

Book Publishers Association of Alberta



2025/26 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

1 ADVOCACY

- Government Outreach 2
 - MLA/MP Book Mail Out 3
 - Alberta Book Day 3
 - Copyright & AI 3
 - World Book Day Reception 3
-

2 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

- Read Alberta eBook Collection 4
 - The Prairie Indigenous eBook Collection 4
 - Accessible Alberta: eBooks for Everyone 4
 - Frankfurt Book Fair 5
 - Alberta Book Publishing Awards 6
 - Accessible Digital Publishing Initiative 6
 - BPAA Audiobook Project 7
-

3 LIBRARY OUTREACH

- Library Conferences 7
 - Read Alberta Book Blasts 7
-

4 MARKETING

- Alberta Books for Schools 8
 - Read Alberta Publisher Catalogue 8
 - Read Alberta Website 9
 - Edmonton Bestseller List 10
 - Calgary Bestseller List 10
 - Edmonton Arts Council Shop & Services 10
-

5 MEMBER SERVICES

- Website 11
 - Annual Conference and AGM 12
 - Books — Bi-Weekly Newsletter 12
 - Professional Development Program 13
 - Archive Program 13
-

Throughout the year, the BPAA participates in and organizes numerous projects and programs to support a thriving book publishing industry in Alberta, and to highlight Alberta book publishers and their titles. Our work is focused on the following areas: advocacy, industry development, collective marketing, and professional development. We've included more information about these initiatives and how publishers can get involved.

1

ADVOCACY

The BPAA is committed to advocating on behalf of Alberta book publishers with industry and government representatives to enhance opportunities for the industry to grow in Alberta.

Government Outreach

To ensure a thriving, sustainable book publishing industry in Alberta, BPAA staff and members maintain regular contact with federal, provincial, and municipal government representatives. Over the past year, the BPAA continued our campaign for increased and sustainable investment in our industry. In addition to many meetings with Ministers, MLAs, and government staff, our advocacy outreach activities for the year include fourteen touchpoints with MLAs.

The BPAA worked with government relations consultants to create our government relations implementation plan and key messages. We also work with consultants to increase our access to MLAs and schedule meetings. During these meetings, we showcase BPAA member publisher titles to bring awareness to the work our members are doing. Publishers are encouraged to send two copies of their new releases to the BPAA office, so that we can use them for this purpose.

We have compiled a list of resources on our [Members Only Page](#) for publishers interested in supporting our advocacy work, including the following documents created to support our request for a \$5 million annual investment in the Alberta Book Publishers Fund. Investment in our local industry continues to be both a challenge and a priority for the association.

- [2025 Provincial Budget Submission](#)
- [BPAA Key Messages](#)
- [BPAA Advocacy One-Pager](#)
- [Book Publishing Industry Comparison: B.C. vs Alberta](#)

MLA/MP Book Mail Out

Each summer, the BPAA sends a copy of an Alberta-published book to every Alberta MLA and MP to highlight the excellent work of Alberta publishers. Messaging accompanies the book, underscoring the depth and breadth of the Alberta book publishing industry and the significant contribution publishers make to Alberta's culture and economy. In 2025, MLAs and MPs will also receive a copy of the 2025 Read Alberta Publisher catalogue and Awards Program.



Alberta Book Day

Alberta Book Day was first declared in 2017 to celebrate the many achievements of Alberta-based book publishers, and the significant contributions they make to the province's cultural and economic landscapes. As part of Alberta Book Day, the BPAA hosts an exhibition, which is an opportunity for BPAA member-publishers to meet MLAs and government staff and to showcase the diverse publishing industry in our province.

Alberta Book Day 2024 was held in-person on November 5, 2024 in the lower rotunda of the Alberta Legislature with over 200 government staff in attendance. Alberta Book Day 2025 will take place on November 3, 2025.

Copyright & AI

In collaboration with colleagues across the country, our association is an active lobbyist for fair compensation for publishers and creators for works that are consumed by the K-12 and post-secondary education sectors. We support the Association of Canadian Publishers and Access Copyright in advocating for significant legislative reform of the *Copyright Act*. We continue to actively monitor this situation.

The association is also monitoring the rapid advancement of generative artificial intelligence models and advocating for a clear legal framework that ensures fair protections for authors and publishers against copyright infringement in the training and output of AI models.

