

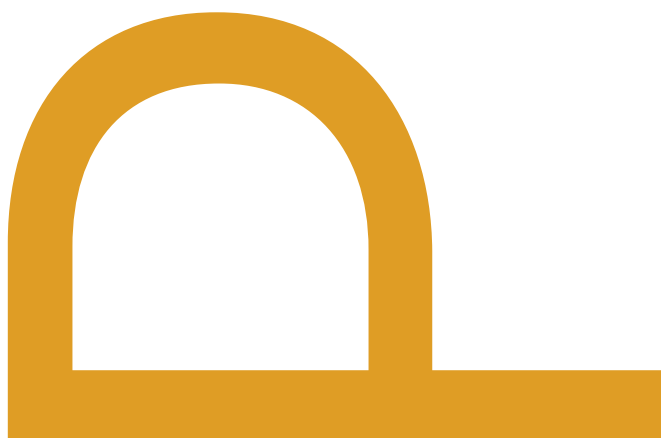
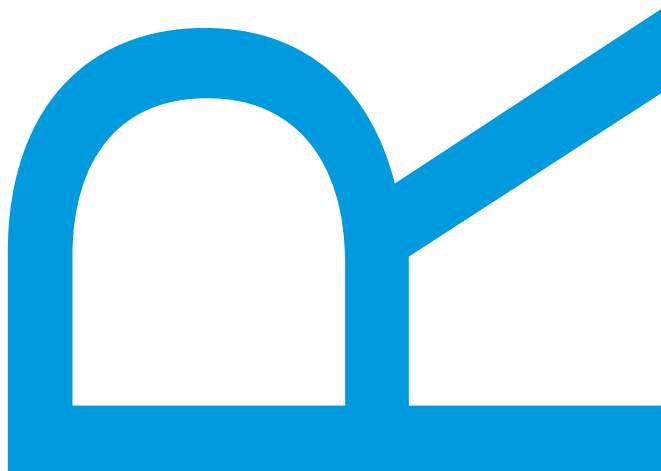


Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada

Public Lending
Right Program

Programme du droit
de prêt public



Annual Report
2016-2017

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT

Activities of the
PLR Commission and
of the PLR Program

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

on the activities
of the PLR Commission
and
of the PLR Program

2016–2017



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9 June 2017

PLR – HOW THE PROGRAM’S VALUE STACKS UP

Supporting Authors

Over 17,000 Canadian authors benefit annually from the Public Lending Right Program through direct payments ranging from \$50 to over \$3,000 a year.

Eligible work includes original writing, translation, illustration, and photography contained in library books across a range of literary and scholarly genres.

Supporting Libraries

As a result of Public Lending Right payments, Canadian public libraries benefit from a strengthened relationship with authors, who are rewarded for contributing to our shared cultural life.

The PLR thus contributes to nourishing a strong literary ecosystem for all.

Supporting Readers

By supporting Canadian authors and libraries the Public Lending Right is also supporting Canadian readers. We support public access to Canadian content!

THE PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT PROGRAM

Canada's Public Lending Right (PLR) program was created in 1986, and has delivered annual compensation to authors ever since. Canadian authors are invited to register their titles with the program during the registration period, which is open from February 15-May 1 each year. Literary and scholarly works across a range of genres (fiction, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and children's literature) are eligible for consideration. Eligible contributions to a registered title include original writing, illustration, photography, and translation. Titles are checked annually against the catalogued holdings of a selection of public library systems serving each official language group, including public reference libraries and provincial networks where possible.

Payments to authors begin at \$50 and are determined by the extent to which eligible titles are discovered in the annual library catalogue surveys. The rate of compensation accorded to an eligible title is determined by a payment scale. This sliding scale comprises four levels which correspond to the number of years a title has been registered with the program. Each year the available budget, in tandem with the results of the library sampling and the number of eligible claims, serves to determine the maximum amount that an author can receive. In 2016-17, this amount was \$3,521. Authors have now registered a remarkable 98,413 eligible books with the PLR Program.

