



Attention Canadian publishers of books for children
It's August 20, 2026 – Book submissions for 2027-28 Hackmatack Awards are open!

We invite you to submit eligible titles (see criteria below) to the Hackmatack Award selection committees for the **2027-28 awards**. The committees will review all eligible submitted titles to arrive at shortlists of 10 English fiction, 10 English nonfiction, 10 French fiction, and 10 French nonfiction Canadian books suitable for children in grades 4 to 6 (ages eight to eleven). The nominated books will be read in the 2027-28 school year by over a thousand children in the Atlantic region. Young readers will vote for their favourite book in each of the four categories, and the winners will be announced at the Hackmatack Award Ceremony in spring 2028.

Please fill out a submission form FOR EACH SUBMITTED TITLE

- [English Fiction submission form](#)
- [English Nonfiction submission form](#)
- [French Fiction submission form](#)
- [French Nonfiction submission form](#)

The selection committees are in three provinces. Please note the different shipping addresses for each category.

Please submit **six (6)** copies of each **English fiction** title to:

Erin Morice
Hackmatack Award Selection Committee - English Fiction
Halifax Public Libraries
31 Eisener Blvd.
Dartmouth, NS B2W 0J1

Please submit **six (6)** copies of each **English nonfiction** title to:

Michaela Kryger
Hackmatack Award Selection Committee, English Nonfiction
Children's and Teen Services Librarian
Charlottetown Library Learning Centre
97 Queen St, Charlottetown, PE
C1A 4A9

Please submit **six (6)** copies of each **French** title, **fiction or nonfiction**, to:

Geneviève Thériault-McGraw
Bibliothèque Carrefour Beausoleil
300, chemin Beaverbrook
Miramichi, N-B E1V 1A1

The deadline for submissions is **October 15, 2026**; however, we would appreciate it if you **send your books at your earliest convenience**. We will announce our nominations in June 2027. **Please note that if your title is selected for our shortlist, we will request an administration fee of \$25/title and two extra copies for promotional purposes.**

For more information, please contact us at hackmattack@hackmattack.ca.

SELECTION CRITERIA HACKMATAACK CHILDREN'S CHOICE BOOK AWARD

Books MUST:

- be from a Canadian publisher, or self-published by a Canadian author
- have been published in Canada within the last two years (2025 and 2026)
- be appropriate for readers ages 8-11 (grades 4 to 6)
- have been written by no more than three Canadian authors (or combination of three Canadian authors and illustrators). All authors, illustrators, and publishers must be Canadian
- be in print and readily available in sufficient quantities for reading club orders
- be a printed book (e-books and audiobooks are welcomed as options for reading clubs)

Reprints: A book that has been republished with a new cover and minor corrections/changes is considered a reprint.

If major changes to the text have been made, the book can be submitted.

If the book is a reprint but the original was published before Hackmattack was founded in 1999, or for French submissions, before there was a French category (French books were added in 2002), the Book Selection Committee would then consider it.

Translations: Books must be submitted in the original language.

If a book is bilingual (contains two languages), publishers should note which language is the original.

Bilingual books can be written in French or English and include a second language; a combination of only French and English is not a requirement. For example, a book can be written in French and Arabic, or English and Mi'kmaq.

AI-Generated Content: Books with any AI-generated text or illustrations will be deemed ineligible.

Committees look for:

1. Atlantic-Canadian content, authorship, illustrations, and/or publication

This is **not a requirement**, but a book with Atlantic content would be chosen over another if the two were equal in every other regard.

2. Diversity and Inclusion

Our book selection committees are diligent in their efforts to emphasize books that engage readers in objective and equitable portrayals of persons and groups within our society.

We are committed to ensuring that children feel that their culture, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religion, and geography are affirmed by the books they read.

Our goal is to present shortlists that ensure children who are underrepresented and marginalized are able to see themselves in these books, and we recognize we need to go further: Children who have always been able to see themselves in books must also be given a true sense of the diversity in the wider world, which may not be reflected in their own communities.

As part of our commitment to raise up the voices and stories of the rich racial, cultural and Indigenous history and contemporary presence in Atlantic Canada, we have pledged to an equity approach in our selection process.

As we work toward making our commitment a reality, we have set a goal: To present shortlists where at least 15% of the titles are created by BIPOC authors, with a minimum of one title in each of our four categories. We are asking publishers to join us in this endeavour.

It's important to note that our commitment to full representation of our diversity is not limited to this equity approach.

If an author identifies as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) or LGBTQ+, and/or if they are writing in their own voice, please be sure to indicate this clearly in book submission(s).

3. Literary Quality

- Authority
- Organization
- Illustrations
- Design
- Prose style
- Documentation

4. Overall appeal to children in grades 4 to 6 (ages 8 to 11)

- A range of reading levels within the age group
- Content appealing to readers across the full spectrum of gender identification