

# Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award

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# Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award

## Rules and eligibility

Founded in 1998 as part of the celebrations marking the 50<sup>e</sup> anniversary of the founding of Acadia Life, the Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award recognizes Acadians who, through the quality of their literary work, contribute to the promotion of Acadia around the world.

The Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award is granted and owned by Acadia Life. The Literary Award's board of directors oversees the interests of the competition, approves the rules and ensures the viability and integrity of the overall process.

## Objectives of Awards

The objectives of the Literary Award are as follows:

- Promote Acadian literature in general;
- To recognize annually the excellence of a book written in French, by awarding the winner a bursary (**Annual Award**);
- To recognize annually the talent of a young francophone author, by awarding a bursary to the winner (**Richelieu Youth Award**);
- Every five years, we recognize a French-language author for their body of work by awarding the winner a bursary (**Five-Year Award**).

## Deadline

The deadline for submissions to the Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award is December 31.

## Awards

The Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award consists of three Awards:

### The Annual Award

The **Annual Award** is given each year to a work written in French and published by a publishing house.

The literary genres recognized for the purposes of this Award are: novel, poetry, short story, tale, narrative and literary essay.

Books published between January 1 and December 31 of the year preceding the competition are eligible for this Award, with the date of publication serving as proof.

The work submitted must not have been previously published, with the exception of an anthology or critical edition.

### Richelieu Youth Award

The **Richelieu Youth Award** annually recognizes the talent of a young francophone author between the ages of 15 and 25, and requiring to be under that age at the closing date of the competition. The literary genres recognized for the purposes of this Award are: poetry, short story, tale, narrative, theatre and essay.

## Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award

The winning entry must be:

- Written in French;
- Typed, double-spaced;
- Minimum length of 10 pages, approximately;
- A complete and finished text;
- An original, unpublished work that has not been published by a publishing house or literary magazine, with the exception of a student newspaper, prior to the announcement of the finalists.
- In addition, the author must not have had any literary works published by a publishing house before.

This text may contain different registers of language, regionalisms or orality. It must, however, respect the grammatical and spelling rules of French. As literary writing relies heavily on an excellent command of the language, a work containing too many grammatical, syntactic or spelling errors may be rejected. Entries will be judged on the basis of their originality and stylistic rigour.

Without limiting the scope of the established criteria, the jury reserves the right to consider the candidacy of a young author under the age of 15 who submits one or more literary texts of superior or exceptional quality.

### The Five-Year Award

Every five years, the **Five-Year Award** honours the life's work of a francophone author claiming Acadian identity, as defined in the eligibility criteria. The Award is open to all literary categories.

### Eligibility

Candidates for the Literary Award must be Acadian, a native of an Atlantic province, or French-speaking and a resident of one of these provinces for at least five years. The Literary Award is also open to people of Acadian descent who have a parent born in an Atlantic province.

The book or manuscript must be submitted in French.

The book or manuscript can be submitted by the author, or by any interested person or organization, subject to the author's agreement. Publishing houses can now submit their authors' applications to the eligible section.

For the **Five-Year Award**, the book or manuscript may be submitted by the members of the jury. In the latter case, the nomination may be made during a conference call, in which case the nominee need not comply with the competition conditions. However, a member of the jury who proposes a candidate must forward the relevant and necessary information on the candidate to the other members of the jury, so that they can study the dossier adequately and as fairly as possible, within a reasonable timeframe.

No member of the jury may be eligible for the competition for the year or years in which they are a member of the jury.

# Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award

## Restrictions

- An author may receive the Annual Award more than once, at five-year intervals. In the case of the Five-Year Award, and the Richelieu Youth Award, an author may receive them only once, as they are an achievement award and a new discovery award respectively;
- An author may submit one work per category in the same year;
- The Award is indivisible, unless it rewards a joint work or career;
- Translations are not accepted;
- A text can only be submitted once.

## The application form

All entries, whatever their origin, must be accompanied by a dossier and sent to the general secretariat of the Literary Award before December 31.