World Book Day Reception

On April 28, 2025, the BPAA held a reception for MLAs and BPAA members for World Book Day. This annual event showcases our industry and gave members an opportunity to engage directly with MLAs, strengthen relationships, and encourage increased investment in our industry.

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



Read Alberta eBook Collection

In 2017, the BPAA partnered with the Alberta government to make Alberta-published eBooks available to readers across the province.



The Prairie Indigenous eBook Collection

was launched in 2019, and features over 500 titles from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba-based book publishers. The first of its kind in Canada, the Prairie Indigenous eBook Collection increases access to stories by Indigenous authors, and writings about Indigenous Peoples and Culture. The BPAA works with Indigenous experts who assist with assigning decolonized subject headings to titles.

How can publishers get involved?

Titles are added quarterly (March, June, September, and December), and BPAA members are notified by eBOUND Canada when submissions are open. Titles available in accessible formats will be added to Accessible Alberta for all future intakes.



Accessible Alberta: eBooks for Everyone

launched in 2024, the Accessible Alberta collection includes over 800 Alberta-published eBooks and audiobooks that include features that provide an accessible reading experience for all readers. The collection is featured on a dedicated website at AccessibleAlberta.ca, and is also part of the Read Alberta collection available through Alberta public libraries. This collection showcases the work Alberta's publishers have put into making their titles available in accessible formats.

Each of these collections are continually enriched as titles are added on a quarterly basis.

Currently, there are over 2,600 eBooks and audiobooks in the collections.

Patrons of the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS), which delivers content to print-disabled Canadians, have access to the collections as well.

We are grateful to Alberta Municipal Affairs' Public Library Services Branch for this much-needed investment in our industry.

[Read more about the collections here.](#)



Frankfurt Book Fair

The Frankfurt International Book Fair is the largest book fair in the world, bringing together publishers and industry stakeholders from around the world.

The BPAA attended the 2024 Frankfurt Book Fair and hosted an Alberta Booth on the Canada Stand with 50 books on display.

Kieran Leblanc and Megan Bishop attended several meetings while in Frankfurt, and discussions included best practices in other countries with regards to ensuring locally published books are included in resources for K-12 schools, current status and activities around copyright legislation, industry standards in different countries in accessible publishing, and overall industry trends. These meetings were invaluable in learning about creative ways in which to further the work and projects that the BPAA is engaged in.

The BPAA will be attending the 2025 Frankfurt Book Fair in October. We will continue to apply for funding to support publishers who want to attend and will display titles from publishers who are not attending.

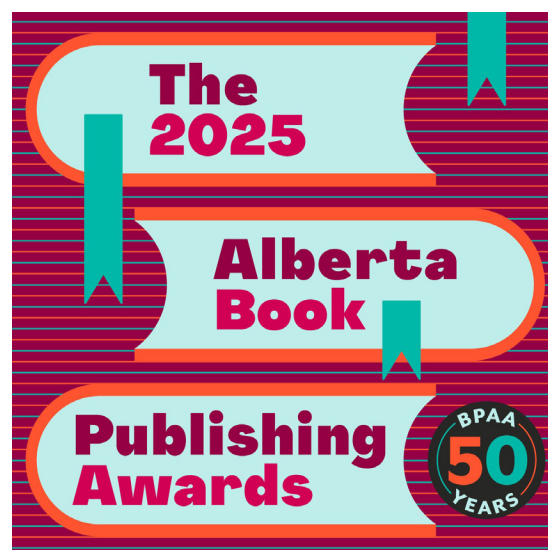
Alberta Book Publishing Awards

Each year, the Alberta Book Publishing Awards celebrate excellence in publishing in the province. We regularly receive around 100 submissions from Alberta publishers in up to 17 award categories. Juries are selected from across Canada to adjudicate the awards, involving over 30 jurors annually. This year-long project culminates in the much-anticipated Alberta Book Publishing Awards Gala, which draws industry, government, and media attention to the world-class excellence of Alberta's publishing industry.

The 2024 awards gala was held on September 24, 2024 at the Varscona Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta. Over 85 people attended the awards gala.

In addition to the Book of the Year awards, we presented the Special Achievement in Publishing Award to Kate Edwards.

A recording of the 2024 Awards Gala is available on our [YouTube channel](#).