The Public Lending Right Commission (PLRC) is a permanent advisory body of the Canada Council for the Arts charged with administrative oversight of the program, with responsibility for maintaining the program's eligibility criteria, sampling methodology, and general policies. The PLRC is comprised of individuals from both official language communities, who provide expertise and guidance to the program as authors, publishers,

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

An organization that is not revitalized intelligently and regularly stagnates and essentially digs its own grave. In the interest of the creators it supports, the Canadian Public Lending Right Commission prefers the alternative, which is why the Commission revised its Constitution last year with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts Board of Directors.

Here is the main feature of this rejuvenation. In the past, only members designated by the Commission's Constituent Associations were able to sit on the Commission, making it impossible for other writers' associations to join, even if they were perfectly eligible in terms of their representativity or enthusiasm. There was only one solution: do away with Constituent Associations. And that is exactly what was done. From now on, when there is a vacancy in the Commission, a general call for applications will be sent out. Any and all associations are welcome to nominate someone. The executive will examine the files submitted, assess its own needs—for example in terms of regional representation and genres— and invite the candidate deemed most qualified to join the Commission's ranks. The fundamental distinction between this and the process used in the past is that writer members no longer exclusively represent a given association, but rather the entire literary community, i.e. all the program's potential beneficiaries, whether they are writers, translators or illustrators. Of course, the representative is free to express an association's specific views during Commission deliberations, but is encouraged to keep the bigger picture in mind. In a way, the Commission now operates in much the same way as a traditional circle, in that all writer representatives are invited to take a seat, in an inclusive and collegial spirit where everyone is equal.

The past year has been a gentle transition towards our new constitution. When it came time to recruit a new Anglophone representative, we followed the process described above, and selected Russell Wangersky from Newfoundland and Labrador, who finds himself about to usher in a new era. We also welcomed Karoline Georges, who was appointed to the Commission by the Union des écrivaines et écrivains du Québec under the old constitution, but happily accepted to serve her term under the new state of affairs.

Speaking of elected members, in 2016 we had to say thank you and goodbye to Beatriz Hausner, our Chair, who certainly had the most seniority through her many roles at the Commission. We also bid adieu to: Jean-Marie Pître from the Acadian community; Marilyn Dumont from Alberta; Linda Cook, who represented Anglophone libraries; Gaston Bellemare, Francophone publishers and Robert Hunter, from Canadian Heritage. We found excellent replacements to fill their shoes: Semareh Al-Hillal, who represents Anglophone publishers; Marc-André Audet, who

represents Francophone publishers; Lise Laneville from Canadian Heritage; Sandra Singh representing libraries from English Canada, and Mélanie Dumas from the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ). Aline Apostolska's term has also concluded; her position will not be filled since the Commission is now made up of only 11 members rather than 15 like before. To recap: we've slimmed down a little, everyone is on board, and the Commission is well positioned for the future.

Next year, the Commission will name two new members, a Francophone and an Anglophone, to replace Gino Lévesque and Leeann Minogue who are leaving after four years of loyal service. The new appointment process will once again be put to the test and likely refined. As a result, the day will soon come when the Commission no longer has any members from the "old regime", and the transformation will be complete.

The Commission is also getting a makeover on the administrative side of things. This year we lost our amazing numbers man, Benoît Rollin, to retirement. While he is not easily replaced, Rachelle Lanoue is certainly up to the task. Our trusty Executive Secretary Peter Schneider is thankfully staying on board, a steady hand at the helm.

The Commission fittingly celebrated its 30th birthday with a reception at the Salon du livre de Montréal (SLM). There, I made a speech which, although not as popular as the buffet and bar, allowed me to reiterate our raison d'être and guiding principles. It is always good to repeat these things from time to time. Also in 2016, the Translation Rights Fair was transferred from the Canada Council to the SLM, which is good news for the future. Lastly, the SLM presented the program staff and our colleague and esteemed librarian Philippe Sauvageau with a commemorative plaque to mark the Commission's 30th year.

The Commission still has solid ties with the Canada Council, and I have an amicable and fruitful rapport with its Director and CEO, Simon Brault to ensure that administrators and elected officials remain on the same page.

