunded if a submission is disqualified as a result of not meeting the requirements.

Prizes of **\$2000** will be awarded in the following book categories:

- Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction
- R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature (picture book)
- Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction
- Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry
- Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama
- Memoir Award

Prizes of **\$1000** will be awarded in the following short works categories:

- Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award
- Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story
- James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction
- Indigenous Long-form Nonfiction Award



AWARDS SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

Please refer to the following Awards Submission Checklist prior to submitting to the awards. Submissions that fail to fulfill the Guidelines and Rules or that do not follow the proper Submission Procedures may be disqualified or withdrawn, and entry fees will not be refunded if a submission is disqualified as a result of not meeting the requirements.

If you have questions about the awards guidelines or submission process, contact us at mail@writersguild.ca.

Checklist:

- ☐ I am paying online by credit card **OR** sending a cheque with my books
- ☐ I have read the guidelines fully and carefully
- ☐ **Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award:** I am sending five copies of my book or play (if submitting published play)
- ☐ **R. Ross Annett Award:** My children's picture book was published in either 2025 or 2026
- ☐ I am filling out the submission form by **December 1, 2026**
- ☐ I understand that materials will not be returned to me after submitting
- ☐ I understand that the submission fee is non-refundable
- ☐ I certify that no part of the content of this submission was created by AI.
- ☐ I understand that French language submissions for the Georges Bugnet Award, Stephan G. Stephansson Award, Memoir Award, and short works awards will be accepted for submission into the **2028 Alberta Literary Awards**
- ☐ I understand that submissions will be accepted in **French and English** this year for the Wilfrid Eggleston Award, Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award, and Edmonton and Calgary book prizes
- ☐ I understand books may be mailed to the WGA Head Office (Edmonton) or dropped off in person (Edmonton) until **December 1, 2026**



BOOK PRIZES: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES

Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- The deadline for submissions to the 2027 awards is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors of all entries in the Alberta Literary Awards must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published or produced anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026** (except in the children's literature and short story collection categories).
- Works not eligible for the awards are: unpublished manuscripts (except in the drama category), multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length (except in the drama and in the children's literature categories), e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- If an award receives less than eight entries, entries will be held for next year, or entries will be reassigned to other categories at staff discretion.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- Works that utilized AI tools such as ChatGPT to produce written content and/or illustrations, including cover art, are ineligible. If a submission is found to be created by AI in whole or part, either before, during, or after the competition, the submission will be disqualified with no refund of the entry fee.
- Short story, essay, or poetry collections may contain work that has been previously published as long as the collection in book form is a first edition.
- Unpublished plays (those scheduled for production or staged at a live reading in 2026) may be sent either as printed copies or electronic upload.
- French language entries will be accepted for competition into the **2028 Alberta Literary Awards** for Georges Bugnet, Stephan G. Stephansson, the Memoir Award, the Short Story Collection Award, and the short works awards.



BOOK PRIZES: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES, CON'T

Submission Procedures:

- Submissions must submit using the entry forms at writersguild.ca/awards-entry.
- All entries and associated entry fees and materials (see below) must be submitted to the Writers' Guild of Alberta no later than **December 1, 2026**. (Please note: if your book is also entered in another award category we will need five copies per category).
- Materials sent by mail or courier must be postmarked no later than December 1 in order to be accepted. **An exception will be made for books published in December only if the WGA is notified of the late submission, in writing, in advance of the deadline.**
- Submissions must include a completed online form and **five** copies of each book or play for **each category entered**.
- Submitted materials will not be returned.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a **\$40 fee per entry per category (\$30 for entry to short works prizes) paid by credit card or cheque**. Please make cheques payable to the Writers' Guild of Alberta.
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Submissions for the Edmonton and Calgary book prizes will be accepted in French and English for the 2027 Alberta Literary Awards.
- See our FAQ page at writersguild.ca/awards-faq.