The 2025 awards gala will take place at the Grey Eagle Resort in Calgary, Alberta on September 18, 2025.

Accessible Digital Publishing Initiative

Because it is a priority to ensure all Canadians, no matter how they read, have access to accessible content, the BPAA has worked with publishers to incorporate accessible publishing practices into their workflows. This has included training in alternative text creation, real-time demos of the experience of print-disabled Canadians in accessing content, and education in the area of standards for the creation of accessible content and accessible metadata.

Through our Accessible Digital Publishing Initiative, the BPAA facilitated the conversion of over 800 member-publishers' titles into quality-assurance-tested EPUB3 files that meet internationally recognized WCAG and EPUB

accessibility standards. The accessible eBooks are made available to Canadians with print disabilities through the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) and the National Network for Equitable Library Service (NNELS). The files are added to the three eBook collections in Alberta libraries, and are made available to publishers for distribution.

The Canada Book Fund has now closed the Accessible Digital Books Support for Organizations funding stream, but the BPAA continues to explore ways in which we can support our members.

BPAA Audiobook Project

Since 2016, the BPAA, in partnership with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), has produced a selection of Alberta-published books into accessible digital audiobooks. The audiobook files are provided to the publisher for distribution, made available to clients of the CNIB, and added to the Read Alberta eBook Collection.

This project runs when funding allows, and the number of titles produced can vary, depending on the amount of funding received. To date, we have produced over 90 accessible audiobooks of our members' titles. The most recent intake has just been completed, and we will be opening another intake in fall 2025.

How can publishers get involved?

When a new intake opens, the BPAA will notify publishers to submit titles for consideration.

3

LIBRARY OUTREACH

Outreach to Alberta libraries remains a priority for the BPAA. We have developed meaningful relationships with librarians across the province and keep in regular contact with them about our various programs and initiatives.

Library Conferences

The BPAA attends and donates door prizes to regional library conferences to increase awareness of Alberta published books.

We will continue to pursue presentation and vendor opportunities at regional library conferences as capacity allows.

Read Alberta Book Blasts

Beginning in 2025, we coordinated spring and fall sessions of the Read Alberta Book Blast. These biannual, virtual sessions allow our members to present their newest titles directly to library staff, supporting the discoverability of Alberta books.

MARKETING

Alberta Books for Schools

The Alberta Books for Schools project is a catalogue, website, and digital database featuring Alberta books that can be used as supplementary resources in Alberta classrooms. The submitted titles undergo curriculum mapping by The Alberta Library to identify connections to the Alberta K-12 curriculum. This resource makes it easy for Alberta educators to find the perfect Alberta book for their classroom.

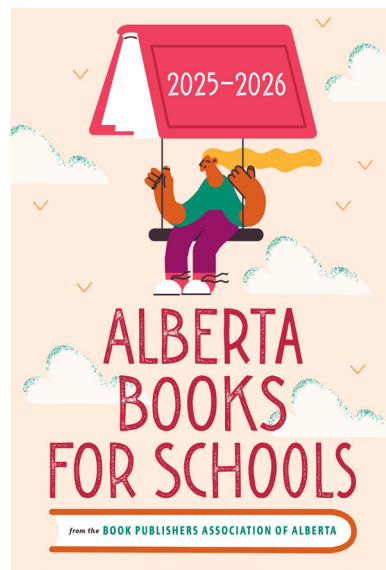
Each year, new title additions are shared with Alberta K-12 schools, independent and chain bookstores, public libraries, and MLAs and MPs, as well as Canadian library wholesalers, school boards and teachers' associations.

With the intention of reducing our carbon footprint, going forward the Alberta Books for Schools catalogue will only be available digitally as a downloadable PDF and through the online database at ABBooksForSchools.ca. Consideration has been taken to ensure the digital catalogue and search functionality of the database is accessible for all users.

The 2025/26 Alberta Books for Schools digital catalogue and database are available at ABBooksForSchools.ca.

Read Alberta Publisher Catalogue

The Read Alberta Publisher catalogue is an annual catalogue featuring frontlist titles from Alberta publishers. It is distributed in print to Alberta libraries and bookstores, Canadian library wholesalers, BPAA members, funders, and other industry contacts. The fourth edition of the Read Alberta Publisher Catalogue featured 95 titles and 13 publishers, and was published and distributed in late 2024. The 2025 catalogue will be published and distributed in December 2025. [View past editions of the catalogue on our website.](#)



How can publishers get involved?

