

# 25th Annual NOWW Writing Contest

## 2023 Contest Rules

### Poetry

- **One entry consists of a minimum of 1 poem and a maximum of 5 poems.**
- Poems may be in any style or theme.
- Combined line count of the total entry must not exceed 100 lines.
- Poem titles or spaces between poems do not count towards total number of lines.
- All poems per entry must be submitted in one file.
- It is strongly recommended that you do not submit poems that require unusual formatting. If you choose to rely on a specific formatting, submit your entry as a PDF rather than a Word file. NOWW cannot guarantee formatting will remain the same and we cannot be held responsible for any adverse changes to your formatting at any point in the submission or review/judging process, or at time of publication (should your entry win).

### Short Fiction

- A complete piece of literary fiction.
- Entry must be between 2000-3500 words.
- Title is not counted towards total word count.

### Creative Nonfiction

- A complete piece of creative nonfiction; note that memoir and personal essay can be considered creative nonfiction.
- Entry must be between 1500-3000 words.
- Title is not counted towards total word count.

### Bill MacDonald Prize for Prose

- A complete piece of fiction.
- This prize will alternate yearly between creative nonfiction and fiction.
- A Northwestern Ontario setting must be central to the work. Northwestern Ontario is comprised of the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River, and Kenora.
- An entry submitted to this category may not be submitted to any other category.
- Entry must be between 2000-3500 words.
- Title is not counted towards total word count.

### Short Crime Fiction

- A complete piece of crime fiction
- Entry must be between 2000-3500 words.
- Title is not counted towards total word count.

### Literary Critical Writing

- A critical review of a book, movie, television program, music release, theatre, or an individual artist and their works.
- Entry must be between 300-500 words.
- Title is not counted towards total word count.

### Eligible Writers

This contest is open to individuals (Canadian and international) age 18 and over.

## Deadline

Entries must be emailed no later than **February 28, 2023, midnight Eastern Time.**

## Rules

- Entries must be original and unpublished.
- Entries must be written in English.
- **Entries must not bear author's name (other than on the cover page) or any other information that would make the author's identity known to screeners or judges. Entries that do will be disqualified.**
- Edits and revisions are prohibited. Once submitted your entries are final.
- Authors agree that winning entries may be read at NOWW's year-end celebration and published online on NOWW's website and in the NOWW magazine without compensation to the author beyond that of the awarded prize money. With these exceptions, the author retains copyright in all work submitted. Winning entries may be edited prior to publication.
- Winners must provide a photo and brief biography.
- **Submissions that do not follow the "How to Submit" instructions may be subject to disqualification.**

## Judging Process

- Judging is blind.
- Screeners will select six finalists per category to be sent to a final judge.
- Final judges reserve the right not to select winners if, in their opinion, none of the entries is of publishable quality.

## Results

- Winners will be announced at NOWW's year-end celebration and on the NOWW website on or after May 30, 2023.
- The finalists for each category will be notified by email after June 1, 2023 that their entries were shortlisted.

## Prizes

- Each category will be awarded a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.
- 1<sup>st</sup> prize is awarded \$125.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> prize is awarded \$75.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> prize is awarded \$50.

## Entry Fee

- Entry is free for NOWW members in good standing.
- Non-members must pay a fee of \$10 in Canadian funds per entry before the contest closing date (February 28, 2023, midnight Eastern Time).
- Payment may be made online through PayPal at the time of submission.
- Cheques must be payable to NOWW and must be received by regular mail or hand-delivered no later than February 28, 2023, midnight Eastern Time.

## How to Submit

- Two (2) entries may be made per category.
- Only electronic submissions will be accepted.
- We prefer submissions in .doc or .docx. We will also accept PDF files. All other file types will be disqualified.
- All files are to be labelled with the category and the submission title of your entry.
  - Examples: "Short Fiction Dracula is Back.doc" or "Poetry Three Poems.doc"

- Prose manuscripts must be double-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch margins on all sides and the pages numbered. Do not add your name or any identifying features in the header or footer of the document.
- Poetry must be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12-point font with one-inch (or greater) margins on all sides and the pages numbered. Do not add your name or any identifying features in the header or footer of the document.
- All entries must be submitted by the closing date of the contest which is no later than midnight EST February 28, 2023, regardless of payment for entry. No refunds will be made should you not submit in time.
- **Each entry must include a cover page in a separate file with the following information:**
  - Name\*
  - Email address\*
  - Mailing address\*
  - Phone number\*
  - Title of entry\*
  - Category \*
  - Line count (poetry only)\*
  - Word count (all prose categories)\*
  - How you heard about the contest
  - If you are a member of NOWW.

**Note:** If your name appears anywhere besides the cover page or if there is any information within the body of the text that identifies you to screeners or judges, the entry will be disqualified. Counts must be exact, not estimates (do not include the title in the word count).

- **Email entries to: admin@nowwwriters.ca**
- **Pay entry fees via PayPal on our website: https://www.nowwwriters.ca/**
  - **Please confirm payment by sending the following to admin@nowwwriters.ca: Your name (as per your submission) and the PayPal transaction number and date.**
  - **Or simply include your name (as per your submission) in the comment section in PayPal to ensure it is matched with the correct entry.**
- Send entry fees by cheque to:
  - NOWW Writing Contest
  - Box 425
  - 1100 Memorial Avenue
  - Thunder Bay, ON
  - P7B 4A3
- Due to the volume of entries, we do not send confirmation of receipt of submission.
- For more information, contact Don at admin@nowwwriters.ca

\* This information is required for eligibility into the contest.