

Trillium Book Award

Call for Submissions and Guidelines

November 7, 2025: final deadline for titles published between January and October 2025

January 30, 2026: final deadline for books published in November and December 2025



Publishers are encouraged to submit books as soon as possible.

- one (1) eBook of each title in EPUB or PDF format must be uploaded to Ontario Creates' online submission form
- two (2) paper copies of each title must be submitted along with a hard copy completed submission form

See page 4 for details.

Book publishers are invited to submit titles for consideration for the annual Trillium Book Award. The Trillium Book Award was established by the Ontario Government in 1987 to “recognize excellence, support marketing and to foster increased public awareness of the quality and diversity of Ontario writers and writing.”

The prize for the Trillium Book Award, awarded in both English and French, is \$20,000 for the winning recipients and \$2,500 to their publisher. The Trillium Book Award for Poetry, which is awarded annually in English language and in French language every two years, provides a \$10,000 prize to the winning poets and \$2,000 to their publisher. The Trillium Book Award for Children's Literature in French language only is awarded in alternate years to the Trillium Book Award for Poetry in French language, and provides a prize of \$10,000 to the winning author and \$2,000 to the publisher. The publishers of all finalists receive a grant for promotion of their books prior to the announcement of the winners.

Publishers of French language titles should note that the Trillium Book Award for Poetry in French language will be awarded for eligible titles published in the calendar years of 2024 and 2025. The Trillium Book Award for Children's Literature in French language will not be given out this year, but will be awarded for the Trillium Award for eligible titles published in 2025 and 2026 (to be announced subsequently in Spring 2027).

Three jury members per language judge the submissions, and select the shortlists and winning titles. This independent jury is composed of writers and other members of the literary community.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility requirements for all books being submitted for these awards are that:

- Publishers should ensure submissions meet the award's primary criterion of "literary excellence". Books such as self-help, guides, cookbooks, coffee-table books, and others with minimal critical content are unlikely to be considered, as they typically fall outside the scope of the award's focus.
- Books must be written by an Ontario writer who has lived in Ontario for at least three out of the past five years. In the case of a co-authored title, both authors must meet this rule and would split the prize money if selected as the winner. **Ghostwritten books are not eligible for submission.**
- Only book publishers may submit titles for consideration. **Self-published titles are not eligible for submission.**
- Submitted titles must have an ISBN and must have a minimum of 48 bound pages, except in the case of children's books which must have a minimum of 24 pages.
- Books published only in e-book format are eligible for submission. If an e-Book is published simultaneously as a traditionally printed book during the eligibility year, the printed book is eligible and should be submitted. For books published only as e-Books, the electronic form is eligible, but the publisher must provide two copies, printed and bound.

- Collections and/or selections may be submitted provided that there is a substantive amount of material that has not previously been published in book format.
- Anthologies, new editions, re-issues, re-issues, reprints and translations are not eligible for submission.

Specifically for titles being submitted for the **Trillium Book Award** it should be noted that:

- Titles must have been published for the first time in the 2025 calendar year, be distributed in Canada, and still be in print and available for sale in the spring of 2026.
- Books of all genre types may be submitted: fiction, non-fiction, drama and children's books are all eligible. (Note: French-language publishers may prefer to submit children's books for the Trillium Book Award for Children's Literature in French language).
- There is no restriction regarding the previous number of works an author has written.

Specifically for the **Trillium Book Award for Poetry** it should be noted that:

- Only a first, second or third work of poetry by the poet is eligible for submission as this award was created to honour achievement by new, emerging poets. However, works by more established poets may be submitted for the traditional Trillium Book Award.
- Titles submitted for this award in English language must have been published for the first time in 2025 calendar year, be distributed in Canada, and still be in print and available for sale in the spring of 2026.
- Titles submitted for this award in French language may be submitted at this time provided that they have been published for the first time in the 2024 or 2025 calendar year, be distributed in Canada, and still be in print and available for sale in the spring of 2026..

For the **Trillium Book Award for Children's Literature in French Language** only, it should be noted that:

- Titles submitted for this award may be submitted at this time provided that they have been published for the first time in the 2025 calendar year, but note that these titles will be held and carried over for consideration with 2026 titles.
- There is no restriction regarding the previous number of works an author has written.

For all award submissions publishers should note that submissions should:

- include one (1) eBook of each title in EPUB or PDF format uploaded to Ontario Creates' online submission form;
- include two (2) paper copies of each title (if submitting a book published only in e-book format, the publisher must provide 2 copies, printed and bound). Ontario Creates will not return books and may donate them to an organization or initiative of its choosing;
- be accompanied by a completed submission form;
- be submitted as soon as possible for titles published between January and October 2025, and no later than November 7, 2025 and;
- for titles published in November and December 2025, be submitted upon publication; submissions will be accepted up to January 30, 2026.

Please allow sufficient time for postal delivery. Due to the volume of submissions, we are unable to confirm receipt of parcels. We recommend that you use a traceable shipping method so that you can track the progress of your package.

Announcement of Shortlist and Winners

The juries will select a shortlist in Spring 2026. The award winners as chosen by the respective juries will be announced at a special event held in Toronto a few weeks after the announcement of the shortlist.

In the event that there are less than five (5) eligible titles received for a particular award, a shortlist and winner may not be considered in the relevant category for

this year. However, the submitted titles would be held and be eligible for consideration along with titles submitted in the following year. Publishers will be notified in such an instance.

Publisher Obligations

If an author is a finalist for a Trillium book Award, the publisher will agree to:

- Supply Ontario Creates with 20 additional copies of the shortlisted book for publicity purposes.
- Participate in promotion and publicity efforts undertaken by Ontario Creates/Trillium Book Awards.
- Communicate to shortlisted authors the importance of participating in Trillium Book Award promotions and events.
- Make every effort to facilitate shortlisted authors' availability for promotional videos/photo-shoots.
- Ensure shortlisted authors are able to participate in any Trillium Award events during the week of June 22, 2026.

If you have questions regarding this program please contact:

Ontario Creates Book Programs

Phone: 416-642-6652

Email: programs2@ontariocreates.ca