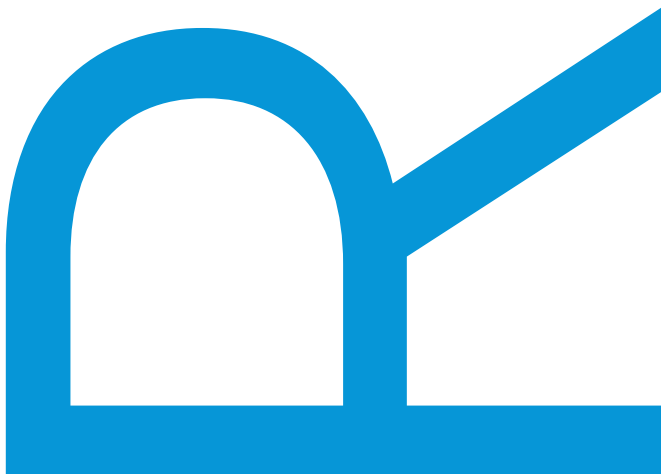Canada Council Conseil des arts
for the Arts du Canada

Annual Report
2022-23

PUBLIC
LENDING
RIGHT

Activities of the
PLR Commission and
of the PLR Program

Public
Lending Right
Commission

ANNUAL REPORT

of the PLR Commission and
of the PLR Program

—

2022–23

A CENTENNIAL PROJECT, RE-IMAGINED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Edmonton Public Library (EPL) was established in 1913 and has grown over time to become one of North America's leading urban library systems, recognized for its commitment to public outreach and engagement, its innovative partnerships and programming, and its multi-faceted public art collection.

In 1967, the central branch of EPL opened its doors to the public. Initially known as the Centennial Library, the branch was designed by Norwegian-Canadian Fred Minsos and reflected the Brutalist architecture of its day.

In 1996, the library was renamed in honour of Dr. Stanley A. Milner, a lifelong advocate and former Chair of the EPL board whose contributions were essential to the library's construction.

Photos courtesy of: Edmonton Public Library

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BUILDING ON STRENGTHS, LISTENING TO PUBLIC NEEDS

As EPL embarked upon its second century in 2013, the need to refresh and revitalize the 1967 building became a civic priority.

Rather than relocate from the central location enjoyed by the Milner Branch, EPL made a strategic decision to reinvent, repurpose, and reinvest in the city's urban core.

Public consultations and feedback sessions were organized in order to understand the priorities and needs of new generations of library visitors.

Edmonton City Council approved a total remodeling budget of $84.5 million, with the understanding that $10 million of this would be raised through donations. In the end, members of the public rallied to support their library, raising more than $18 million in funds to support the reconstruction effort.

Photos courtesy of: Edmonton Public Library

Land Acknowledgement

The Canada Council for the Arts acknowledges the land on which our offices are located is the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial.

The Council recognizes the Algonquins as the customary keepers and defenders of the Ottawa River Watershed and its tributaries. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this beautiful territory and uphold and uplift the voice and values of our Host Nation.

Further, The Council respects and affirms the inherent and Treaty Rights of all Indigenous Peoples across this land. The Council has and will continue to honour the commitments to self-determination and sovereignty we have made to Indigenous Nations and Peoples.

The Council acknowledges the historical oppression of lands, cultures and the original Peoples in what we now know as Canada and fervently believes the Arts contribute to the healing and decolonizing journey we all share together.

This land acknowledgement was developed by members of the Algonquin community, and we thank them for their generosity and collaboration.

A NEW SKIN OF STEEL AND GLASS EMERGES

Renewal of the Milner Library began in January 2017 and involved a full "re-imagination" of the original building.

Over the following three years, Edmonton residents witnessed a transformative project, as the architects worked to preserve the core of the existing library while adding additional space, improving energy efficiency, and updating surface materials, while also increasing the amount of daylight inside the public spaces.

Initially scheduled to reopen to the public in May 2020, construction work on the revitalized Milner branch was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Remarkably, the project was completed in time to welcome the public on September 17, 2020.

Despite working with a core structure that dated back to the 1960s, the rebuilt library introduced significant environmental improvements and has been certified LEED Silver. In 2021, the project was awarded the Green Library Award from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA).

Photos (clockwise from top): Carson Reneau | Karl Lee | Leroy Schulz

About 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 to 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, translation, and narration. Eligible titles are checked annually against library catalogue information from a selected group of public library systems across Canada to calculate payments to creators.

Payments to authors begin at $50 and are determined by the extent to which eligible titles are discovered in the annual library catalogue samplings. 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 2022-23, this amount was $4,500.

The Public Lending Right Commission (PLRC) is a permanent advisory body of the Canada Council for the Arts. It is 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, librarians, and government representatives.

A RENEWED CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

Named for Dr. Milner's daughter, the Shelley Milner Children's Library was originally dedicated in 2010. As before, this special library within the library is located on the main floor of the central branch. In its renewed state, the children's library has almost tripled in size and now features a host of new technologies and experiences.

Within this space, EPL aims to provide a vibrant community learning environment for children, their families, and caregivers. Within its walls, visitors find space, equipment, and collections to support children's literacy development, electronic gaming, creating and making, play, research and reading from birth up to age 12.