Next year is sure to be a productive one that could see new collaborative activities with libraries to promote Anglophone writers in Francophone communities, and vice versa. We have dreamed of building these sorts of bridges between linguistic communities in Canada for a long time. We can now start thinking about taking concrete steps in this direction under the aegis of the Public Lending Right Commission, the only forum in the country where writers, translators, publishers and librarians speak regularly. And not just about literature.

Daniel Poliquin

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Public Lending Right Program has now successfully entered its fourth decade of continual operation, an accomplishment that we were proud to celebrate in 2016-17 during our 30th Anniversary Year. With this maturity comes additional responsibility, to guarantee that the benefits of PLR are made fully available to creators of current and future works, and to make certain that our storied past does not obscure or prevent the need to adapt, innovate, and respond to a changing world. With transformative new funding on the horizon, the onus is on the members of the Commission to act boldly and responsibly in order to ensure that the PLR Program advances: by modernizing its processes, by embracing new forms of creativity, and by shaping limits and priorities to provide sustainability over time. Under the larger banner of the Canada Council for the Arts and in alignment with the vision set out in the Canada Council's Strategic Plan 2016-21, we are committed to ensuring that the Canadian PLR remains sustainable, open to new generations, and adaptive in the face of changing library use and public expectations of value.

In February 2017, the PLR Program provided compensation ranging from \$50 to \$3,521 to a combined total of 17,344 Canadian writers, translators, illustrators, and photographers. The total public investment in PLR author payments amounted to \$9,758,099.60 and for the first time, the payout included compensation for the availability and use of electronic books held by Canadian public libraries. A number of authors experienced significant gains in their PLR payments owing to the recognition of their ebook titles; some prolific and widely-read authors received the maximum annual payment based solely on ebook titles registered with the Program.

This past year was one of numerous public outreach activities and events for staff and for the members of the Public Lending Right Commission: PLR was present at the Canadian Writers Summit; at the historic *Taking It to the Streets!* Conference organized and hosted by our friends and colleagues at Library and Archives Canada; at the Canada Council's *The Arts in A Digital World* Summit; and at the Salons du livre held in Quebec City and Montréal. Throughout the year, and at many tables, the importance of maintaining social relevance, of connecting to the public, and of setting priorities and measuring impacts was reinforced time and again. Those in the Commission's immediate orbit are well aware of the values that animate the

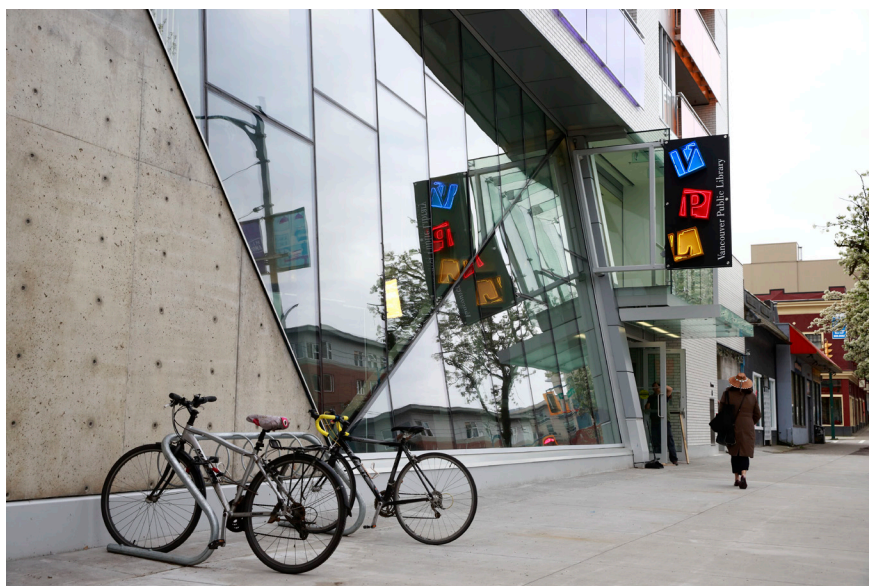
Program; it is our duty to promote the values of public library access, respectful compensation, and equitable treatment of new titles and forms of literary creation. For the first time, readers of the Commission's Annual Report will discover a cumulative list of public library systems whose goodwill and engagement have enabled the PLR Program to function over time; the members of the Commission are looking forward to including additional library systems in the PLR Program's catalogue sampling exercise in the coming years as budget and staff resources allow, and remain committed to the principles of library rotation and regional representation. Sincere thanks and gratitude are extended to our partner libraries, librarians, and technical staff.

