



ALBERTA  
LITERARY  
AWARDS  
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# Alberta Literary Competitions 2021

*To recognize and celebrate the highest standards of excellence in writing, the Writers' Guild of Alberta hosts or administers the following annual awards:*

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# 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. Prizes of **\$1,500** are awarded in the categories listed below.

Please refer to the WGA website ([writersguild.ca](http://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 31, 2020**. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in the spring of 2021.

## Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- 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, 2020.
- All entries must have been published or produced anywhere in the world between January 1 and December 31, 2020 (except in the children's literature category).
- Works not eligible for the awards are: unpublished manuscripts (except in the drama category), multi-author anthologies, works fewer than 48 pages in length (except in the drama and in the children's literature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), 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.
- Pieces entered in previous years may not be re-submitted to the same category.
- All published book entries must be first editions and have an ISBN.
- 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.

## Categories:

### Georges Bugnet Award for Fiction

- Awarded for a novel or collection of short fiction by an Alberta author published in 2020.

### R. Ross Annett Award for Children's Literature

(alternates yearly between picture books and chapter books)

- The children's literature category alternates yearly between picture and chapter books. The 2021 award will be presented to the Alberta author of a children's picture book published in 2019 or 2020.

### Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry

- Awarded for a collection of poetry by an Alberta author published in 2020.

### Wilfrid Eggleston Award for Nonfiction

- Awarded for a nonfiction book by an Alberta author published in 2020.

### Gwen Pharis Ringwood Award for Drama

- Awarded to a play written by an Alberta author published or produced in 2020.
- 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 received their premiere production with a minimum run of three consecutive performances between January 1 and December 31, 2020. Submissions must include proof of performance: ticket stubs, programs, 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.

## Submission Procedures:

- Submit entry form at [writersguild.ca/awards-entry](http://writersguild.ca/awards-entry)
- Entries must be submitted to the Writers' Guild of Alberta, no later than December 31, 2020. 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.
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Submitted materials will not be returned.
- Submissions must include a completed online form and **five** copies of each book or play for each category entered.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a \$30 fee per entry per category paid by credit card or cheque. Please make cheques payable to the Writers' Guild of Alberta.
- French language entries will be accepted for competition into the 2022 Alberta Literary Awards.
- See our FAQ page at [writersguild.ca/awards-faq](http://writersguild.ca/awards-faq)

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

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

# Short Pieces

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. Prizes of **\$700** are awarded in the categories listed below.

Please refer to the WGA website ([writersguild.ca](http://writersguild.ca)) for a history of the awards and information on the authors for whom our awards are named.

The submission deadline is **December 31, 2020**. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in the spring of 2021.

## Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- Authors of all entries must have resided in Alberta for a minimum of twelve of the eighteen months prior to December 31, 2020.
- 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.

## Categories:

### Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Award

- Awarded to an outstanding unpublished essay by an Alberta author.
- 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 2021.

### Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story

- Awarded to an outstanding single short story by an Alberta author published in 2020.
- 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, 2020.
- Unpublished short stories and reprints of short stories published before 2020 are not eligible.
- Entries must be no longer than 8,000 words.

### James H. Gray Award for Short Nonfiction

- Awarded to an outstanding literary short nonfiction piece by an Alberta author on any topic published in 2020.
- 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, 2020.
- Unpublished pieces and reprints of pieces published before 2020 are not eligible.
- Entries must be no longer than 5,000 words.

## Submission Procedures:

- Submit entry at [writersguild.ca/awards-entry](http://writersguild.ca/awards-entry)
- Entries must be submitted in PDF or Word format no later than December 31, 2020.
- 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 \$20 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](http://writersguild.ca/awards-faq)

## Send cheques (if applicable) to:

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

# The 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. 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 Writers' Guild of Alberta. The winning author will receive a **\$10,000** cash prize. The award is sponsored by Audreys Books and the Edmonton Arts Council. The submission deadline is **December 31, 2020**. The winner will be announced and the prize awarded in the spring of 2021.

## Submission Guidelines & Rules:

- Eligible works must have been published or produced anywhere in the world between January 1 and December 31, 2020.
- Entries must deal with some aspect of the city of Edmonton—its history, geography, current affairs, arts, or its people—or be written by an Edmonton resident. Edmonton residency is defined as the City of Edmonton, or the Municipality of Edmonton, not the Greater Edmonton area.
- 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.

## Submission Procedures:

- Submit entry form at [writersguild.ca/awards-entry](http://writersguild.ca/awards-entry)
- After you have submitted the electronic entry form, please mail or drop off books at the WGA office. Please note that our office will be closed between December 23, 2020 and January 1, 2021.
- 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.
- Submissions must be accompanied by a \$30 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](http://writersguild.ca/awards-faq)

## Send books & cheques (if applicable) to:

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



# 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 31, 2020**. Authors who have been shortlisted will have an opportunity to deliver a reading in mid-April 2021. The prize will be announced with The Calgary Awards presentation in June 2021.

## Submission Guidelines & Rules

- Eligible books must have been published anywhere in the world between January 1 and December 31, 2020.
- The author must be a Calgary resident for a minimum of two years, as of December 31, 2020.
- The following types of writing are eligible: fiction, poetry, non-fiction, 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. In all cases, the judges' decision is final.

## Submission Procedures

- Entry forms must be submitted online at [writersguild.ca/awards-entry](http://writersguild.ca/awards-entry) no later than December 31, 2020. Printed forms may be requested if entrant is unable to access the online form.
- A \$30 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 mailed to the Writers' Guild of Alberta, postmarked no later than December 31, 2020.
- Entries may be submitted by authors, publishers, or any interested parties.
- Ineligible material will not be returned.

## Send books to:

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



# 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 W. O. Mitchell, Grant MacEwan, Rudy Wiebe, Myrna Kostash, Robert Kroetsch, Merna Summers, Aritha van Herk, Fred Stenson, George Melnyk, Alice Major, Betty Jane Hegerat, Greg Hollingshead, and Bob Stallworthy.

We cordially invite WGA members to submit nominations for the 2021 Golden Pen Award. Nominations for the 2020 award will be accepted until **December 31, 2020**.

## 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.

## 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:

- Name of nominee

- List of nominee's notable publications
- Description of significant contributions the nominee has made to the Alberta writing landscape
- Name and contact information for nominator

Note: Letters should be between one and three pages long.

The award will be granted only when warranted, and not necessarily on an annual basis.

Nominations are reviewed by the WGA Board of Directors.

## Send nominations to:

Jason Lee Norman at [jason.norman@writersguild.ab.ca](mailto:jason.norman@writersguild.ab.ca).

The Writers' Guild of Alberta would like to thank the donors and sponsors of the 2020 Alberta Literary Awards:

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- Alexandra Writers' Centre Society
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