Send books, plays, cheques (if applicable) to:

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (Main Floor)
Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



GEORGES BUGNET AWARD FOR FICTION

Criteria:

This prize is awarded for a novel or collection of short fiction by an Alberta author published in 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and leather-bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works not eligible for this award are: unpublished manuscripts, multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length, e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Books entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- Submissions for this category will be accepted in both English and French for the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



R. ROSS ANNETT AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Criteria:

The children's literature category alternates yearly between picture and chapter books. The 2027 award will be presented to the Alberta author of a children's picture book (fiction or nonfiction) published in 2025 or 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and leather-bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1, 2025** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works not eligible for this award are: unpublished manuscripts, multi-author anthologies, e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Books entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- Submissions for this category will be accepted in both English and French for the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



WILFRID EGGLESTON AWARD FOR NONFICTION

Criteria:

This prize is awarded for a nonfiction book by an Alberta author published in 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and leather-bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works not eligible for this award are: unpublished manuscripts, multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length, e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Books entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- French language entries will be accepted for competition into the 2027 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON AWARD FOR POETRY

Criteria:

This prize is awarded for a collection of poetry by an Alberta author published in 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and leather-bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works not eligible for this award are: unpublished manuscripts, multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length, e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Books entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- Submissions for this category will be accepted in both English and French for the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



GWEN PHARIS RINGWOOD AWARD FOR DRAMA

Criteria:

- Awarded to a play written by an Alberta author published, produced or staged at a live reading in 2026.
- Plays submitted to the drama category may be one-act or full-length.
- Plays included in anthologies may be entered, as long as a separate entry form is filled out, and a separate entry fee is paid, for each play that the publisher or author wishes to submit to the award.
- Unpublished plays must have been scheduled for their premiere production with a minimum run of three consecutive performances or received a live reading between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**. Submissions must include proof of performance: ticket stubs, programs, confirmation email, etc.
- Unpublished manuscripts must be clean copy, typewritten or word-processed, in standard theatre-script format and securely bound at the left margin.
- An unpublished play may not be re-entered if it receives publication in a later year.
- Unpublished plays (those scheduled for production or staged at a live reading in 2026) may be sent either as printed copies or electronic upload.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author



GWEN PHARIS RINGWOOD AWARD FOR DRAMA, CON'T

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published, produced or staged anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Plays entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- Submissions for this category will be accepted in both English and French for the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



MEMOIR AWARD

Criteria:

This prize is awarded for a nonfiction memoir by an Alberta author published in 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$2000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate and leather-bound copy of the winning book will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors must have been a resident of Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- All entries must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works not eligible for this award are: unpublished manuscripts, multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length, e-books, books without traditional binding, and reprints of previously published books.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a book in a category other than entered if deemed appropriate. The organization or individual entering the book will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- Books entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions with a copyright page, and have an ISBN.
- French language entries for this category will be accepted for competition into the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards

Submissions:

See details pp. 4-5.



SHORT WORKS: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA) also strives to recognize excellence in Alberta writing by awarding three prizes to authors of short pieces. Entries are judged by an independent jury recruited by the WGA. Submissions are evaluated on originality, creativity, and quality of writing, as well as an appropriate fit within a category.

Please refer to the WGA website (writersguild.ca) for a history of the awards and information on the authors for whom our awards are named. The submission deadline is **December 1, 2026**. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in the spring of 2025.

Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- The deadline for submissions to the 2027 awards is **December 1, 2026**.
- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a piece in a category other than that entered if deemed appropriate. The individual or organization entering the piece will be notified of such changes.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- French language entries for the short works awards will be accepted for competition into the **2028 Alberta Literary Awards**.



SHORT WORKS: GUIDELINES, RULES & PROCEDURES, CON'T

Submission Procedures:

- Submit entry at writersguild.ca/awards-entry
- All entries and associated entry fees must be submitted to the Writers' Guild of Alberta no later than **December 1, 2026**. Entries must be submitted in PDF or Word format. **An exception will be made for short stories or short nonfiction published in December only if the WGA is notified of the late submission, in writing, in advance of the deadline.**
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Online submission must be in standard manuscript format (double-spaced, page numbers indicated). The title or title abbreviation and word count of the piece should appear on each page of the manuscript.
- Submissions must be completed online and be accompanied by a **\$30 fee per entry per category, payable by credit card or cheque**. Please make cheques payable to the Writers' Guild of Alberta.
- Ineligible submissions will not be returned.
- See our FAQ page at writersguild.ca/awards-faq.

