



For Publishers – Hackmatack at a Glance

What We Do

Founded in 1999 and based in Halifax, each year we select 10 Canadian books in four categories for readers in grades 4-6: French fiction and nonfiction and English fiction and nonfiction. Part of our mission is to enable every reader to see themselves in the books they read.

Children across the Atlantic Provinces form clubs to read and discuss a selection of books before casting their votes to choose the award winners. We offer virtual and in-person author visits and an exciting bilingual live-streamed award ceremony.

Note: Hackmatack is a program that celebrates human creativity. We do not consider AI-generated submissions, whether it's the written word or illustrations, including cover art.

Books submitted to Hackmatack must be:

- written by no more than three Canadian authors (or combination of Canadian authors and illustrators)
- from a Canadian publisher or self-published in Canada within the last two years (e.g. 2024 and 2025 for 2026-27)
- appropriate for readers ages 8-11 (grades 4 to 6)
- in print and readily available in sufficient quantities for reading club orders (e-books and audiobooks are welcomed as options for reading clubs)

Submissions timeline

- September: Call to publishers for the next program year
- Mid October: Deadline for publishers to submit books
- Late fall-winter: Book selection committees read books and create shortlists
- Mid March: Hackmatack board approves new shortlist
- Spring: Nominated publishers, authors, and illustrators are contacted
- End of May: Award ceremony
- Early June: New shortlist is announced

Our full selection criteria is on our website : hackmatack.ca/submissions

Questions ?

Email: hackmatack@hackmatack.ca

hackmatack.ca