In the months ahead, the Commission will be welcoming new writer-members in time for its year-end meeting; in order to succeed, we will continue to rely upon the engagement and support of a panoply of writers organizations to recommend potential Commission members and to provide essential, timely, and factual information to their constituencies.

The illustrations we have chosen for inclusion in this year's Annual Report are of Vancouver Public Library's new náçà?mat ct Strathcona Branch and of the exciting new library facility in Brossard, Quebec; we salute the commitment and important mandate of public libraries and librarians in delivering content and services to a diverse and changing public with ever-evolving needs.

Thanks to the sustained attention and care of our Chair, Daniel Poliquin, the Commission has emerged from a period of review and reflection with a streamlined composition and operational vigour, in proper fighting trim for the challenges ahead (which continue to include eventual online registration and payment for program participants.) During this year of commemoration, the Commission is fortunate to have at its helm this distinguished interpreter, writer, and literary translator who has worked tirelessly to build bridges of inquiry and cross-cultural understanding.

Peter Schneider



The Vancouver Public Library - néčá?mat ct Strathcona Branch

Designed to serve as a cultural hub for one of Vancouver's oldest neighbourhoods, the new library is housed in a building that features 21 units of affordable housing for single mothers and their children. The branch also maintains a dedicated collection of materials primarily by Indigenous authors about their histories, cultures, and modern experiences such as with land claims, social justice and language learning.

The néčá?mat ct Strathcona Branch officially opened in April 2017.

Photos: © Jeff Vinnick

MEMBERS AND STAFF

(AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2017)

COMMISSION

Daniel Poliquin (Chair)
WRITER

Sandra Singh
LIBRARIAN

Genni Gunn (Vice-Chair)
WRITER

Madeleine Stratford
TRANSLATOR

Semareh Al-Hillal
PUBLISHER

Russell Wangersky
WRITER

Marc-André Audet
PUBLISHER

Mélanie Dumas (ex-officio member)
BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ARCHIVES NATIONALES DU QUÉBEC

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pierre Gamache (ex-officio member)
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Daniel Poliquin (Chair)
Genni Gunn (Vice-Chair)

Karoline Georges
WRITER

Semareh Al-Hillal
Marc-André Audet
Philippe Sauvageau

Robert Hunter (ex-officio member)
DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Sandra Singh

Gino Levesque
WRITER

STAFF

Leeann Minogue
WRITER

Peter Schneider (Executive Secretary)
Benoît Rollin (Program Officer)

Philippe Sauvageau
LIBRARIAN

Rachelle Lanoue (Coordinator)
Kristen Bullock (Administrative Assistant)

COMMENTS ON THE STATISTICAL REPORT

The report on the 31st year of the Public Lending right (PLR) Program provides an overview of the repercussions of the program's growth, the ongoing results of the application of the payment scale and the impact of the minimum and maximum payment thresholds.

As is standard practice, the program statistics are based on three elements: number of authors, number of titles, and payments.

The tables on program growth indicate a steady increase in the number of authors registered, with annual growth in this cycle comparable to the rate of increase seen in previous years. The number of registered authors now stands at 21,163, a new record. The program's staff now uses digital technology to preserve and access archival records of 98, 413 active titles. The program presently searches for a title for up to a decade before it is weeded out if never found.

The number of cheques issued by the program increased marginally from 17, 169 to 17,344 this year. The payment floor of \$50 ensures that the value of a PLR payment continues to have impact and provide meaningful value to recipients. In this year's program cycle, the average payment fluctuated slightly, from \$568 to \$563; the median author payment also decreased by less than two percent, from \$269 to \$264. The maximum per-title payment remained essentially static for the second consecutive year, decreasing by one percent from \$ 355.60 to \$352.10. The inclusion of electronic books as eligible for payment in this payment cycle has not resulted in additional depreciation of the average payment to authors beyond what is experienced in a typical program year. It is likely that deaccessioning of older titles by librarians was a factor enabling the program's ability to absorb both electronic and paper-based new title registrations in 2016-17 without significant distress.