Photo (clockwise from top): Andrew Latreille | Ryan Whitefield | Andrew Latreille

Members and Staff

(as of March 31st, 2023)

Commission

Russell Wangersky (Chair)
WRITER

Mélikah Abdelmoumen (Vice-Chair)
WRITER

Semareh Al-Hillal
PUBLISHER

Marc-André Audet
PUBLISHER

Richard Davis (Ex-Officio Member)
DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

Mélanie Dumas (Ex-Officio Member)
BIBLIOTHÈQUE ET ARCHIVES
NATIONALES DU QUÉBEC

Caitlin Horrall (Ex-Officio Member)
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

Marilyn Desrosiers (Ex-Officio Member)
CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Laurie D. Graham
WRITER

Bilal Hashmi
TRANSLATOR

Charles Leblanc
WRITER

Pilar Martinez
LIBRARIAN

Sylvie Thibault
LIBRARIAN

David Chariandy
WRITER

Maya Cousineau Mollen
WRITER

Executive Committee

Russell Wangersky (Chair)

Mélikah Abdelmoumen (Vice-Chair)

Semareh Al-Hillal

Marc-André Audet

Laurie D. Graham

Charles Leblanc

Pilar Martinez

Sylvie Thibault

Staff

Peter Schneider (Executive Secretary)

Marilyne Bonsirven (Program Officer)

Céline Gratton (Coordinator)

Sarha Constant
(Administrative Assistant)

Message from the Director and CEO

As I write this, my time as Director and CEO of the Canada Council for the Arts is drawing to a close. I am proud to see just how much the Public Lending Right (PLR) Program has grown during the nine years I have been here.

The literary and publishing world is constantly evolving, and the PLR Program is constantly adapting. Since I joined the Council, the PLR budget has grown by $5 million, reaching an annual budget of nearly $15 million.

The program model has also undergone major changes to help build a more sustainable future. For example, by introducing payment period limits for older titles, the Program has been able to devote more of its funds to new works and emerging creators.

I am also thrilled to see that the new payment options for audio and digital books have helped the Program keep pace with changing technologies and reading habits.

PLR library sampling has grown considerably, which has enabled it to include titles in any language, sampled across all the selected collections—including collections from every province and territory. This has greatly expanded the Program's reach.

I am also quite pleased to note that discussions between the PLR Commission and the Council's executive management were always friendly and respectful. Over almost a decade of sustained collaboration, we faced major changes and challenges like COVID-19 head on.

I fully believe that the PLR Program has a bright future. The Program must continue to be able to offer fair payment to authors whose books are a priceless addition to the public and private lives of people across Canada.

I would like to thank the PLR employees and all the Chairs I have had the honour and pleasure to work with. The Program wouldn't have grown like it did without their incredible openness and expertise. I am immensely grateful for their constant support.

In closing, and on a more personal note, I'd like to say once more just how much the PLR's mission means to me. The PLR Program is a powerful tool to democratize literature, a cause championed by public libraries and a great way to make sure writers, translators, illustrators, and narrators are compensated for their creations.

Here's to many more years of a program that reminds us that sharing art and literature can make our lives and our world that much brighter. Every book I read to my grandchildren lights up their eyes, and I am certain that that light will illuminate their future and that of each and every child.

Simon Brault, O.C, O.Q.
Director and CEO, Canada Council for the Arts

Message from the Chair

As Public Lending Right Commission chair, I find there's a great joy in experiencing yet another successful round of payments to Canadian writers, translators, photographers, illustrators, and audiobook narrators. Seeing that money get into the hands of Canadian creators — and hearing about it both personally and on social media — pleases (and also amazes) me every year, knowing the effort it takes by PLR staff to make sure that it happens on schedule. That's the present — we also have to prepare for what's coming.

As we prepare for the future, thanks are due to the Commission's vice-chair, Mélikah Abdelmoumen, and all of the board members, along with Executive Secretary Peter Schneider and the PLR staff. Year after year, without exception, we must deal with a host of challenges, and we will continue to do exactly that.

How, for example, should the Commission treat books written not by individual humans, but by artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT? Does the automated voice used to make some audiobooks actually count as a creator, or do we consider it a tool, like a printing press or a laptop? What marks the fine line between a translator able to capture the nuance and artistry of language, and a program doing the simple word-to-word replacement of say, a German word with a French equivalent? And the list goes on.

Intuitively, much of the above sounds straightforward. Practically, it takes a little more time and a broad range of backgrounds and skills to ensure that we remain on course. That is something that I enjoy about working with the PLR board, made up of creators, publishers, and professional librarians — when we meet in person and online to plan the future for PLR

And that future is crucial. As a group, we look forward to the opportunity offered by recent public commitments to expand the program's funding, recognizing first and foremost that the Public Lending Right Program must remain significant and sustainable for Canada's literary creators. The PLR Commission will take the fiscally responsible steps of preparing for any further investments. We will make well-informed decisions, for the benefit of creators both present and future, even as the program aligns more and more with the digital world: we will have to address how readers borrow materials from libraries, both physically and virtually; how the PLR Program will move towards digital registration and payment; and how we will handle increased operational needs for data processing, analysis, and secure storage.

