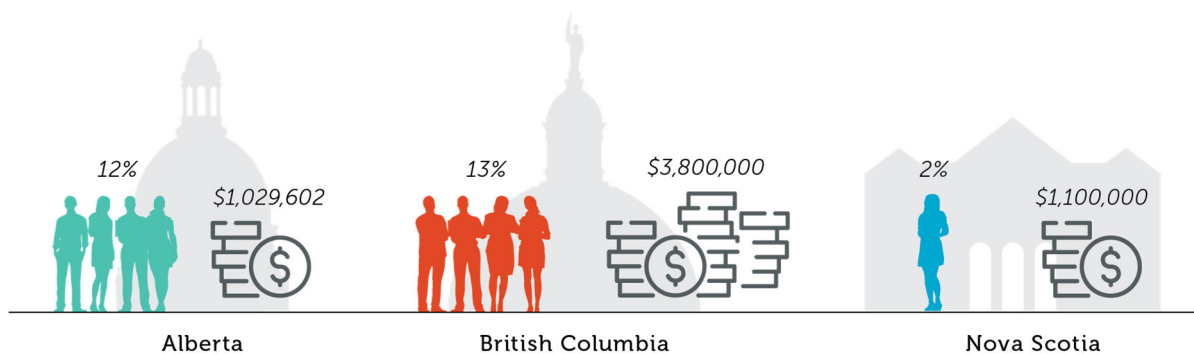




The Book Publishers Association of Alberta represents 28 member publishing companies, most of which are owned and operated by Albertans. They employ highly educated Albertans and, despite challenging operational conditions, contribute nearly **\$30 million to Alberta's economy each year.**

The current level of investment by the provincial government in Alberta publishers is putting the industry at risk. Since 2004, when the last effort to create an Alberta Book Publishers fund was set aside at the Cabinet level, many accomplished Alberta publishers (including houses like Company's Coming, Lone Pine Publishing, Brindle & Glass, and Les Éditions Duval) relocated their businesses or sold their assets out of the province. They took their work, and their GDP contributions, to provinces with stronger and more stable programs of investment. Their departure is evidence of the need for a provincial funding program that empowers Alberta's book publishers to magnify their contribution to the economic and cultural life of our province. **Such a program is long overdue.**

With about 13% of the Canadian population, British Columbia invests \$3.8 million in the publishing industry each year. With 12% of the Canadian population, Alberta invests just over \$1 million, on par with Nova Scotia (where only 2% of Canadians live). There are **28 active publishers in Alberta** waiting for a commitment from the government to redress the poor competitive position of Alberta's publishing industry.



The BPAA is calling for an additional **\$5 million annual investment in the book publishing industry** to strengthen and grow Alberta's cultural landscape. These funds will:

- create much needed jobs,
- employ and keep talented Albertans in the province,
- build the volume of our exports,
- support writers, educators, academics, artists, and other creative professionals in their goals of capturing new audiences in Alberta and across the globe, and
- ensure that stories unique to Alberta are shared with the world.

For several decades now, successive provincial governments have recognized the important impacts of Alberta's book publishing industry on the economy, its potential for growth, and its poor competitive position. Despite this recognition, little has been done to change the situation.

Now is the time to establish an Alberta Book Publishers Fund.