



GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

Trustees:

Carolyn Forché
Scott Griffin
Sarah Howe
Ishion Hutchinson
Ilya Kaminsky
Karen Solie
Aleš Šteger
Ian Williams

Trustees Emeriti:

Margaret Atwood
Mark Doty
Robert Hass
Paul Muldoon
Michael Ondaatje
Robin Robertson
Jo Shapcott
Colm Tóibín
David Young

2026 INTERNATIONAL GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE RULES

1. THE GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

- a. The international Griffin Poetry Prize, valued at C\$130,000, is awarded annually for a first-edition collection written in, or translated into, English by a living poet from any country, including Canada.
- b. All poets (including the original poet of a translated work), **and** translator(s) must be alive at the time of publication.
- c. Should the prize-winning book be a translation, the prize is awarded 60% to the translator(s), and 40% to the original poet.
- d. Translations are assessed for their quality as poetry in English; the focus is on the achievement of the translator.
- e. The Canadian First Book Prize, valued at \$10,000, is for a first-edition first book of poetry written in English by a living Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- f. In each category, the prize is for the best collection of poetry, published in English, during the calendar year preceding the year of the award.

2. THE TRUSTEES

- a. The trustees of the Griffin Poetry Prize are:
Carolyn Forché
Scott Griffin
Sarah Howe
Ishion Hutchinson
Ilya Kaminsky
Karen Solie
Aleš Šteger
Ian Williams
- b. Trustees do not participate in judging in any way.
- c. No trustee may participate in the selection of judges if he or she has a financial interest in a publishing house that issues contemporary poetry.*

* In May 2002, Scott Griffin purchased House of Anansi Press, a Canadian literary publisher. To preserve the integrity of the Griffin Poetry Prize, Scott Griffin is not part of the selection of judges, nor the judging process. On this basis, House of Anansi titles are deemed to be eligible for the Griffin Poetry Prize.



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3. THE JUDGES

- a. The trustees select qualified judges annually.
- b. Judges may not be on salary at a publishing house that issues contemporary poetry.
- c. The judges will compile a longlist of ten outstanding books of poetry for the Griffin Poetry Prize, to be announced annually in March.
- d. The judges will compile a shortlist of five outstanding books of poetry for the Griffin Poetry Prize, to be announced annually in April.
- e. From the shortlist, the judges will select the international winner, to be announced annually in June.
- f. The judges will choose one book for the Canadian First Book Prize.
- g. The judges have absolute discretion in interpreting the rules, and their decision is final.
- h. All decisions of the judges will be unanimous.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Submissions must come from publishers, who may enter an unlimited number of titles.
- b. Only one title per author or translator may be entered for the current year.
- c. To be eligible for the international prize, a book of poetry must be a first-edition collection (i.e. not previously published in any country) written in, or translated into, English by a living poet from any country, including Canada.
- d. To be eligible for the Canadian First Book Prize, a book of poetry must be a first-edition (i.e. not previously published in any country) first book of poetry written in English, by a living poet who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- e. Winning the international prize (or any other prize) in previous years does not render a poet ineligible for the current year's prize.
- f. Books written in English must be the work of one poet.
- g. A book of translation by two translators is eligible if they have collaborated throughout.
- h. A book of translation by various hands is not eligible.
- i. Selected and Collected volumes are only eligible as translations into English.
- j. New and Selected volumes are only eligible as translations into English.
- k. A book by a current trustee or current judge is not eligible.



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- l. No self-published book is eligible. A self-published work is one for which the author has paid for and managed any aspects of producing the work, including, but not limited to, the creative work, the work's editing, physical and/or digital production, marketing and promotion, and distribution.
- m. Books only available in digital form are not eligible.
- n. Chapbooks are not eligible.
- o. The judges' decision as to a book's eligibility is binding.
- p. All books must carry an ISBN.
- q. A book is defined as having at least forty-eight pages. The page count does not include blank pages or a book's front and end matter, such as table of contents, introduction, or acknowledgements.

5. CONDITIONS OF THE PRIZE

- a. A book which is entered for the Griffin Poetry Prize, or the Canadian First Book Prize, will not qualify for the award unless the publisher agrees to:
 - i. prepare and encourage its nominated poet(s) to participate in all reasonable publicity associated with the Griffin Poetry Prize;
 - ii. sticker copies of the shortlisted and winning books with the Griffin Poetry Prize seals (provided in hard copy or digital format); and
 - iii. comply with Rule 6 (f) and (g).
- b. Poets and publishers agree to permit the Griffin Poetry Prize to include selections from the shortlisted works, and the Canadian First Book Prize winner, in the Griffin Poetry Prize, and the Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie, Anthologies.

Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie is a national, bilingual, high school poetry recitation competition founded by The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry, in 2010. A one-time permission fee of C\$200 will be paid to each originating publisher of the poems published in the Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie Anthology.

6. SUBMISSION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES

- a. Works published between January 1 and June 30 are to be **received by the third Friday in June.**
- b. Works published between July 1 and December 31 are to be **received by the third Friday in December.** Any books received after the deadlines will not be eligible.
- c. The Griffin Poetry Prize may, at any time, call in a book that has not been submitted. In that event, the publisher will be required to forward an Entry Form, along with four copies of the book, to the Griffin Poetry Prize, and to comply with all other rules and regulations.



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- d. The Griffin Poetry Prize will acknowledge receipt of submissions to publishers only.
- e. No books will be returned.
- f. Four copies of each book must be submitted to Ruth Smith at the address shown in #8 below.
- g. Each submission must include:
 - i. an Entry Form;
 - ii. a current biography of the author and/or translator; and
 - iii. a high-resolution digital photograph of the author and/or translator, and a high-resolution digital version of the book cover.
- h. Digital images should be at least 300 dpi, preferably higher, and in a JPEG or TIFF format. Digital images should be emailed to info@griffinpoetryprize.com.

7. LONGLIST AND SHORTLIST

- a. The **longlist** (10 books) will be announced annually in March.
- b. The **shortlist** (5 books) will be announced annually in April. Publicity promoting the shortlisted books and poets/translator(s) will begin after the announcement and continue until after the winner is declared.
- c. C\$10,000 will be awarded to each shortlisted poet conditional upon the poet **attending** and **participating** in the readings event. The winning poet's \$10,000 is included in the \$130,000 prize monies.
- d. The readings, and award presentations to the Griffin Poetry Prize winner, Canadian First Book Prize winner, and Lifetime Recognition Award recipient will be held in Canada annually in June.
- e. The Griffin Poetry Prize will bear the cost of travel and overnight accommodation for authors who live outside Toronto, Canada.
- f. The judges will select the longlist, shortlist, the international Griffin Poetry Prize winner, and the Canadian First Book Prize winner in private deliberations.
- g. Publishers will not receive advance notice of the nominees or the winners.

8. FURTHER INFORMATION

All enquiries should be directed to:

Ruth Smith
Executive Director
Griffin Poetry Prize
363 Parkridge Crescent
Oakville, Ontario L6M 1A8
Canada

Email: info@griffinpoetryprize.com