The Public Lending Right Program has to remain a successful means of providing direct compensation to creators for the use of their work by libraries, and that requires careful stewardship. The Commission has made careful decisions in the past to ensure that individual payments didn't shrink to a point that renders them insignificant. We will make those sorts of hard, and sometimes unpopular, decisions again. But we will make them based on information and input and careful thought.

Russell Wangersky
Chair, Public Lending Right Commission

Message from the Executive Secretary

This past year has required extraordinary patience and sustained goodwill from all of us, as the global pandemic has eased sufficiently to permit the staff of the PLR Program and the members of the PLR Commission to regroup in person. Last fall, staff were able to make a safe return to the office and the Commission met in Ottawa for its first all-day meeting since 2019. We are all continuing to adjust to a new hybrid reality, spending valuable time together while also leveraging the advantages of remote work. By necessity, public libraries are now hybrids, too- the popularity of digital downloads and audiobooks has increased steadily in recent years, augmenting the traditional patterns of in-person visits, and borrowing of printed books by members of the public.

Managing the PLR Program in this transformed reality presents both new operational challenges as well as the familiar and ongoing rewards of collaboration across all divisions of the Council – this is the essential and happy work we do in tandem with the teams who support our websites, social media campaigns, databases, and payments.

In the midst of this eventful year, the PLR Program continued to expand its sampling reach to partner with a record number of library collections in 2022, thanks to the willing participation of librarians to secure the required data from a selection of 40 public library networks across all provinces and territories.

During recent months, it has been exciting for PLR staff to participate in the long-awaited development of processes and tools to create electronic payment/direct deposit services for the PLR Program, and for us to witness its initial rollout in early March of this year to assist program registrants. Much work remains to be done over the coming months in order to contact eligible program participants before the next annual payment delivery in 2024. Next year will see the end of an era, as the traditional PLR cheques give way to the arrival of a reliable and secure means of electronic payment for all recipients who have access to an active Canadian bank account.

In this year of renewal and rebuilding, it makes perfect sense to highlight the success of Edmonton Public Library in the pages of our annual report. The re-imagined Stanley A. Milner Library opened its doors following a transformative renovation

that reached fruition in 2020 - among many other things, Edmonton's "Think Tank" is a compelling reminder of the key role that public libraries can play in maintaining vital and active urban cores and fostering civic engagement.

As ever, many thanks are owed to all members of the Public Lending Right Commission and in particular to two steadfast leaders, namely PLR Commission Chair Russell Wangersky and Vice-Chair Mélikah Abdelmoumen, brilliant writers whose humanity and dedication have brought us through many challenges.

Peter Schneider
Manager and Executive Secretary, Public Lending Right Commission

Comments on the Statistical Report

The report on the 37th year of the Public Lending Right (PLR) Program provides an overview of the impact of dynamic budgetary resources, the application of program criteria, the ongoing results of the application of the payment scale, and 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. This year, the PLR Program's total payment envelope decreased to $14,799,642. A total of 314 author files were closed in 2022 owing to the 25-year limit on active title claim registration or in situations where no titles had been discovered following five years of search or in cases where the authors became inactive for other reasons (such as deceased). At the same time, 792 new authors registered with PLR for the first time in 2022. The number of registered authors now stands at 20,554. The number of active registrants is expected to increase over the coming years, as more new authors register with PLR each year than are retired from active status.

$14.8M
Payment Budget

20,554
Registered authors

$814
Average payment

The number of cheques issued by the program increased from 18,139 to 18,192 this year. As in years past, the minimum payment provided by the program was $50. In this year's program cycle, the average payment decreased from $827 to $814; the median author payment decreased from $402.96 to $402.85. The maximum per-title payment (8 X the Category I hit rate) decreased from $503.68 to $485.36. For the fourth consecutive year, the maximum payment to an individual was set at $4,500.00. The PLR Commission has successfully modeled and implemented an expanded approach to library sampling, which took effect in 2018: works created in all languages are now searched in a selection of library catalogues from across

Canada. In 2022, a record total of 40 distinct library networks were involved in the sampling. Library data from each province and territory has been incorporated in the program's financial modeling, significantly extending its reach, and bringing greater benefit to all active registrants.

The statistics in this report reflect the program delivery as of February 15, 2023. The 2022-23 program cycle featured a foreshortened registration window as a direct consequence of events in downtown Ottawa in January and February. The start of the 2022 registration period was delayed by two weeks and concluded as usual on May 1, 2022.

Statistical Activity Report

Overview of the 37th Year of the PLR Program

	2021–22	**2022–23**	Variation
Authors registered in the program	20,277	**20,554**	1.37%
Authors receiving payment	18,139	**18,192**	0.29%
Registered titles	90,117	**92,325**	2.45%
Eligible titles	89,551	**91,712**	2.41%
Titles paid	81,328	**82,673**	1.65%
Amount distributed to authors	$14,999,663	**$14,799,642**	-1.33%
Average payment per author	$827.00	**$814.00**	-1.57%
Minimum payment	$50.00	**$50.00**	0.00%
Median payment	$402.96	**$402.85**	-0.03%
Maximum payment	$4,500.00	**$4,500.00**	0.00%
Maximum amount paid per book (category I)	$503.68	**$485.36**	-3.64%
Maximum amount paid per book (category II)	$402.96	**$388.32**	-3.63%
Maximum amount paid per book (category III)	$352.56	**$339.76**	-3.63%
Maximum amount paid per book (category IV)	$302.24	**$291.20**	-3.65%