Despite the introduction of the growth management scale in the PLR Program's 24th year, the Commission will soon be required to address the realities imposed by the long-running success of the Program itself. When the sliding scale was first modeled, titles registered with the Program for more than 15 years (Category IV titles) represented less than a decade of cumulative registrations. As the program enters its 32nd year in 2017-18, Category IV now includes registrations received over a 16-year span, and counting. The rate of return for the program's oldest active titles now sits at half of the top rate paid to new titles; despite this partial rate of return, the portion of the global author payment budget required to service these registrations continues to rise. Given the program's imperative to acknowledge and compensate new works as a reflection of public value and library use, it is logical to anticipate further definition of the sliding scale, including the creation of concrete parameters surrounding the maximum duration of a title's active registration for payment, in the years to come.

STATISTICAL ACTIVITY REPORT

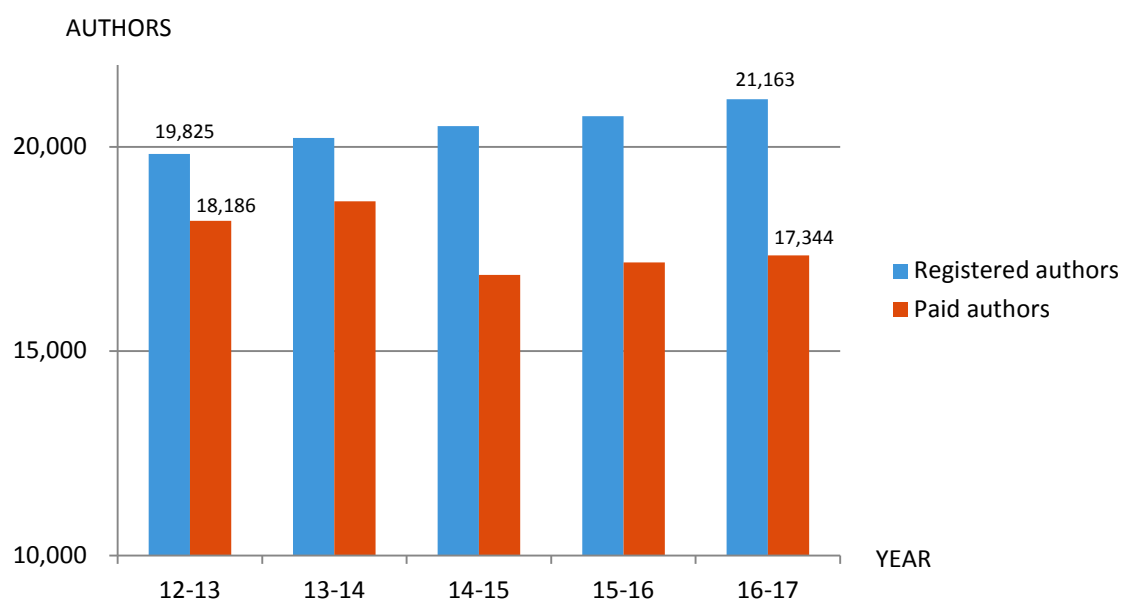
OVERVIEW OF THE 31ST YEAR OF THE PLR PROGRAM

	2015–2016	2016–2017	VARIATION
Authors registered	20,749	21,163	2.00%
Authors receiving a payment	17,169	17,344	1.02%
Authors not meeting the \$50 threshold	2,454	2,617	6.64%
Registered titles	95,474	99,016	3.71%
Eligible titles	94,776	98,413	3.84%
Titles receiving a payment	82,734	85,419	3.25%
Amount distributed to authors	\$9,757,774	\$9,758,100	0.00%
Average payment	\$568.00	\$563.00	-0.88%
Minimum payment	\$50.00	\$50.00	
Median payment	\$269.24	\$264.08	-1.92%
Maximum payment	\$3,556.00	\$3,521.00	-0.98%
Maximum amount paid per book (category I)	\$355.60	\$352.10	-0.98%
Maximum amount paid per book (category II)	\$284.48	\$281.68	-0.98%
Maximum amount paid per book (category III)	\$248.92	\$246.47	-0.98%
Maximum amount paid per book (category IV)	\$177.80	\$176.05	-0.98%

