

The Canada Council for the Arts
Grants for Professional Writers: Creative Writing

Deadline: 1 October for English language grants (1 April for French) or next business day

- download application form from website or apply online
- full-time students are not eligible, although grad students are eligible provided they demonstrate that they have sufficient time to proceed with a project that remains distinct from their graduate work (a letter from the university must accompany the application)
- applicants may apply for one Grant to Professional Artists program (or to one deadline of that program for creation) per fiscal year (between 1 April and 31 March). Individual artists may receive up to two Grants to Professional Artists from the Canada Council in any 48-month period. Artists may also submit one request for a Travel Grant per year.

Genres eligible: novel, short story, poetry, children's and young adults' literature, graphic novel, literary non-fiction, and exploratory writing (technology based and/or experimental): should be a new, book-length project (grants are not retroactive)

- "spoken word" and storytelling projects: apply to Spoken Word, Storytelling, and Literary Performance Program
- playwrights: apply to Theatre Section
- screenwriters: apply to Media Arts Section
- writers may collaborate with a maximum of two other writers or two professional artists from other disciplines; one single artist makes the application

Eligibility criteria: must be a Canadian citizen or have permanent resident status, but needn't be living in Canada when you apply

- must have specialized training in the field (not necessarily in academic institutions) and be recognized by peers
- for "emerging" category, you must have published one book with a professional publishing house OR at least 10 poems or 4 short stories or novel excerpts published on two separate occasions or 40 pages of articles in literary magazines, recognized periodicals, or anthologies; the work must be in print at the time of application
- eligible publishers must: involve an editorial selection process, have published at least four books or two magazine/periodical issues and be committed to a sustained publishing program, pay royalties or compensate authors, market and distribute appropriately and effectively
- ineligible work includes self-published work, books with a print run of under 350 copies, chapbooks, ebooks, and web/electronic publications that are not professionally edited, academic work or work towards a graduate degree (though if published independently in journals, I'm sure this is fine), publications that lack a selection process and don't by any means compensate writers

APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. Application form (Grants for Professional Writers: Creative Writing)

2. Project description: capsule summary of 2-3 sentences; detailed description of maximum 2 pages

- include synopsis of project, explain what you want to accomplish with the grant, and describe how you intend to accomplish it

3. Supporting material

a. Professional c.v.: max. 3 pages

b. List of Publications (indicate, in order, title, genre, publisher/magazine, date and location of publication, and number of pages; may include forthcoming publications)

c. Writing sample: 15 to 25 pages or max. 7,500 words of recent published or unpublished work in the same genre as the project submitted

- can consist of one or more texts; for exploratory writing, may include DVDs, websites, images, etc.
- strongly recommended that at least part of the sample be from the proposed project

d. Can include up to 3 recent, legitimate reviews of your work (not promotional materials such as press releases; letters of recommendation are not acceptable)

- you cannot submit extra support material

4. Budget: can range from \$3,000 to \$12,000 for emerging writers; round to nearest thousand

- maximum subsistence amount is \$2,000 per month – request the maximum
- travel costs related to research for a writing project are eligible, as are book purchases, photocopies, and related expenses specifically for the project; the purchase or rental of computer equipment is ineligible

Results: Success Rate: 15 - 20%, regardless of genre

- Jury: three writers in different genres representing different regions, ages, genders, cultural origins
- an attempt is made to assess the genres separately, as well as to assess emerging, mid-career, and established writers separately
- notification of results occurs approximately five months after submission deadline; results aren't available by phone or e-mail
- you may obtain a maximum of two grants in a 48-month period

Note: You may also apply once a year for a travel grant (\$500, \$750, \$1000, \$1500, \$2000, or \$2500) to respond to invitations to international literary events important to your career or, within Canada, to attend a writing residency. For more information, contact Lori Knoll, ext. 5573

FORMS AND INFO: The Canada Council for the Arts, Writing and Publishing Section
350 Albert Street, P.O. Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8
phone 1-800-263-5588 ext. 5482; www.canadacouncil.ca

- Program Officer for Creative Writing Grants (English):
Suzanne Keptwo: Suzanne.keptwo@canadacouncil.ca

Deadline: postmarked 10 September or next business day; no online applications

Genres eligible: fiction works (novels, poetry, short stories, tales, narrative, youth literature) or an essay “focusing solely on knowledge and the exploration of artistic and literary life” or literary performance-based shows/storytelling

Eligibility criteria: must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant who has lived in Québec for at least 12 months; an applicant who has lived outside Québec for two or more years is not eligible for the program unless s/he maintains his/her status as a Québec resident

- must have published at least one book or disseminated at least three different texts in an eligible literary genre (“publications in electronic format, works published at the author’s expense and self-publishing are also eligible) or (for storytelling) participated in at least three events recognized by peers
- no longer eligible in this category if you have received two grants
- in the case of collaborative applications, each member must be a professional writer, storyteller, or artist, and one member must act as coordinator
- projects carried out in conjunction with a university undergraduate or graduate program are not eligible; if a registered student at the time of application, you must submit a letter from the educational institution indicating that the project is separate from the educational program
- if net after-tax annual income exceeds \$25,000 during the period covered by the grant, the applicant is still eligible but may not obtain living expenses

Assessment Criteria:

- “artistic or literary quality of the project”
- “relevance of the project from the standpoint of the program’s objectives”
- “quality of the application”

APPLICATION MATERIALS

• Grant Application Presentation Guide available on website

1. Project description (2,000 words)

- clear and succinct – jurors must be able to readily grasp project’s nature, determine writer’s intention and evaluate project’s relevance in relation to the evaluation criteria
- use first person singular
- describe objectives, intentions, means of action, ability to adhere to the proposed timetable
- may mention sources of inspiration, the atmosphere you hope to create, the form you wish to explore, develop, or elaborate
- should have a title or working title
- if the project differs from your usual practice, include documents that describe what you’ve already accomplished in the new genre
- projects already completed are ineligible although a project may begin on the registration deadline