New Authors (2022-23)

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
New authors registered			
Anglophone			530
Francophone			318
Total	792	791	**848**
New authors receiving payment			
Anglophone			392
Francophone			277
Total	637	658	**669**
Amounts paid to new authors			
Anglophone			$131,835
Francophone			$100,987
Total	$262,674	$282,593	**$232,822**

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

Registered Authors and Paid Authors (2018–2023)

Bar chart — REGISTERED AUTHORS (blue) and PAID AUTHORS (orange):

	17–18	18–19	19–20	20–21	21–22	22–23
Registered Authors	21,565	19,769	19,942	20,021	20,277	20,554
Paid Authors	17,553	17,255	17,976	17,925	18,139	18,192
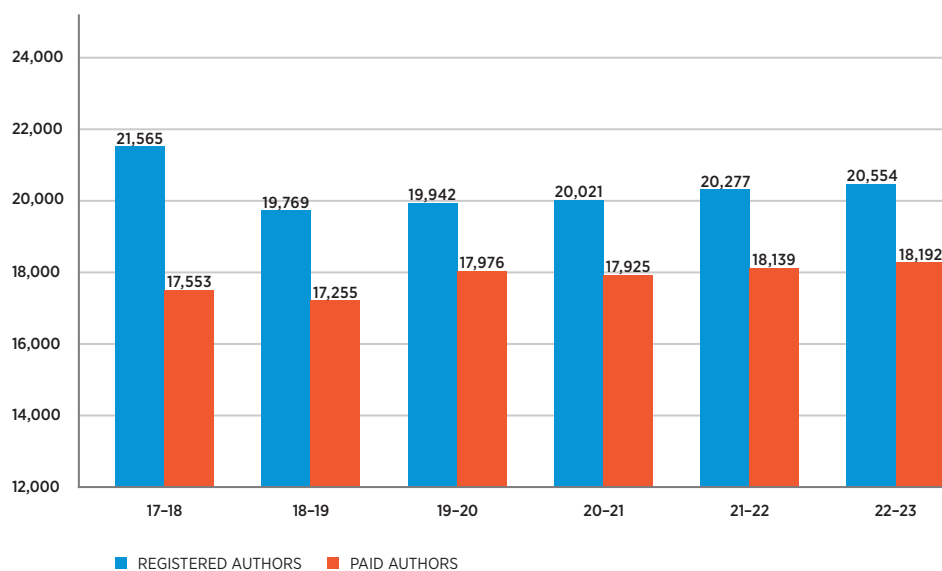
Historical Summary (1986-2023)

		Registered authors	Authors receiving payment	Average payment	Median payment	Eligible titles	Titles receiving payment	Maximum value per title	Total paid to authors
86–87	1	4,553	4,377	$628	N/A	14,138	N/A	$400.00	$2,747,949
87–88	2	5,638	5,200	$670	N/A	18,611	N/A	$390.00	$3,484,988
88–89	3	6,713	5,718	$694	N/A	22,519	N/A	$400.00	$3,970,947
89–90	4	7,153	6,405	$729	N/A	24,954	N/A	$400.00	$4,667,214
90–91	5	7,681	6,962	$772	N/A	27,192	24,065	$420.00	$5,371,927
91–92	6	8,125	7,699	$805	N/A	30,340	26,672	$432.50	$6,200,426
92–93	7	8,801	8,393	$821	N/A	32,744	29,461	$437.00	$6,890,845
93–94	8	9,689	9,082	$684	N/A	34,589	32,194	$363.00	$6,212,600
94–95	9	10,274	9,604	$651	N/A	37,168	34,405	$339.00	$6,251,784
95–96	10	10,555	10,172	$598	N/A	39,539	36,525	$313.00	$6,077,961
96–97	11	11,262	10,730	$559	N/A	41,909	38,877	$293.50	$6,000,406
97–98	12	11,557	11,151	$720	N/A	44,360	40,781	$390.00	$8,030,000
98–99	13	11,986	11,602	$695	N/A	46,928	42,785	$378.00	$8,059,252
99–00	14	12,523	12,148	$663	N/A	49,332	45,655	$344.50	$8,052,114
00–01	15	13,041	12,740	$679	N/A	52,123	48,346	$352.50	$8,650,376
01–02	16	13,546	13,269	$727	N/A	55,443	50,878	$367.50	$9,653,043
02–03	17	14,205	13,889	$694	$357	58,973	53,532	$348.50	$9,639,776
03–04	18	14,792	14,435	$619	$326	61,175	56,243	$296.70	$8,938,460
04–05	19	15,347	14,441	$621	$302	63,988	54,776	$301.70	$8,962,741
05–06	20	15,899	14,972	$601	$287	67,142	57,709	$287.35	$9,001,099
06–07	21	16,414	15,417	$588	$281	70,090	59,979	$281.05	$9,062,476
07–08	22	17,028	15,993	$570	$280	73,075	62,631	$268.10	$9,115,095
08–09	23	17,532	16,514	$600	$292	76,542	65,345	$280.00	$9,901,024
09–10	24	18,157	17,058	$583	$296	78,768	68,287	$348.60	$9,939,089
10–11	25	18,692	17,487	$566	$282	81,663	70,865	$339.22	$9,901,337
11–12	26	19,265	17,885	$555	$269	85,196	72,870	$336.00	$9,921,248
12–13	27	19,825	18,186	$537	$262	88,300	74,246	$336.70	$9,766,310
13–14	28	20,218	18,668	$523	$237	91,738	77,479	$367.99	$9,762,247
14–15	29	20,504	16,865	$577	$275	94,975	80,034	$356.30	$9,737,850
15–16	30	20,749	17,169	$568	$269	94,776	82,734	$355.60	$9,757,774
16–17	31	21,163	17,344	$563	$264	98,413	85,419	$352.10	$9,758,100
17–18	32	21,565	17,553	$556	$254	101,477	87,083	$355.25	$9,765,635
18–19	33	19,769	17,255	$712	$353	83,120	75,981	$412.30	$12,282,713
19–20	34	19,942	17,976	$822	$401	85,421	78,232	$467.88	$14,781,301
20–21	35	20,021	17,925	$826	$406	87,310	79,452	$507.76	$14,799,693
21–22	36	20,277	18,139	$827	$403	89,551	81,328	$503.68	$14,999,663
22–23	**37**	**20,554**	**18,192**	**$814**	**$403**	**91,712**	**82,673**	**$485.36**	**$14,799,642**