Growth: new authors

	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017
New authors registered			
English			399
French			363
Total	720	818	762
New authors receiving payment			
English			286
French			287
Total	534	650	573
Amounts paid to new authors			
English			\$91,045
French			\$101,052
Total	\$148,463	\$191,928	\$192,097

Growth: registered authors and paid authors (2012–2017)



Distribution of author payments

1. PAYMENTS BY RANGE AND BY LANGUAGE (2016–2017)

Payments	Language	Authors	% of total authors	Total paid	% of total budget
From \$50.00 to \$264.08	E	5,891	33.97%	\$765,511	7.84%
	F	2,789	16.08%	\$397,325	4.07%
	E+F	8,680	50.05%	\$1,162,836	11.92%
From \$264.09 to \$563.00	E	2,210	12.74%	\$852,807	8.74%
	F	1,516	8.74%	\$584,679	5.99%
	E+F	3,726	21.48%	\$1,437,486	14.73%
From \$563.01 to \$999.99	E	1,218	7.02%	\$899,974	9.22%
	F	970	5.59%	\$731,828	7.50%
	E+F	2,188	12.61%	\$1,631,803	16.72%
From \$1,000.00 to \$1,999.99	E	873	5.03%	\$1,208,771	12.39%
	F	766	4.42%	\$1,064,733	10.91%
	E+F	1,639	9.45%	\$2,273,504	23.30%
From \$2,000.00 to \$2,999.99	E	292	1.68%	\$703,335	7.21%
	F	273	1.57%	\$665,654	6.82%
	E+F	565	3.25%	\$1,368,989	14.03%
From \$3,000.00 to \$3,520.99	E	68	0.39%	\$217,099	2.22%
	F	61	0.35%	\$198,125	2.03%
	E+F	129	0.74%	\$415,224	4.26%
Maximum \$3,521.00	E	158	0.91%	\$556,318	5.70%
	F	259	1.49%	\$911,939	9.35%
	E+F	417	2.40%	\$1,468,257	15.05%
Total	E	10,710	61.75%	\$5,203,816	53.33%
	F	6,634	38.25%	\$4,554,283	46.67%
	E+F	17,344	100%	\$9,758,100	100%

Note: The figures in this table may not add due to rounding.

Median: The median of a population is the point that divides the distribution of scores in half.

In February 2017, 8,680 authors (50%) received \$264.08 or less. They shared 11.92% of the budget.

Average: In February 2017, the average payment was \$563. 12,406 authors (71.53%) received \$563 or less.

They shared 26.65% of the budget. 4,938 authors (28.47%) received more than \$563. They shared 73.35% of the budget.

Distribution of author payments

2. PAYMENTS BY PROVINCE AND TERRITORY (2016–2017)

Province/ Territory	Registered authors	% of total registered authors	Number of payments	% of total paid authors	% of authors receiving a payment	Total paid	% of total budget
Newfoundland and Labrador	288	1.36%	235	1.35%	81.60%	\$88,655	0.91%
Nova Scotia	733	3.46%	604	3.48%	82.40%	\$250,157	2.56%
Prince Edward Island	92	0.43%	67	0.39%	72.83%	\$30,068	0.31%
New Brunswick	472	2.23%	371	2.14%	78.60%	\$157,060	1.61%
Quebec	7,580	35.82%	6,578	37.93%	86.78%	\$4,477,094	45.88%
Ontario	6,478	30.61%	5,099	29.40%	78.71%	\$2,630,395	26.96%
Manitoba	490	2.32%	355	2.05%	72.45%	\$128,825	1.32%
Saskatchewan	385	1.82%	334	1.93%	86.75%	\$152,849	1.57%
Alberta	1,016	4.80%	805	4.64%	79.23%	\$403,786	4.14%
British Columbia	2,945	13.92%	2,332	13.45%	79.19%	\$1,148,508	11.77%
Northwest Territories	17	0.08%	16	0.09%	94.12%	\$7,852	0.08%
Yukon	31	0.15%	24	0.14%	77.42%	\$7,707	0.08%
Nunavut	2	0.01%	1	0.01%	50.00%	\$75	0.00%
Outside Canada	634	3.00%	523	3.02%	82.49%	\$275,068	2.82%
Total	21,163	100%	17,344	100%	81.95%	\$9,758,100	100%

Example: In 2016-17, 79.19% of registered British Columbia authors received a payment.
This represents 13.45% of paid authors. These authors received 11.77% of the payment budget.

