



**PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT COMMISSION
COMMISSION DU DROIT DE PRÊT PUBLIC**

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About the Public Lending Right (PLR) Program

The Public Lending Right (PLR) Commission annually distributes payments to Canadian authors for the presence of their books in Canadian public libraries.

How does the PLR program work? _____

Authors must register their titles with the Commission. Works of fiction, poetry, drama, children's literature, general non-fiction and scholarly books are eligible. Ineligible categories include how-to books, guidebooks, bibliographies, compilations and textbooks. A complete description of the program eligibility criteria can be found on the following page.

Registered eligible titles are checked annually against the holdings of a selection of Canadian public libraries. It is a title's presence in one or more of these libraries that produces a payment. The following payment scale is used to calculate the payments:

- maximum hit rate for titles registered between 0-5 years;
- 80% for those registered between 6-10 years;
- 70% for those registered 11-15 years; and
- 60% for those registered 16 years or more.

Each year, the PLR's budget determines the value of the hit rate, the maximum and minimum amounts an author may receive.

How can I register with the PLR program? _____

REGISTRATION PERIOD: 15 February to 1 May

Authors must complete a registration form and send it by mail to the Commission together with the required support material. Registrations are accepted only during the annual registration period (with date of postmark as proof).

Registration forms are available during the registration period, either by contacting the PLR office or by downloading the form from the PLR website.

How is the PLR Program administered? _____

The PLR program is administered by the PLR Commission which is made up of representatives of national organizations of writers, translators, librarians and publishers. The majority of members are authors. The Commission also includes non-voting representatives from the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, Library and Archives Canada, and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. The PLR Commission is responsible for determining the general policies of the program.

The PLR Commission operates under the administrative aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Funding for the PLR program comes from the federal government through the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Public Lending Right Commission

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613-566-4378

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Public Lending Right (PLR) Program Eligibility Criteria

Consult the eligibility criteria below to make sure that you and your titles are eligible before you fill out the form. Include the necessary support material with your submission.

Important: No claim may be made on behalf of a deceased author by the estate or survivors. Moreover, the shares of ineligible or deceased contributors do not accrue to other contributors.

Registrations are accepted only during the annual registration period (with date of postmark as proof).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

You may be eligible for a PLR payment if you meet the following conditions:

You are:

- an author or co-author;
- an illustrator or photographer;
- a translator;
- an anthology contributor;
- an editor with an original written contribution.

You are a Canadian citizen (living in Canada or abroad) or have Permanent Resident status, as defined by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Your name appears on a given work's title page or copyright page or, for an anthology contributor, in the table of contents.

Your contribution comprises at least 10% of the length of the book.

There are no more than six contributors to the title (excluding editors and translators, but including illustrators and photographers).

If you are an editor, you meet all of the following four conditions:

- your name is listed as editor or co-editor on the title page or copyright page;
- there are no more than two co-editors listed on the title page or copyright page;
- you have written a foreword, a preface, an introduction, a afterword, or a conclusion to the book;
- your original written contribution comprises at least 10 pages and 10% of the book's text. Original written work is considered to be the combination of your prefatory material, your notes on the text, or your other written work in the body of the book. It does not include notes on the contributors, revision work, indices, chronologies, bibliographies, glossaries or table of contents. You must clearly identify your written contribution on the table of contents.

ELIGIBLE BOOKS

The following books may be eligible for a PLR payment:

- works of poetry, fiction, drama, children's literature, nonfiction or scholarly work;
- books that are at least 48 pages in length, or in the case of children's literature, at least 24 pages;
- printed books with an ISBN.

HOW TO CALCULATE YOUR PERCENTAGE SHARE?

The percentage claim you make is based on your specific printed contribution to the book. For example, if a 100-page book consists of 70 pages of a writer's work and 30 pages of an illustrator's work, the illustrator would claim 30% and the writer would claim 70%.

Depending on a title's category and an author's contribution, the percentage share is calculated as follows:

Authors and co-authors

- The original eligible author of an eligible book may claim 100% of a title's PLR payment only if there are no other contributors to the book.
- The author of an eligible translated work may claim an additional 50% for each translated version. This title must be registered separately. If a co-author or an illustrator is involved in the original work, this must also be recognized within the 50% author share. (If you are an author of an illustrated book, see also "*Illustrators or photographers*").
- As an eligible co-author, you may claim a share that represents your specific written contribution.

Anthology contributors (no more than 6 contributors)

- As an eligible contributor to an anthology, you may claim a share that represents your specific written contribution.
- If you have published a work in an anthology and then published the same work as a separate book, you may claim for the work only once. The separate book is likely to be your better bet.

Editors with original written material

- An eligible editor may claim 20% of the potential PLR payment. If two editors are involved, each claims 10%.

Translators

- The translator of an eligible book may claim up to 50% of the potential PLR payment.
- For translated children's picture books, the eligible author, translator and illustrator may claim 33% each.
- If more than one translator is involved, the translator percentage claim must be shared accordingly.

Public Lending Right (PLR) Program Eligibility Criteria

Illustrators or photographers

- As an eligible illustrator or photographer, you may claim the percentage represented by the space occupied by your illustrations or photographs in a book. Illustrations of less than one page are counted as that proportion of the page (i.e. it will take two one-half page illustrations or four one-quarter page illustrations to count for one page of illustration).
- For children's picture books of between 24 and 32 pages, PLR claims are automatically 50% each for the author and the illustrator. For translations of these books, each of the author, translator and illustrator may claim 33%.

INELIGIBLE BOOKS

The following books are not eligible in the PLR program:

- a practical book giving advice or instructions, a self-help or "how-to" book, a manual or guidebook on any subject (e.g. travel, nature, cookbook, etc.);
- a professional guide (legal, technical, medical, scientific, pedagogical, accounting, financial, etc);
- a book designed primarily for an educational market;
- a list of any kind or short segments of information are brought together in a list format (directory, index, compilation, bibliography, dictionary, atlas, encyclopaedia, genealogy, etc.);

- a book resulting from a conference, seminar or symposium;
- the catalogue of an exhibition;
- a newspaper, magazine or periodical;
- an unpublished work (e.g. thesis, manuscript);
- non-print formats (electronic file, CD-ROM, DVD, etc.);
- a second or subsequent edition of an eligible book, unless at least 50% of this edition constitutes completely new text, not revised text. In this case, the new edition will be considered eligible as a new title;
- a report, survey or program evaluation;
- a title prepared for or published by a governmental or paragonovernmental organization, institution or corporation;
- wholly or mainly a musical score;
- a calendar, agenda, colouring book, quiz book or game;
- a book created for your employer in the course of your employment.

The PLR Commission reserves the right to re-examine the eligibility of a registered title at any time.