Distribution of Author Payments

1. Payments by Range and by Language (2022-23)

Payments	Language	Authors	% of Total Authors	Total Paid	% of Total Budget
Threshold not reached	E	1,242	71.54%		
	F	494	28.46%		
	E+F	**1,736**	**100.00%**		
From $50.00 To $402.85	E	5,608	30.83%	$1,081,998	7.31%
	F	3,488	19.17%	$689,747	4.66%
	E+F	**9,096**	**50.00%**	**$1,771,745**	**11.97%**
From $402.86 To $814.00	E	2,366	13.01%	$1,353,791	8.94%
	F	1,437	7.90%	$842,440	5.63%
	E+F	**3,803**	**20.91%**	**$2,196,230**	**14.84%**
From $814.01 To $999.99	E	588	3.23%	$532,188	3.60%
	F	371	2.04%	$334,889	2.26%
	E+F	**959**	**5.27%**	**$867,077**	**5.86%**
From $1,000.00 To $1,999.99	E	1,343	7.38%	$1,896,740	12.82%
	F	1,025	5.63%	$1,427,798	9.65%
	E+F	**2,368**	**13.01%**	**$3,324,537**	**22.46%**
From $2,000.00 To $2,999.99	E	462	2.54%	$1,129,030	7.63%
	F	389	2.14%	$940,744	6.36%
	E+F	**851**	**4.68%**	**$2,069,774**	**13.99%**
From $3,000.00 To $4,499.99	E	291	1.60%	$1,063,674	7.19%
	F	235	1.29%	$856,104	5.78%
	E+F	**526**	**2.89%**	**$1,919,778**	**12.97%**
Maximum $4,500.00	E	269	1.48%	$1,210,500	8.18%
	F	320	1.76%	$1,440,000	9.73%
	E+F	**589**	**3.24%**	**$2,650,500**	**17.97%**
Total with payment	E	10,927	60.06%	$8,267,921	55.87%
	F	7,265	39.94%	$6,531,721	44.13%
	E+F	**18,192**	**100%**	**$14,799,642**	**100%**

Median: The median of a population is the point that divides the distribution of scores in half.
In February 2023, 9,096 authors (50.00%) received $402.85 or less. They shared 11.97% of the budget.

Average: In February 2023, the average payment was $814.00.
12,889 authors (70.91%) received $81400 or less. They shared 26.81% of the budget.
5,293 authors (29.09%) received more than $814.00. They shared 73.19% of the budget.

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

Distribution of Author Payments

2. Payments by Province and Territory (2022-23)

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	273	1.33%	249	1.37%	91.21%	$158,170	1.07%
Nova Scotia	735	3.58%	653	3.59%	88.84%	$451,737	3.05%
Prince Edward Island	88	0.43%	74	0.41%	84.09%	$55,698	0.38%
New Brunswick	500	2.43%	445	2.45%	89.00%	$264,477	1.79%
Quebec	7,902	38.45%	7,235	39.77%	91.56%	$6,479,626	43.78%
Ontario	5,785	28.15%	4,905	26.96%	84.79%	$3,817,716	25.80%
Manitoba	457	2.22%	387	2.13%	84.68%	$251,298	1.70%
Saskatchewan	362	1.76%	330	1.81%	91.16%	$231,619	1.57%
Alberta	1,047	5.09%	916	5.04%	87.49%	$731,616	4.94%
British Columbia	2,830	13.77%	2,487	13.67%	87.88%	$1,911,014	12.91%
Northwest Territories	20	0.10%	19	0.10%	95.00%	$8,949	0.06%
Yukon	27	0.13%	25	0.14%	92.59%	$15,925	0.11%
Nunavut	4	0.02%	4	0.02%	100.00%	$3,123	0.02%
Outside Canada	524	2.55%	463	2.55%	88.36%	$418,673	2.83%
Total	**20,554**	**100%**	**18,192**	**100%**	**85.51%**	**$14,799,642**	**100%**

Example: In 2022-23, 87.88% of registered British Columbia authors received a payment. This represents 13.67% of paid authors. These authors received 12.91% of the payment budget.