Send cheques (if applicable) to:

The Writers' Guild of Alberta (Main Floor)
Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



HOWARD O'HAGAN AWARD FOR SHORT STORY

Criteria:

This prize is awarded to an outstanding single short story by an Alberta author published in 2025.

Award:

- Prize money of \$1000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Entries must have been published in a print or electronic anthology, magazine, book, or literary journal anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Unpublished short stories and reprints of short stories published before 2025 are not eligible.
- Entries must be no longer than 8,000 words.
- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a piece in a category other than that entered if deemed appropriate. The individual or organization entering the piece will be notified of such changes.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- French language entries for this category will be accepted for competition into the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 14-15.



JAMES H. GRAY AWARD FOR SHORT NONFICTION

Criteria:

This prize is awarded to an outstanding literary short nonfiction piece by an Alberta author on any topic published in 2026.

Award:

- Prize money of \$1000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- Entries must have been first published in a print or electronic newspaper, blog, magazine, anthology or journal anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Unpublished pieces and reprints of pieces published before 2026 are not eligible.
- Entries must be no longer than 5,000 words.
- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a piece in a category other than that entered if deemed appropriate. The individual or organization entering the piece will be notified of such changes.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- French language entries for this category will be accepted for competition into the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 14-15.



JON WHYTE MEMORIAL ESSAY AWARD

Criteria:

This prize is awarded to to an outstanding unpublished essay by an Alberta author.

Award:

- Prize money of \$1000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is **December 1, 2026**.
- The award is open to unpublished pieces only.
- Entries must be no longer than 3,000 words.
- The award employs a blind judging process. To facilitate this process, the author's name and identifying information (acknowledgements, email address, reference to previously published works, etc.) must not appear anywhere in the manuscript.
- Submissions must be original, previously unpublished in print or online, including personal blogs, and remain unpublished until the end of **April 2027**.
- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a piece in a category other than that entered if deemed appropriate. The individual or organization entering the piece will be notified of such changes.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- French language entries for this category will be accepted for competition into the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 14-15.



INDIGENOUS LONG-FORM NONFICTION AWARD

Criteria:

This prize is awarded for a long-form journalism or nonfiction piece published in 2026 by a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit author residing in Alberta.

Award:

- Prize money of \$1000 will be given to the author
- Only one award will be given in this category
- A commemorative certificate will be given to the author

Eligibility:

- The deadline for submissions is December 1, 2026.
- Entries must have been first published in a print or electronic newspaper, blog, magazine, anthology or journal anywhere in the world between January 1 and December 31, 2026.
- Unpublished pieces and reprints of pieces published before 2026 are not eligible.
- Entries must be no longer than 8,000 words.
- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2026.
- Authors of entries to the Indigenous Long-form Nonfiction Award must be First Nations, Métis, or Inuit. Entrants must identify their nations or federally-recognized First Nations, Métis, or Inuit affiliation, and, if possible, provide supporting documentation. Authors may submit without supporting documentation, but may be asked to provide documentation at a later date if determined necessary by the jury.
- The WGA reserves the right to place a piece in a category other than that entered if deemed appropriate. The individual or organization entering the piece will be notified of such changes.
- The WGA reserves the right not to present an award in any category if there are not a significant number of entries received.
- French language entries for this category will be accepted for competition into the 2028 Alberta Literary Awards.

Submissions:

See details pp. 14-15.



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
780.422.8174, 1.800.665.5354 (TOLL FREE) OR MAIL@WRITERSGUILD.CA

ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE

The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize was established by the City Council in 1995 and is administered by the Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA). The prize was renamed in 2011 after the late Robert Kroetsch, who was best known for his Governor General's Award-winning novel, *The Studhorse Man*. Entries are judged by an independent jury recruited by the WGA. The winning author will receive a cash prize. The award is sponsored by Audreys Books and the Edmonton Arts Council. The winner will be announced and the prize awarded in the spring of 2027.

The Edmonton Arts Prizes celebrate artists from a range of art forms and practices, recognizing their work, and investing in their continued experimentation and creation. The prize program is coordinated by the Edmonton Arts Council, in collaboration with the City of Edmonton and our community partners, to enhance Edmonton's reputation as a hub for extraordinary creation in the arts.