BPAA members will be notified by email when submissions open.

Read Alberta Website

Read Alberta is a hub where Alberta's readers, authors, publishers, booksellers, educators, and libraries can connect, support, and learn more about one another. In collaboration with the Alberta Magazine Publishers Association, Read Alberta also features stories from and about Alberta magazine publishers.

The Read Alberta team works with contributors to develop content, publish a monthly newsletter, and keep the site fresh and interesting.

Read Alberta content currently includes articles about the book industry, author interviews, themed book lists, publisher submitted features, editorial cartoons, and more.

For a more in-depth exploration of the Read Alberta website, please see our Read Alberta: Telling Alberta's Story session recording from June 2021 or the Read Alberta panel moderated by Kieran Leblanc at the Writers' Guild of Alberta's 2023 conference. Both videos are available through the Members Only Page on our website.



How can publishers get involved with Read Alberta?

Reach out to, Peter Midgley, the Read Alberta Editorial Lead (peter@midgley.ca) to pitch your books and authors for feature articles or book lists.

BPAA members will be notified by email when submissions for themed book lists are open, and we encourage you to submit titles!

Read Alberta's monthly new releases article is created using data from Bookmanager. If you do not have your title information available through Bookmanager, please send your title info to Jackie Eckel (jeckel@bookpublishers.ab.ca).

Continue to send two copies of your new releases to the BPAA office. When curating book lists and articles, the Read Alberta team prioritizes titles that are available through the BPAA office, as these copies are used to create the featured images.

Subscribe to the Read Alberta newsletter and follow them on social media (@WeReadAB).

Share articles and the newsletter with friends, family, and authors!



Edmonton Bestseller List

In cooperation with [Audreys Books](#), [Magpie Books](#), and [Paper Birch Books](#), the BPAA produces a weekly summary of the [bestselling books in Edmonton](#).



Calgary Bestseller List

The [Calgary Bestseller list](#) is compiled weekly with data from [Shelf Life Books](#) and [Owl's Nest Books](#).

Both of these lists are distributed to BPAA members, library and bookstore contacts, members of the media, and posted on [Bluesky](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#). Taproot Edmonton features the Edmonton Bestseller list in their weekly Arts Roundup newsletter. Alberta book publishers and Alberta authors are highlighted on the list, and BPAA member-publishers are tagged in social media posts when their titles are featured on a bestseller list.



How can publishers get involved?

Reshare/retweet our social media posts and tag your authors to increase the reach and visibility of the bestseller lists!

Edmonton Arts Council Shop & Services

The BPAA regularly works with Edmonton Arts Council Shop & Services (EAC Shop), formerly TIX on the Square, to restock their store with titles from our member publishers.



If titles are requested by the EAC Shop that the BPAA does not have in stock, we will follow-up with publishers individually. BPAA office stock is used wherever possible for this initiative.

MEMBER SERVICES

Website

The BPAA website has resources for publishers and the general public:

Resources for the Public

GETTING PUBLISHED

The BPAA is regularly contacted by writers looking to learn more about the publishing industry and how to get published. As a result, we created a [Getting Published](#) page on our website to answer some general questions about how to get published.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION READING LIST

In an effort to stand in solidarity with the people all across North America opposing racism against black people in the summer of 2020, the BPAA and the Writers' Guild of Alberta assembled a [Diversity and Inclusion Reading List](#) of relevant books, articles, and essays.

We are committed to working towards greater inclusivity within our industries through fair representation of Black, Indigenous, and other racialized people, and to amplifying and listening to voices that have too often been silenced.

READ ALBERTA BOOKS CATALOGUE

The BPAA regularly updates the [Read Alberta Books Catalogue](#) on our website with BPAA member-published new releases. In general, new titles are added when office copies are received. The catalogue is searchable and filterable by genre. Each title page includes a link to the publisher's website, [ReadAlbertaeBooks.ca](#), [AccessibleAlberta.ca](#), and a "Shop Local" button.