Payments by Province and Territory (2022-23)

18,192
Total Authors Paid

$14,799,642
Total Budget

524
$418,673
OUTSIDE CANADA

27
$15,925
YK

20
$8,949
NT

4
$3,123
NU

273
$158,170
NL

2,830
$1,911,014
BC

1,047
$731,616
AB

362
$231,619
SK

457
$251,298
MB

5,785
$3,817,716
ON

7,902
$6,479,626
QC

88
$55,698
PE

500
$264,477
NB

735
$451,737
NS

Nº Number of Paid Authors by Province and Territory

$ Amount Paid by Province and Territory
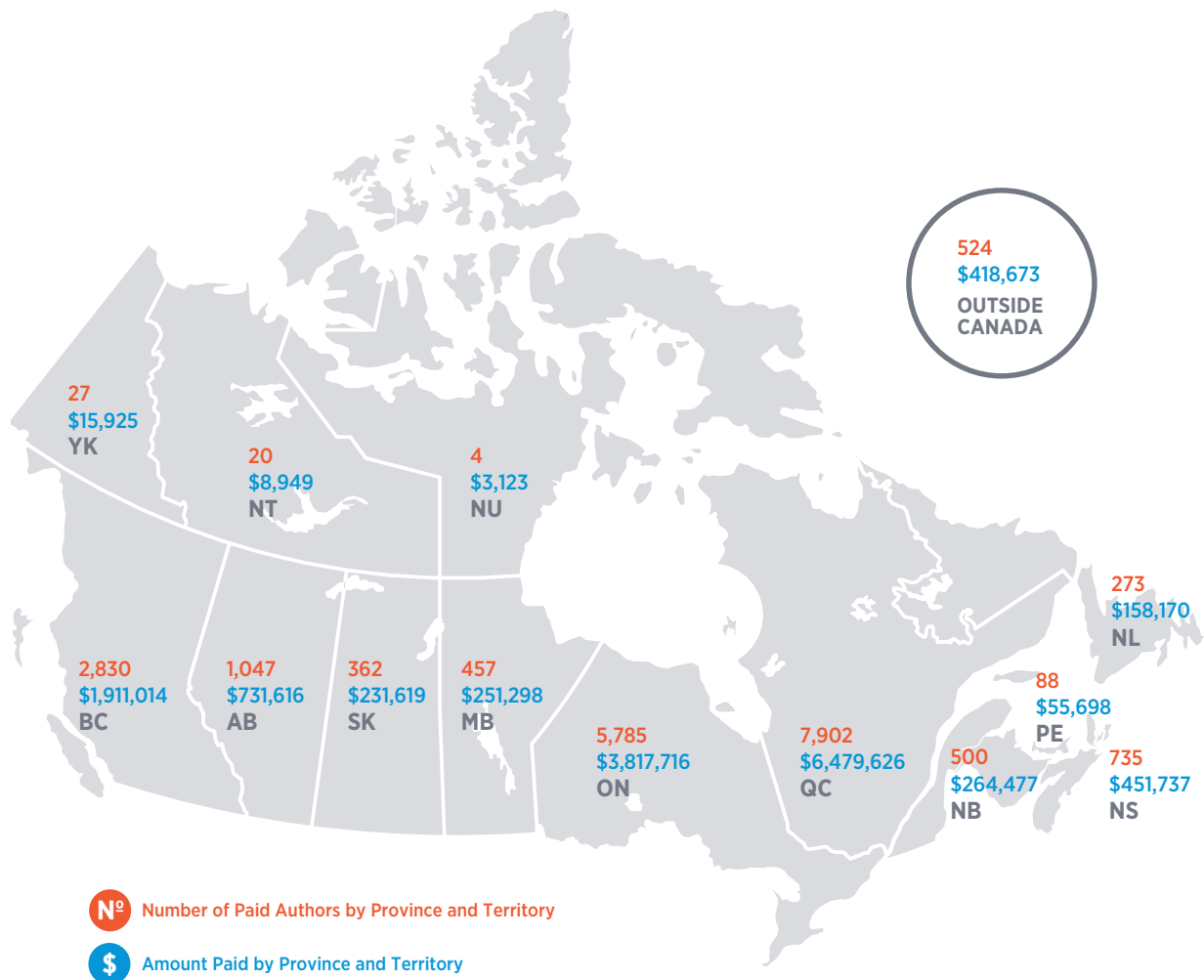
Program Growth: New Titles (2022-23)

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	Audiobooks
New registered titles				
English			3,576	728
French			2,414	159
Bilingual			29	0
Other			133	3
Total	**5,885**	**6,143**	**6,152**	**890**
New eligible titles				
English			3,170	532
French			2,227	145
Bilingual			27	0
Other			115	3
Total	**5,423**	**5,577**	**5,539**	**680**
New titles found in sampled libraries				
English			1,934	204
French			1,996	132
Bilingual			15	0
Other			22	2
Total	**4,119**	**4,143**	**3,967**	**338**
Amounts paid for new titles				
English			$492,217	$24,868
French			$506,391	$15,360
Bilingual			$1,966	$0
Other			$2,914	$181
Total	**$1,095,172**	**$1,104,888**	**$1,003,487**	**$40,409**

