

2024 City of Victoria Butler Book Prize



GUIDELINES

The Victoria Book Prize Society is accepting submissions for the 21st annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize. The \$5,000 prize will be presented in October 2024. Watch our website for details.

DEADLINES AND AWARDS SCHEDULE

1. All submissions must be received by May 24, 2024. If mailed, submissions must be post-marked no later than May 24, 2024.
2. Submitted books will not be returned.
3. Payment is by cheque or etransfer to victoriabookprizes@shaw.ca. Cheques should be made out to the Victoria Book Prize Society.
4. Publishers and authors will be contacted only in the event that the submitted book is shortlisted.
5. The shortlist will be announced in September 2024.
6. The winner will be announced at the gala in October 2024.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following criteria must be met for books to be deemed eligible for the Victoria Book Prizes:

1. The author must be a resident of the Capital Region* and have resided in the area for a minimum of two years immediately prior to publication. Please fill in the date of residency for the author on the submission form.
2. Where a book is co-authored, both writers must meet the residency criteria.
3. The author must be either a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada. Books whose author is deceased at the time of publication are not eligible.
4. Books must be English-language, first-edition trade books, written by Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
5. For the 2024 prize, books submitted must have been published between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024, must not have been submitted previously, and must be a new work, not a reissue or a revision of a previous work.
6. The work being submitted must:
 - Be fiction, literary non-fiction, or poetry.
 - Contain no fewer than 48 pages and no less than 40% text.
 - Have an ISBN and be professionally published.
 - Please note: the prize is for literary excellence, and therefore only books deemed outstanding in this regard should be submitted.
7. The following works are **NOT** eligible: bibliographies, cookbooks, travel guides, exhibition catalogues, instruction manuals, self-help books, scholarly books, textbooks, reference books, chapbooks and any self-published, co-operatively published, or corporately published books.
8. The following types of books are deemed NOT eligible:
 - Multi-authored collections, anthologies and conference proceedings.
 - Books written by a ghostwriter.
 - English translations of books originally written in other languages.
 - Reprints of books published in previous award years.
 - Self-published books or books published through self-publishing services. Please see definition of self-publishing below.
 - Books in which a significant portion of the manuscript is interview transcripts, quoted material, material not written by the author, or material that has previously been published in book form.

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JURY PROCESS

The Board of the Victoria Book Prize Society will select an independent jury, and jurors' names will be made public at the gala.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

1. Literary merit of the work.
2. Compliance with the eligibility criteria.

PLEASE MAIL/DROP OFF SUBMISSIONS TO:

The Victoria Book Prize Society
c/o Sybil Harrison
3018 Blackwood Street
Victoria, B.C. V8T 3X4

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lynne van Luven, President, Victoria Book Prize Society, victoriabookprizes@shaw.ca
Nichola Reddington, Arts, Culture and Events Liaison, City of Victoria, NReddington@victoria.ca

SELF-PUBLISHING/CO-OPERATIVE PUBLISHING VS PROFESSIONAL PUBLISHING

A book is considered self-published or co-operatively published if it is published under ANY of the following circumstances:

- The author has paid for all or part of the cost of publication and/or distribution of the work.
- The author is required by the publisher to pay for editorial work and/or production of the book.
- The author is required by the publisher to pay for marketing.
- The book is published by a privately held publishing company with which the author has a familial or personal relationship.
- The book is published by a company or imprint that does not publish other authors.
- The book is published by a publishing company in which the author has a financial interest.

In contrast, in order for a book to be considered professionally published it must meet ALL of the following criteria:

- The publisher offers a screening process where a book selected for publication is followed up by a contract with an author and a professional editorial and production process.
- The editorial and production process is independent of the author and is taken on by the publisher at its own cost.
- The publisher prints the full press run, stores the books, pays royalties and, through a variety of methods, promotes, sells and distributes the books across Canada and internationally.
- The publisher has a proven track record of publishing books in adherence to these professional standards and more.

Please note: If you self-publish your book and it is later picked up by a professional publisher, your book may be eligible for submission.

We review our policies every year. Please check our website for updates and further information.

** The Capital Region stretches from Port Renfrew, Sooke, and Metchosin in the southwest to Galiano, Mayne and Saturna Islands in the northeast. It includes the municipalities of Victoria, Saanich, Esquimalt, Central Saanich, North Saanich, Langford, Sooke, Oak Bay, Sidney, View Royal, Colwood, Highlands, and Metchosin; Salt Spring Island; North and South Pender Island; Galiano Island; Mayne Island; Saturna Island; and the electoral areas of Juan de Fuca, Southern Gulf Islands, and Salt Spring Island. For a map of the Capital Region see bit.ly/2odmZfo.*