Growth: new titles

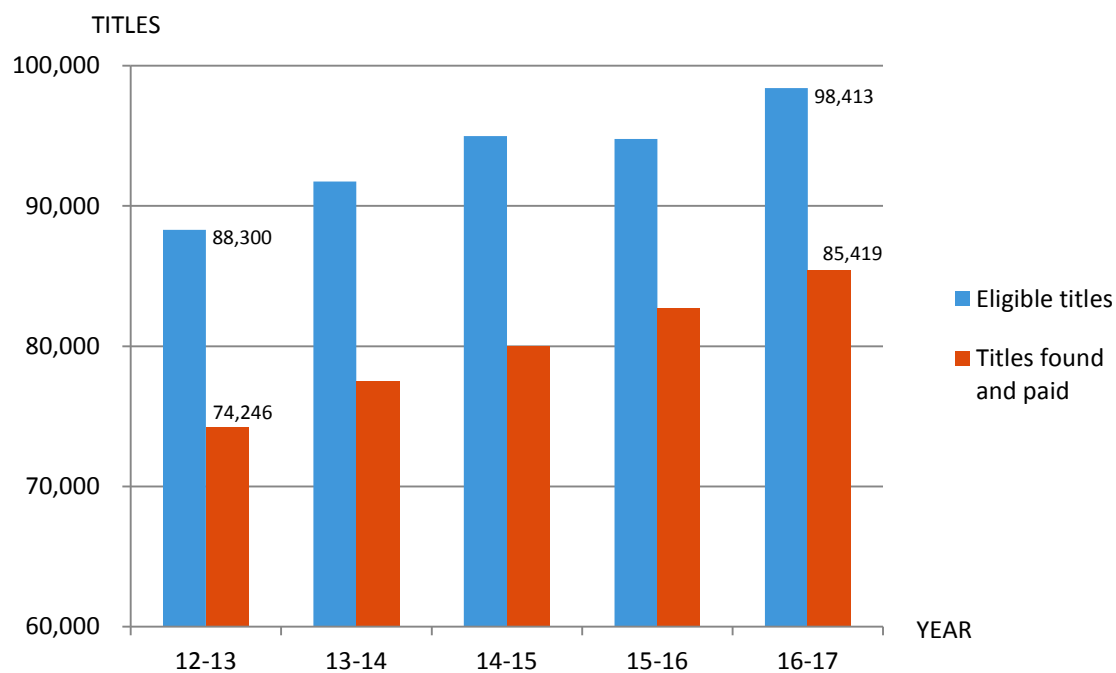
	2014–2015	2015–2016	2016–2017
New titles			
English			3,162
French			2,309
Bilingual			24
Other			119
Total	4,952	5,569	5,614
New eligible titles			
English			2,839
French			2,082
Bilingual			18
Other			106
Total	4,344	4,891	5,045
New titles found in sampled libraries			
English			1,969
French			1,819
Bilingual			13
Other			21
Total	3,491	3,884	3,822
Amounts paid for new titles			
English			\$345,718
French			\$394,800
Bilingual			\$1,256
Other			\$1,489
Total	\$665,488	\$773,094	\$743,263

New eligible titles by language and by category (2016–2017)

Category	English	French	Bilingual	Other	Total	% of total titles
Children's	666	768	4	27	1,465	29.04%
Fiction	1,097	714	0	31	1,842	36.51%
Poetry	236	154	5	15	410	8.13%
Drama	47	29	0	2	78	1.55%
Non-Fiction*	793	417	9	31	1,250	24.78%
Total	2,839	2,082	18	106	5,045	
Total in %	56.27%	41.27%	0.36%	2.10%		

*Non-fiction includes scholarly works

Growth: eligible titles and titles found and paid (2012–2017)