New Eligible Titles by Language and by Category (2022–23)

Category	English	French	Bilingual	Other	Total	% of Total Titles
Children's	689	919	7	13	1,628	29.39%
Fiction	1,509	806	3	69	2,387	43.09%
Poetry	213	150	8	12	383	6.91%
Drama	19	22	0	2	43	0.78%
Non-fiction*	740	330	9	19	1,098	19.82%
Total	**3,170**	**2,227**	**27**	**115**	**5,539**	
Total in %	57.23%	40.21%	0.49%	2.08%		

*Non-fiction includes scholarly works

Eligible Titles and Titles Found and Paid (2018–2023)

Bar chart:

Year	Eligible Titles	Titles Found and Paid
17–18	101,477	87,083
18–19	83,120	75,981
19–20	85,421	78,232
20–21	87,310	79,452
21–22	89,551	81,328
22–23	91,712	82,673

■ ELIGIBLE TITLES ■ TITLES FOUND AND PAID
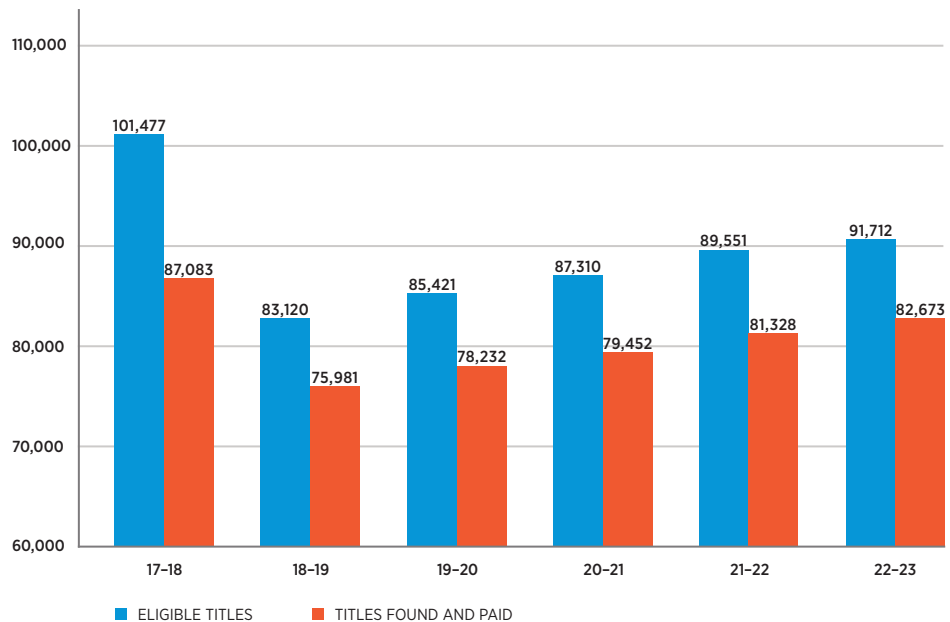
Eligible Titles by Language

Language	Year	Number of Titles	Growth in Comparision to Previous Year
English	2020-21	47,724	2.02%
	2021-22	49,094	2.87%
	2022-23	**50,212**	**2.28%**
French	2020-21	37,888	2.61%
	2021-22	38,753	2.28%
	2022-23	**39,788**	**2.67%**
Bilingual	2020-21	346	-3.35%
	2021-22	355	2.60%
	2022-23	**369**	**3.94%**
Other	2020-21	1,352	-0.66%
	2021-22	1,349	-0.22%
	2022-23	**1,343**	**-0.44%**
Total	2020-21	87,310	2.21%
	2021-22	89,551	2.57%
	2022-23	**91,712**	**2.41%**

Eligible Titles Found and Paid (2022-23)

Language	Number of Titles	Percentage
English	43,461	52.57%
French	38,092	46.08%
Bilingual	326	0.39%
Other	794	0.96%
Total	**82,673**	**100%**

Eligible Titles by Category and Language (2022-23)

Category	Language	Number of Titles	% of All Same Language Titles	% of All Titles of this Category	% of All Registered Titles
Children`s	English	13,336	26.56%	44.65%	14.54%
	French	16,064	40.37%	53.79%	17.52%
	Bilingual	60	16.26%	0.20%	0.07%
	Other	405	30.16%	1.36%	0.44%
	Total	**29,865**			**32.56%**
Fiction	English	15,289	30.45%	56.30%	16.67%
	French	11,394	28.64%	41.96%	12.42%
	Bilingual	30	8.13%	0.11%	0.03%
	Other	442	32.91%	1.63%	0.48%
	Total	**27,155**			**29.61%**
Poetry	English	4,216	8.40%	55.18%	4.60%
	French	3,101	7.79%	40.58%	3.38%
	Bilingual	102	27.64%	1.33%	0.11%
	Other	222	16.53%	2.91%	0.24%
	Total	**7,641**			**8.33%**
Drama	English	960	1.91%	58.50%	1.05%
	French	651	1.64%	39.67%	0.71%
	Bilingual	7	1.90%	0.43%	0.01%
	Other	23	1.71%	1.40%	0.03%
	Total	**1,641**			**1.80%**
Non-fiction*	English	16,411	32.68%	64.58%	17.89%
	French	8,578	21.56%	33.74%	9.35%
	Bilingual	170	46.07%	0.67%	0.19%
	Other	251	18.69%	0.99%	0.27%
	Total	**25,410**			**27.71%**
Total	English	50,212			54.75%
	French	39,788			43.38%
	Bilingual	369			0.40%
	Other	1,343			1.46%
Total of All Categories		**91,712**			**100%**

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

The 16,411 English-language non-fiction titles represent: 32.68% of all English-language eligible titles; 64.58% of all non-fiction titles; and 17.89% of all eligible titles.