2. Curriculum vitae (max. 3 pages) and C.V.s of main collaborators (if applicable)

- personal information, training, dissemination of works, relevant employment, other (e.g. juries, awards, professional associations)

3. **Three copies of the same book or of a manuscript or anthology (or, for performances and hypermedia literary works, three copies of a CD or DVD)**
4. **Detailed project work plan, including timetable**
5. **Detailed budget**
 - maximum subsistence amount is \$1,700 per month: includes rent, food, phone, electricity, child care, and other expenses; not necessary to break down living expenses
 - project-related expenses include: research expenses, rental expenses, relevant supplies, relevant equipment (only if essential and cannot be rented), relevant travel expenses (accommodation and meals, max. \$125/day in Canada and \$200/day outside Canada) for up to 15 days
6. **(Optional) Clipping file of not more than five pages containing photocopies of newspaper articles published during the previous five years. No letters of recommendation permitted.**

Adjudication: assessment is by a jury of peers

- notification approximately 3 months after submission deadline; the first or full payment of the grant is made the following month; success rate approximately 20%

Note: The CALQ also offers Development and Advanced Training Grants (max. \$9,000) for participation in specialized workshops or mentoring programs (university study is not eligible for this funding). These grants include living expenses (max. \$1,700 per month), registration fees, some travel expenses, and accommodation and meals while away (max. \$125 per day in Canada and \$200 per day elsewhere, for up to 15 days). Deadline: 1 April and 10 September.

Travel grants are available for trips to launches, conferences, literary events, residencies, etc. (\$750, \$1000, \$2000, \$2500 depending on the travel involved). Deadline: anytime. Consult the website for further details on travel and development grants, though it's best to check directly with the agent to see if the particular program you have in mind is eligible.

Vivacité Montréal offers grants to immigrant writers (who arrived within the last five years) or Canadians who are visible minorities of or mixed racial heritage. This year's deadline was 15 January 2015:

http://www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/regions/06prog_vivacitemtl_en.htm

Forms and info: http://www.calq.gouv.qc.ca/artistes/litterature_en.htm

Chargée de programmes en littérature: Marie-Ève Vézina marie-eve.vezina@calq.gouv.qc.ca

FINAL NOTE: Both CC and CALQ require a final report within several months of the end of the grant period, describing the work done and listing the expenses incurred and any publications resulting from the grant. A final budget statement is also required. Any major changes to the project or work schedule should be reported to the funding body. All grants are considered taxable income; tax slips will be issued. Funding for a single project by more than one funding body is not acceptable unless your budget accounts for this (i.e. you have 6 months of funding from the CC, followed by 6 months from the CALQ). CC grants expire three years after the competition deadline.

CURRICULUM VITAE

name, address, phone, e-mail
date

i) BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

(list of pertinent jobs, beginning with most recent)

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

(degrees and other writing-related study, beginning with most recent)

Honours and Awards (Selected Academic)

(only pertinent to use of the CV in an academic context)

Other Training

LANGUAGES

ii) RESEARCH

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

(list all in reverse chronological order)

Books

e.g. *A Page from the Wonders of Life on Earth*. London, Ontario: Brick Books, Fall 2011 (in second printing). 80 pages.

Chapbooks

e.g. *Past the Roman Arena and the Cedar of Lebanon*. Handmade limited edition chapbook. Montréal, Québec: Delirium Press, April 2006. 20 pages.

Broadsides

Anthologies¹

Literary and Critical Journals

e.g. *Journal* – Volume XX, Number X, Winter 2000 (pp. 51-56) (Toronto, Ontario)²
• 4 poems: title; title; title; title

PROSE PUBLICATIONS

Non-fiction

Fiction

¹ I have a separate section under this heading for poems that have been reprinted.

² Note: This format, which I use in my C.V., differs slightly from the format required for the Canada Council's List of Publications.

Book Reviews

WORKS EDITED

POETRY DISSEMINATED BY OTHER MEDIA

(a heading for work broadcast on the radio, displayed on buses, etc.)

e.g., La Poésie prends le metro, Société de Transport de Montréal – poem displayed in metro stations from May – October 2005

- 1 poem: excerpt from The Japanese Pavilion

iii) POETRY PRESENTATIONS AND READINGS

READINGS

(reverse chronological order; include date, venue, city, and occasion if relevant [e.g. a festival, book launch, etc.; you may wish to indicate whether you read alone or with others and, if the latter, who those others were, but that's optional])

e.g., 23 October 2014: Storyfest, Hudson, Quebec

PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND PUBLIC INTERVIEWS

e.g., 17 May 2014: CCWWP (Canadian Creative Writers and Writing Programs) conference, Vancouver (University of BC)

- panel presenter and moderator, “Poems of Ours We Hate”

LECTURES

WORKSHOPS GIVEN

PROFILES, INTERVIEWS, REVIEWS, AND CITATIONS

iv) EXTERNAL FUNDING

RESEARCH AND WRITING GRANTS

LITERARY AWARDS

v) TEACHING ACTIVITIES (include if writing-related)

COURSES TAUGHT

TUTORIALS TAUGHT

STUDENT SUPERVISION

vi) ACADEMIC SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Committees and Departmental Positions

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Literary Prize Adjudication

Other Community Involvement (e.g. organizing readings; serving on editorial boards)

Membership in Professional Organizations (e.g. Québec Writers' Federation, League of Canadian Poets, The Writers' Union of Canada)