Shared Eligibility and Assessment Criteria for the Edmonton Arts Prizes:

- Eligible artists/recipients must be a resident of the greater Edmonton region / amiskwaciy-waskâhikan. The greater Edmonton region is defined as the City of Edmonton, the Counties of Sturgeon, Parkland, Leduc and Strathcona, and the communities of Enoch Cree Nation, Alexander First Nation, Paul First Nation, and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation.
- By the submission deadline, nominated artists must have a current profile (with all required fields completed) with the Edmonton Arts Council: eac.smartsimple.ca. Contact support@edmontonarts.ca or 780-424-2787 if you have questions or need help to create a profile.
- Prize recommendations in each discipline will be based on an evaluation of the artistic merits of a specific work, or collection of work, by a knowledgeable group of peer assessors.

ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE, CON'T

- Assessors will be charged with basing their decisions on the artwork's merits, including originality, creativity, relevance, and technical excellence. In all cases the prizes will attempt to recognize the highest standards of artistic achievement, regardless of the artist's particular mode of expression, or style within the genre.

In the case of equivalent merits, the assessors will be encouraged to consider the work in the context of the (in order):

- Artist's career;
- Relevant tradition(s), and arts practice in Canada;
- Representation of the demographic diversity of Edmonton's population;
- Representation of the diversity of artistic expression or styles within the discipline.

Prizes will be awarded in the spring of 2027.

The primary prize recipient in each category will be awarded **\$15,000**, and two secondary prizes of **\$5,000** will be awarded to the runners up.

City of Edmonton Book Prize Guidelines & Rules:

- The Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize recognizes Edmonton authors of books published in English or French and released in the 12 months (calendar year) prior to the deadline.
- Eligible works must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 31, 2026**.
- Works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or drama written for adults or children are eligible.
- The following types of works are not eligible: multi-author anthologies, books that are not in English or French, and unpublished pieces or manuscripts.
- If, in the opinion of the judges, no work in this competition merits an award, no award will be given. In all cases, the judges' decision is final.



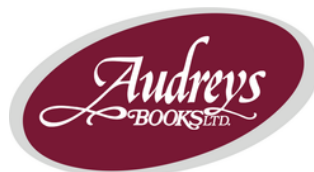
ROBERT KROETSCH CITY OF EDMONTON BOOK PRIZE, CON'T

Submission Procedures:

- Submit entry form at writersguild.ca/awards-entry no later than **December 1, 2026**.
- After you have submitted the electronic entry form, please mail or drop off books at the WGA office.
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Ineligible materials will not be returned.
- Submissions must include a completed online entry form and five copies of the book entered as indicated on the entry form.
- Five copies of each book entered must be sent to the Writers' Guild of Alberta, postmarked no later than **December 1, 2026**.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a **\$40 fee per entry, payable by cheque or credit card**. Please make cheques payable to the Writers' Guild of Alberta.
- See our FAQ page at writersguild.ca/awards-faq.

Send books & cheques (if applicable) to:

The Writers' Guild of Alberta
Main Floor, Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



*Presented in Partnership with the Edmonton
Arts Council and Audreys Books*

THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE

The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize is awarded in honour of acclaimed Calgary writer W.O. Mitchell and recognizes literary achievement by Calgary authors. Established in 1996, the Book Prize is coordinated through a partnership between The City of Calgary and the Writers' Guild of Alberta. Entries are judged by an independent jury recruited by the Writers' Guild of Alberta. The winning author will receive a \$5,000 cash prize.

The submission deadline is **December 1, 2026**. Authors who have been shortlisted will have an opportunity to deliver a reading in mid-April 2027. The prize will be announced with The Calgary Awards presentation in June 2027.

Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- Eligible books must have been published anywhere in the world between **January 1** and **December 1, 2026**.
- The author must be a Calgary resident for a minimum of two years, as of December 1, 2026.
- The following types of writing are eligible: fiction, poetry, nonfiction, children's literature, or drama.
- Self-published books are eligible for this award as long as they have an ISBN.
- The following types of works are not eligible: multi-author anthologies, cookbooks, guidebooks, textbooks, technical manuals, bibliographies or works of a purely academic or scholarly nature. Books of fewer than 48 pages (except children's literature), books that are not in English or French, multi-authored books (if any one of the authors is not a Calgarian), reprints or new editions of previously published books are also not eligible.
- If, in the opinion of the judges, no work in this competition merits an award, no award will be given.



THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE, CON'T

Submission Procedures:

- Entry forms must be submitted online at writersguild.ca/awards-entry no later than **December 1, 2026**. Printed forms may be requested if entrant is unable to access the online form.
- A \$40 fee per title must accompany submissions. Credit card payment is available through the online form, or cheques payable to the Writers' Guild of Alberta are accepted.
- Five copies of each book entered must be sent to the Writers' Guild of Alberta Head Office in Edmonton (address is below), postmarked no later than **December 1, 2026**.
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Ineligible material will not be returned.

Send books & cheques (if applicable) to:

The Writers' Guild of Alberta
Main Floor, Percy Page Centre
11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6



Presented in Partnership with The City of Calgary



FOR INFORMATION CONTACT THE WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
780.422.8174, 1.800.665.5354 (TOLL FREE) OR MAIL@WRITERSGUILD.CA

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE GOLDEN PEN AWARD

The Writers' Guild of Alberta Golden Pen Award is presented to acknowledge the lifetime achievements of outstanding Alberta writers. Past recipients are listed on the WGA's website at: writersguild.ca/wga-golden-pen-award-past-recipients.

We cordially invite WGA members to submit nominations for the 2026 Golden Pen Award. Nominations for the 2027 award will be accepted until **December 1, 2026**.

Nomination and Selection Process:

- Nominations can come from WGA members and the WGA Board of Directors.
- To nominate someone for the Golden Pen Award, please submit a letter that includes the following (Note: Letters should be between one and three pages long):
 1. Name of nominee
 2. List of nominee's notable publications
 3. Description of significant contributions the nominee has made to the Alberta writing landscape
 4. Name and contact information for nominator
- The award will be granted only when warranted, and not necessarily on an annual basis.
- Nominations are reviewed by the WGA Board of Directors.

Eligibility Criteria:

Nominees for the Golden Pen Award must:

- Be a writer living in Alberta or a writer living elsewhere who has spent a significant portion of their writing life in Alberta;
- Have produced a distinguished body of work over a longstanding career;
- Have made a major contribution to the Alberta writing landscape.

Send nominations to:

Nominations can be submitted online at:

writersguild.ca/golden-pen-nomination-form



AWARD FUNDERS, SPONSORS, & SUPPORTERS

The Writers' Guild of Alberta would like to thank the donors and sponsors of the 2026 Alberta Literary Awards:

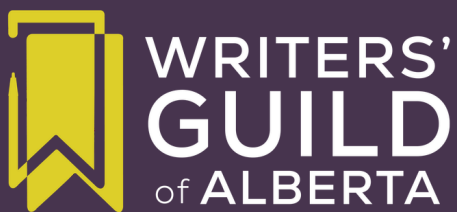
Sponsors and Supporters:

- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society (Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story)
- Audreys Books (Robert Kroetsch City of Edmonton Book Prize)
- The Benediktson Family (Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry)
- Vivian Hansen, Arnold Hansen, Toby Roch (Memoir Award)
- The Haynes Family - *In Memory of Dr. Sterling Haynes* (Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award)
- Marilyn and Bob Stallworthy (James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction)
- Under the Arch Youth Foundation at the Calgary Foundation (R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature)
- Aritha van Herk (Golden Pen Award)
- Scott Saxberg (Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction)
- University of Calgary's Distinguished Writers Program (Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction)

Funders:

- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- Government of Alberta
- Calgary Arts Development
- The City of Calgary
- Edmonton Arts Council
- City of Edmonton
- Canada Council for the Arts
- Government of Canada





WRITERS' GUILD OF ALBERTA
PERCY PAGE CENTRE
11759 GROAT ROAD
EDMONTON, AB
T5M 3K6

(780) 422-8174

Toll-free: 1-800-665-5354

mail@writersguild.ca
writersguild.ca



@WritersGuildAB



@writersguildab



WritersGuildofAlberta



Writers' Guild
of Alberta

WE GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
SUPPORT OF:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



edmonton
arts
council