* Non-fiction includes scholarly works.

PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN (THUNDERBIRD HOUSE)

The name PÎYÊSÎW WÂSKÂHIKAN is in nêhiyawêwin (Plains Cree), a language Indigenous to Edmonton, and translates to Thunderbird House. Thunderbirds are an important deity to nehiyawak (Plains Cree people) and have a significant relationship with the buffalo who sustained life for prairie Indigenous people for thousands of years.

The name was gifted to the space by Elders Jerry and Jo-Ann Saddleback in a pipe ceremony in August 2020.

When asked what the community wished to see in this space, the team at EPL consistently heard that the top priorities were language programming, cultural and land-based teaching, and intergenerational programming

While events and programming occur in the space, the overarching vision is to offer an urban refuge for people to be able to come smudge and have a quiet place to reflect.

Photos (clockwise from top): Chris Onciul

Past Public Library Partners

The following libraries have participated in past PLR Program surveys:

NL
Newfoundland and Labrador Public Libraries

NS
Halifax Public Library
Nova Scotia Provincial Library

PE
Prince Edward Island Public Library Services

NB
Moncton Public Library
New Brunswick Public Libraries Catalogue

QC
Brossard Library
Gatineau Municipal Library
Granby Public Library
Grande Bibliothèque
Laval Library
Montreal Municipal Library
Quebec Library
Réseau biblio - Centre-du-Québec, de Lanaudière et de la Mauricie (CQLM)
Réseau biblio - The Bas-Saint-Laurent
Réseau biblio - La Mauricie
Réseau biblio - The Laurentians
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
Greater Sudbury Public Library
Hamilton Public Library
Kingston-Frontenac Public Library
Kitchener Public Library
London Public Library
Markham Public Library
Six Nations Public Library
Thunder Bay Public Library
Mississauga Public Library
North York Public Library
Ottawa Public Library
Toronto Public Library

MB
Manitoba Spruce Libraries Cooperative (previously South Central Regional Library)
Western Manitoba Regional Library
Winnipeg Public Library

NU
Nunavut Public Library Services

SK
Regina Public Library
Saskatoon Public Library
Saskatchewan Provincial Catalogue

AB
Calgary Public Library
Edmonton Public Library
The Regional Automation Consortium (TRAC)

NT
Yellowknife Public Library

BC
Burnaby Public Library
Fraser Valley Regional Library
Okanagan Regional Library
Vancouver Island Regional Public Library
Vancouver Public Library
Greater Victoria Public Library

YK
Yukon Public Libraries

PLR – How the Program's Value Stacks Up

Supporting Authors

Through PLR, over 18,000 Canadian authors are compensated annually for the availability of their work in libraries. Direct payments range from $50 to $4,500 a year. Eligible work includes original writing, translation, illustration, narration, and photography contained in books, e-books and audiobooks across a range of literary and scholarly genres.

Celebrating Libraries

We support and celebrate public access to Canadian content in libraries! PLR surveys the catalogues of public library systems across Canada in order to create its annual payments, working in close collaboration with professional librarians in all regions of the country. By supporting the work of PLR, Canadian public libraries benefit from a strengthened relationship with authors and publishers, further contributing to a strong literary ecosystem for all.

Enriching Readers and Listeners

Through its system of annual payments, PLR directly benefits Canadian literary creators and provides compensation for new and recently published work in a wide array of genres that can be accessed by the reading and listening public in library collections, year after year, thus enriching the cultural life of current and future generations.

A LIBRARY RENEWED, REINVENTED, AND REIMAGINED

Since its 2020 reopening, the Milner Library has come to be known as Edmonton's "Think Tank", in fond recognition of both its stolid contours and EPL's fierce dedication to intellectual curiosity and the freedom to read.

In an amazing feat of engineering, the reinvented library has added 648 windows, transforming the interior space. A dedicated Civic Corner contains a mix of group and individual seating and workspaces for working, reading, and socializing with views north to Edmonton City Hall. In this digital era, there are also several laptop bars on the second and third floors of the revitalized branch. These are open and accessible places where visitors can sit (or stand), work, and charge their own devices.

Finally, in a graceful nod to classic library environments, the second floor reading room is intended as an island of serenity in the downtown core, equipped with comfortable seating and work tables, a community gallery wall, and beautiful views onto Churchill Square, further anchoring the library at the heart of Edmonton's civic life.

Photos (clockwise from top): Andrew Latreille

PLR
PUBLIC LENDING RIGHT
PROGRAM

Public Lending Right Program

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Ottawa, ON
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The Public Lending Right Commission, which oversees
the PLR Program, is an advisory body of the Canada
Council for the Arts.

Canada Council   Conseil des arts
for the Arts   du Canada