



Crime Writers of Canada
Awards of
Excellence

Crime Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence

Call for Jurors

Every year, volunteers with a passion for reading support CWC in its quest to identify meritorious writing. The jury phase begins in November and ends with the announcement of finalists and winners in April and May of the following year.

We seek jurors who are:

- knowledgeable about mystery and crime fiction and/or nonfiction depending on category (more about that below)
- willing to spend the time required to read the entries in their category and consult with their fellow jurors on finalists
- prepared to provide 1-3 sentence assessments of the material they read
- proficient in the language of the award category they will be judging (English or French)
- willing to read ebooks (all submissions will be in PDF format).

We welcome past and present CWC Professional and Associate Members who wish to volunteer; however, jurors are not required to be CWC members. They can be librarians, editors, booksellers, teachers, writers, members of the justice system, genre aficionados, etc.

Although jurors are usually Canadian, they do not have to be.

To ensure the integrity of the judging process, we do not announce which category a juror will be evaluating. We ask jurors not to reveal their participation in public or on social media until after the award winners have been announced.

We recognize jurors in the following ways:

- a certificate of appreciation
- individual recognition on the CWC website and/or social media (judges can opt out if desired)
- other benefits as decided by the CWC board each year.

About Us

Crime Writers of Canada (CWC) is a national non-profit organization for Canadian mystery and crime writers, associated professionals, and others with a serious interest in Canadian crime writing. Our mission is to promote Canadian crime writing and to raise the profile of Canadian crime writers with readers, reviewers, librarians, booksellers, and media.

Values Statement

Crime Writers of Canada is committed to fostering and promoting diversity, inclusivity, accessibility, and equity within its membership and the larger Canadian crime publishing community.

We define diversity to include people of different backgrounds, ages, abilities, body shapes, racialized identities, cultures, nationalities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, beliefs, religions, socio-economic statuses, and more.

We firmly believe that our strength and success is built on promoting a wide range of voices and experiences within the scope of our mandate as a professional organization.

Crime Writers of Canada Awards of Excellence: Call for Judges

Award Categories with expected numbers and special considerations

- Best Crime Novel (Min. 50,000 words) 40-60 books
Largest category but most likely to contain books that the judges have already read.
- Best Crime First Novel (Min. 50,000 words AND author's 1st novel in any genre.) 20-30 books
- The Whodunit Award for Best Traditional Mystery (Min. 50,000 words) 20-25 books
- Best Crime Novel Set in Canada (Min. 35,000 words) 20-30 books.
- Best Crime Novella (8,001 - 49,999 words) 10-20 books *Some of these are written for adult learners. If identified as a "Rapid" or "Easy" read, they need to meet that expectation.*
- Best Crime Short Story (Max. 8,000 words) 25-40 stories.
- Best French Crime Book (Fiction and Nonfiction) 6-20 books
Must read French fluently.
- Best Juvenile or YA Crime Book (Fiction and Nonfiction) 20-35 books
Should be familiar with middle-grade and young adult books, including what language and subject matter is appropriate for a book's intended audience.
- Best Nonfiction Crime Book 10-20 books
This category ranges from true crime to academic works. This is a good category for people with a background in journalism, academia, law or history.
- Best Unpublished Manuscript – Round 1: 40-60 entries with first 5000 words and synopsis.
Round 2: a longlist of up to 10 full manuscripts of 50,000 -80,000 words. *This two-part process involves independent scoring of entries, scores compiled for ranking, and no juror consultation.*

The next step is up to you

Interested? Request the Juror Guidelines and Juror Information Form by email below:

Ludvica at awards@crimewriterscanada.com or Jayne at awardsjudging@crimewriterscanada.com

Deadline to volunteer: 30 October 2024