



Media Release: Celebrating two years of success! The Read Alberta eBooks Collection continues to grow

February 15, 2019

Edmonton – The Book Publishers Association of Alberta (BPAA) is celebrating the Read Alberta eBooks Collection’s first two years, and looks forward with delight to its continued use and expansion. This province-wide collection was made possible through ongoing funding from the Government of Alberta’s Public Library Services Branch.

In February 2017, the Read Alberta eBooks collection officially launched on library websites across the province with 1,130 titles representing 24 Alberta publishers. The collection has grown on a quarterly basis and now counts over 1,500 titles.

2018 was a busy year for the BPAA, having accomplished the:

- continued expansion of the eBook collection
- addition of over 40 e-audiobooks through a partnership with CNIB – the Canadian National Institute for the Blind – increasing access to Alberta-published authors and stories by serving a broader range of readers
- establishment of an Indigenous eBook sub-list in collaboration with book publishers from Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan

The Alberta government, libraries and book publishers are pleased with the success of the program and committed to this continued collaboration. The first of its kind in Canada, this ground-breaking project serves as a model for other sectors and jurisdictions.

Library patrons, on their part, are invited to browse the broad range of titles and stock their digital library shelves with Alberta-published eBooks.

Investing in the future of Alberta book publishing

The Government of Alberta’s financial support for the Read Alberta eBooks project comes in addition to a \$1.2M investment over four years that it has committed to Alberta book publishing – an industry in critical need of provincial investment in order to recover and grow.



Quick facts

- Alberta eBooks can be borrowed online by all Alberta public library patrons through their local library website.
- Print copies of many Alberta eBook titles are also available from library branches.
- All Alberta eBooks titles are also available through the NNELS system for patrons with print disabilities.
- Alberta produces world-class books. Among the 1,500 eBooks in the collection are a large number of award-winning titles.
- The BPAA has 31 members, including 28 book-publishing companies, many of which are owned and operated in Alberta.
- In 2016, the book-publishing industry contributed more than \$18 million to the provincial GDP and accounted for more than 170 jobs.

Related information

[Borrow an Alberta eBook](#)

[A new chapter for Alberta's book publishers](#)

Media inquiries

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