The dossier must contain:

- Completed online application form (including OneDrive download link for uploading CV and your complete work);
- Candidate's curriculum vitae (maximum three pages);
- For the **Annual Award**, three copies of the submitted book and a PDF copy;
- For the **Richelieu Youth Award**, a PDF copy of the manuscript;
- For the **Five-Year Award**, a list of the nominee's publications in PDF format.

To submit an application, please visit the following website: <https://prixlitteraire.uni.ca>

**The deadline is December 31.** You will be able to complete all the documentation online and send it in. Your application must be complete.

Physical copies of the books must be sent to the following address by December 31:

Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award  
295 Saint-Pierre Ouest Blvd.  
Caraquet NB E1W 1B7

By becoming a finalist for the Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award, all finalists authorize UNI to use their name, location, photograph, image, voice and statement relating to the Award for publicity purposes without any form of remuneration. Finalists agree to participate in various promotional activities, including interviews, videos, testimonials, photo shoots and quotations of their name for publication in print and broadcast media, as well as on the Internet.

## Dossier evaluation

### Jury members

- The jury will be made up of three professional literary artists;
- Jury members will be selected according to the principles of inclusiveness, diversity and equity;
- Jury members evaluate the entries received for each Award;
- An employee will convene the jury meeting and support the evaluation process, without participating in it;

## **Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award**

- Jury members will be announced at the Awards Gala;
- Jury members are appointed for the duration of the competition.

Jury members are invited to be open-minded in order to fully appreciate the quality and multiplicity of literary choices and approaches of the books submitted.

The jury's role is to grant the Awards for the annual competition, if it sees fit. However, if no manuscript meets the requirements of the competition, or for any other reason deemed valid by the jury, the latter reserves the right not to grant an Award.

### **Evaluation criteria**

Here are the evaluation criteria on which the jurors will base their assessment:

- Artistic merit (80%)
  - Artistic and literary quality of the work;
  - Merit and literary relevance of the work;
  - Artistic results achieved;
  - Impact on the artist's trajectory or career;
  - All literary qualities and coherence.
- Other merits (20%)
  - Visual design of the publication;
  - Community impact.

### **Choice of winner**

After evaluation by the jury:

- The jury selects three finalists, including one winner for each Award;
- The jury's decision is final. It must be made according to an evaluation grid that will be proposed to grade the applications;
- Jury deliberations are confidential;
- The jury's decisions are sent to the Literary Award's board of directors;
- The Literary Award's board of directors renders public the details of the annual competition's finalists;
- A list of winners is updated after each competition, so that organizers and others can follow up and recognize the winners of the Literary Award.

If no work is selected by the jury, the Literary Awards' board of directors reserves the right not to grant the Award. However, the Literary Award's board of directors may award the sum earmarked for the Award in the form of a creative bursary.

### **The Awards ceremony**

For each Award, a list of finalists is published three weeks before the official Awards ceremony. Finalists are notified by letter or other means of communication and invited to the official Awards ceremony. The winner is the person who, in the opinion of the jury, produced the most deserving work of the competition year.

## Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award

The Awards are granted each year at an official ceremony held in October. The finalist undertakes to be present at the official Awards ceremony, or to be represented by their publisher or any other person designated by the author.

The board of directors presents the following Awards to the winners:

- A \$4,000 bursary, trophy and certificate to the winner of the Annual Award;
- A \$1,000 bursary, trophy and certificate to the winner of the Richelieu Youth Award;
- A \$5,000 bursary, an engraved bronze medal and a certificate to the winner of the Five-Year Award.

A list of Award winners is updated after each competition to ensure follow-up and recognition for the Literary Award winners.

UNI is committed to respecting and protecting the privacy and confidentiality of the information you entrust to us. You hereby agree that UNI may share your personal information with artsnb or any other partner so that it may properly manage the entire process related to the Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award, including, among other things, registration, evaluation of applications and granting of Awards.

You may withdraw your consent for your personal information by contacting UNI. However, you may not withdraw consent where required or permitted by law. Withdrawing your consent may affect your eligibility for the Antonine Maillet-Acadia Life Literary Award.