Resources for Publishers

EVENT LISTINGS

Upcoming events hosted by the BPAA, including professional development sessions and more, are highlighted on the website homepage. When member events are submitted through the [events submission form](#), they are added to the upcoming events section of our newsletter.

ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL PUBLISHING RESOURCES

This page includes resources for publishers about accessible digital publishing and born-accessible books.

MEMBERS ONLY PAGE

The [Members Only Page](#) hosts resources geared towards BPAA members, including distribution and purchasing opportunities, advocacy tools, terminology, and editing resources, webinar recordings, and much more. Members can contact BPAA staff for the password if needed.

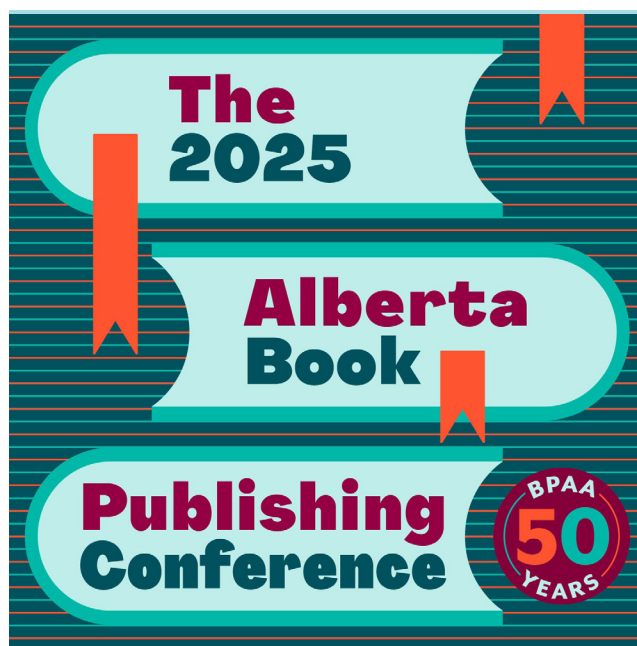
Annual Conference and AGM

The BPAA welcomed publishers, and industry professionals from across Canada to the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity for the 2024 Book Publishers Association of Alberta Conference and AGM.

There were more than 50 people in attendance to learn about the latest industry developments and network with their peers.

Professional development sessions included panels with libraries and bookstores, updates from funders, and more.

The 2025 Conference will take place in Calgary, Alberta at the Grey Eagle Resort, and we are excited to connect in-person!



Books — Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Every two weeks, the BPAA publishes a [newsletter](#) to approximately 260 subscribers. Subscribers include BPAA members, librarians, booksellers, authors, media contacts, government staff, and the general public. The newsletter includes industry updates, association business, employment opportunities, program and awards deadlines, and other relevant information for the Alberta book publishing community. BPAA member-publisher accomplishments and events are also highlighted in the newsletter.



How can publishers get involved?

Submit your events to our [Events submission form](#) so we can advertise it in the newsletter.

Do you have something you want us to highlight in the newsletter, for example a job posting or award news? Send us an email with the details.

Professional Development Program

The BPAA continues to provide professional development opportunities to our members throughout the year. To increase the reach and accessibility of our PD sessions, the BPAA will continue to offer PD sessions as Zoom webinars, in addition to in-person PD sessions at our Annual Conference.

Recent PD sessions have covered a wide variety of topics, including indexing, sustainable publishing, and financial/administration strategies.

The BPAA continues to facilitate themed Member Roundtables, which serve as an opportunity for our members to connect on topics of interest. Recent roundtables have focused on catalogues, technology use, and award submissions.

A full list of past PD sessions, and the recorded webinars, slide decks, and additional resources, are available through the [Members Only Page](#) on the BPAA website.

How can publishers get involved?

Register for upcoming PD webinars. BPAA staff announce new webinars by email and a list of upcoming webinars can also be found in our newsletter.

If you have a topic you would like covered with a PD webinar, send us an email.

Archive Program

The BPAA archives our members' front-list titles with the Provincial Archives of Alberta to ensure Alberta-published books are preserved in perpetuity.

PROVINCIAL
ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA

How can publishers get involved?

As titles are published, publishers are encouraged to send two copies to the BPAA office. One copy is used in the archive program, and the other is displayed in our office and used when we attend conferences. Read Alberta also uses the office copies to create content for website graphics.

Titles are archived every two years, and the next intake will be in 2026.