

City of Victoria Children's Book Prize

Submission Guidelines • 2026

The Victoria Book Prize Society invites submissions for the annual City of Victoria Children's Book Prize, awarded for works by authors and/or illustrators residing in the Capital Regional District. The \$5,000 prize will be presented in November 2026.

Deadlines & Awards Schedule

- **Submission deadline:** May 31, 2026. Submissions must be delivered or postmarked by this date.
- **Submission fee:** \$35 per title, payable by cheque or e-transfer and five physical copies of the book
- **Shortlist announced:** September 2026. Three titles will be announced.
- **Winner announced:** November 2026 at an awards event.
- Shortlisted authors will be invited to participate in public readings and events prior to the awards announcement.
- Submitted books will not be returned.
- Publishers and authors will be contacted only if their submitted book is shortlisted.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, all of the following criteria must be met:

1. At least one of the author or illustrator must be a resident of the Capital Regional District* for a minimum of two full years immediately prior to publication. For co-authored or co-illustrated works, all contributors must meet the residency requirement
2. The author or illustrator must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
3. Books must have been published between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.
4. Submitted books must:
 - Be aimed at a readership of children or youth.
 - Be professionally published with an ISBN
 - Be a new, previously unpublished work (reissues and revisions are not accepted)
 - Be written in English; dual language books are acceptable
5. A completed submission form, including the residency acknowledgment, is required.

The following works are NOT eligible:

- Books written by a ghostwriter
- English translations of books originally written in another language
- Books in which a significant portion consists of interview transcripts, quoted material, material not written by the author, or material previously published in book form
- Textbooks, reference books, workbooks or activity books

Jury Process & Assessment

An independent jury is appointed by the Victoria Book Prize Society. Jury deliberations are confidential; juror names will be announced at the awards event.

The jury evaluates each submission for literary quality or illustrative excellence.

More Information

For more information contact:

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Phone: 250-415-1900

** Capital Regional District : Central Saanich, Colwood, Esquimalt, Highlands, Juan De Fuca Electoral Area, Langford, Metchosin, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Saanich, Salt Spring Island, Sidney, Sooke, Southern Gulf Islands, Victoria and View Royal*