Growth: eligible titles by language

Language	Year	Number of titles	Growth in comparison to previous year
English	2014–2015	55,563	3.10%
	2015–2016	54,528	-1.86%
	2016–2017	56,468	3.56%
French	2014–2015	36,581	4.16%
	2015–2016	37,862	3.50%
	2016–2017	39,519	4.38%
Bilingual	2014–2015	435	2.84%
	2015–2016	433	-0.46%
	2016–2017	441	1.85%
Other	2014–2015	2,396	4.04%
	2015–2016	1,953	-18.49%
	2016–2017	1,985	1.64%
Total	2014–2015	94,975	3.53%
	2015–2016	94,776	-0.21%
	2016–2017	98,413	3.84%

Eligible titles found and paid in 2016–2017

Language	Number of titles	Percentage
English	47,446	55.55%
French	36,813	43.10%
Bilingual	361	0.42%
Other	799	0.94%
Total	85,419	100%

Note: The figures in this table may not add due to rounding.

Eligible titles by category and language

Category	Language	Number of titles	% of all same language titles	% of all titles of this category	% of all registered titles
Children's	ENGLISH	13,073	23.15%	48.02%	13.28%
	FRENCH	13,477	34.10%	49.51%	13.69%
	BILINGUAL	48	10.57%	0.18%	0.05%
	OTHER	624	31.64%	2.29%	0.63%
TOTAL		27,222			27.65%
Fiction	ENGLISH	12,230	21.66%	53.33%	12.43%
	FRENCH	10,210	25.84%	44.52%	10.37%
	BILINGUAL	31	6.83%	0.14%	0.03%
	OTHER	461	23.38%	2.01%	0.47%
TOTAL		22,932			23.30%
Poetry	ENGLISH	5,761	10.20%	55.96%	5.85%
	FRENCH	4,071	10.30%	39.54%	4.14%
	BILINGUAL	130	28.63%	1.26%	0.13%
	OTHER	333	16.89%	3.23%	0.34%
TOTAL		10,295			10.46%
Drama	ENGLISH	1,409	2.50%	58.73%	1.43%
	FRENCH	956	2.42%	39.85%	0.97%
	BILINGUAL	6	1.32%	0.25%	0.01%
	OTHER	28	1.42%	1.17%	0.03%
TOTAL		2,399			2.44%
Non fiction*	ENGLISH	23,995	42.49%	67.47%	24.38%
	FRENCH	10,805	27.34%	30.38%	10.98%
	BILINGUAL	226	51.25%	0.64%	0.23%
	OTHER	539	27.15%	1.52%	0.55%
TOTAL		35,565			36.14%
Total	ENGLISH	56,468			57.38%
	FRENCH	39,519			40.16%
	BILINGUAL	441			0.45%
	OTHER	1,985			2.02%
TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES		98,413			100%

Note: The figures in this table may not add due to rounding.

Example: The 23,995 English-language non-fiction titles represent: 42.49% of all English-language eligible titles; 67.47% of all non-fiction titles; and 24.38% of all eligible titles.

* Non-fiction includes scholarly works.

PUBLIC LIBRARY PARTNERS

The following public libraries have participated in past PLR Program surveys:

NS Halifax Public Library
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

NB Moncton Public Library
New Brunswick Public Libraries Catalogue

QC Brossard Library
Gatineau Municipal Library
Grande Bibliothèque
Laval Library
Montreal Municipal Library
Quebec Library
Réseau biblio - La Mauricie
Réseau biblio - Outaouais
Réseau biblio - Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean
Saguenay Library
Sherbrooke Library
St-Léonard Library
St-Jean-sur-Richelieu Library
Trois-Rivières Library

ON Etobicoke Public Library
Hamilton Public Library
London Public Library
Metro Toronto Ref. Library
Mississauga Public Library
North York Public Library
Ottawa Public Library
Toronto Public Library

MB Manitoba Union Catalogue
South Central Regional Library
Western Manitoba Regional Library
Winnipeg Public Library

SK Regina Public Library
Saskatoon Public Library
Saskatchewan Union catalogue

AB Calgary Public Library
Edmonton Public Library

BC Burnaby Public Library
Vancouver Public Library
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