# CANAAN LAND LITERARY CONTESTS (CLLC)

| CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES | ENTRY FORM | CONTEST AJUDICATORS |
|---|---|---|

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

**Eligibility.** CLLC is open to writers of African descent currently living fulltime in Nova Scotia (minimum 12 months prior to contest deadline) and who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
**Authorship.** All manuscripts must be the original work of the entrant. Manuscripts must be submitted by its author (not a third party).
**Co-authored writings**. Co-authored and collaborated works are ineligible.
**Length**. There are no length restrictions for submissions.
**Language of submissions.** Manuscripts must be written in English.
**Multiple submissions.** Entrants can enter more than one contest category.
**Maximum submissions per category.** Poetry 5, Spoken word 5, Short Story 2, Storytelling 2, Drama 2
**Publication status of submissions.** Submitted manuscripts must be unpublished. However, texts shared through personal blog, newsletter, or social media are eligible.
**Simultaneous submissions.** Manuscripts under publication or prize consideration elsewhere are allowed provided BANNS is notified immediately if they are accepted for publication or awarded a prize. Entries accepted for publication or awarded a prize in a second competition prior to the announcement of the CLLC winners, will be disqualified from the CLLC contest.
**Plagiarised submissions**. Entries determined to be plagiarised by contest jurors shall be disqualified.
**AI Assisted manuscripts.** Manuscripts originating, in whole or in part, from artificial intelligence platforms (such as ChatGPT and other similar tools) are not eligible.

## PUBLICATION RIGHTS AND LICENSES

**In submitting to CLLC, each participant grants BANNS the following licenses:**
**PR License.** The non-exclusive right to reproduce and publish an excerpt from any submitted work on the BANNS website and social media platforms to promote CLLC.
**Publication License.** The non-exclusive right to publish manuscripts of contest finalists and winners in print and on the BANNS website.
**Contest Winners.** Contest finalists and winners shall agree to have their names, photographs and manuscripts used for advertising related to the promotion of CLLC.

## CATEGORY SUBMISSION RULES

**General Rules of Submission**
**Anonymous submissions.** The entrant's name must not appear anywhere on the submitted manuscript or audio file.
**Correct category**. Each manuscript and audio entry must be submitted in its correct genre category.
**Text submissions details**. Must be uploaded in Word, Wordpad or Rich Text (.doc, .rtf or .docx); in letter format (8½'' by 11''); typed in a legible font (recommend Times) and 11 pt or 12 pt font size.
**Titling of manuscript and audio files.** Name manuscript and audio files by using appropriate category prefixes:

- **Po –** for Poetry
- **Spw –** for Spoken Word
- **Sh –** for Short Story
- **Dr –** for Drama

Followed by names of the works and year created. Do not include author's name e.g. **Po 'The Believers' 2025, Sh 'A Death in The Village' 2020.** Submit separate manuscript files for each entry.
**Titling of Writer's personal information files.** Required writer's information files will be titled by their content description only (e.g. CV, Headshot).
**Cover pages et all for all manuscripts.** Entrants must provide a cover page for each submitted manuscript with the following information:

- Title of work
- Literary genre
- Date of creation (use circa date if not exactly known)
- Number pages of manuscript beginning with #1. Do not number title page
- Place header with title of work on each page of manuscript (no writer's name)

**Revisions.** All submissions are final. No changes or substitutions are allowed to manuscripts once submitted.
**Review and Return of Manuscripts.** Manuscripts and audio files will not be returned, and feedback or editorial comments will not be given.

**CATEGORY RULES**

**POETRY**
**Category description**. A poetry submission shall consist of:

**2** individual poems per entry
**or**
a single poetry suite per entry (a series of linked, usually short poems under one title).

Do not submit a single poem and a poetry suite as a single entry. A poetry suite will only be considered as a single entry
**Maximum entries.** 5 per entrant.
**Submission process.** Title each poem file '**Po'** followed by name of poem (**e.g. Po 'The Believers'**). Upload each poem separately**.**

**SPOKEN WORD/PERFORMANCE POETRY**
**Category description**. A poem created for oral presentation or performance
**Maximum entries.** 5 per entrant.
**Required file:** Both a text manuscript and audio recording of text are required for a single entry (2 items).
**Submission process.** Title each spoken word poem file '**Spw'** followed by name of poem (**e.g. Spw 'The Believers'**). Upload each spoken word poem separately**.**
**Submission process audio file.** Do the same as above for the spoken word audio file.

**STORYTELLING**
**Category description**. A story written for oral presentation or performance
**Maximum entries.** 2 per entrant.
**Required file.** Both a text manuscript and audio recording of text are required for a single entry (2 items).
**Submission process manuscript file.** Title each storytelling file **'St'** followed by name of poem (**e.g. St 'Africville'**). Upload each storytelling manuscript separately.
**Submission process audio file.** Do the same as above for the storytelling audio file.

**SHORT STORY**
**Category description**. Individual stories.
**Maximum entries.** 2 per entrant
**Required file.** Text file
**Submission process.** Title each story file '**Sh'** followed by name of story (**e.g. Sh 'A Death In The Village**). Upload each story separately**.**

**DRAMA**
**Category description**. For full-length plays, short plays, dramatic sequence, dramatic monologues.
**Maximum entries.** 2 per entrant.
**Required file.** Text file
**Submission process manuscript file.** Title each drama file '**Dr'** followed by name of drama (**e.g. Dr 'The Meeting'**). Upload each drama separately**.**

**SUBMISSION FORMATS**

**Text files: (required for all categories)**
**.** Acceptable file types: .doc, .docx, .rtf, .wpf
**.** Font style: Use legible font (recommend Times)
**.** Submit on letter size pages (8½'' by 11'')

**Audio files: (required for Spoken word and Storytelling)**
Recommend:
**. mp3** (common on all computers and Android phones)
**. m4a** (common on iPhones and standard recording apps)

**Audio Recording Length Recommendations & Guidelines**
Recommend:
**. Length.** Your recording shall not exceed **15 minutes** per item (spoken word and storytelling individual entries)
**. Environment.** Record in a quiet room. Avoid background noise like fans, TVs, or wind.
**. No sound embellishments.** Do not add any music, sound effects or other sound embellishments to recording.
**. Maximum audio file size for submissions 50 mb**

**JUDGING**
**Blind jury adjudication.** The contests are adjudicated by **Blind Jury**. Entrant's name must not appear anywhere in the text and audio submissions.
**Content.** Works are judged on entrant's use of language, structure, originality and insight on subject matter.
**Subject matter.** There is no restriction on subject matter (e.g. not restricted to writings on racial topics or subjects set in Nova Scotia) however submissions that feature **racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or otherwise offensive language** are explicitly barred.
**Defamation & Attacks:** Material containing personal attacks or defamatory statements will be disqualified.
**Final word.** All jury decisions on contest finalists and winners are final.

**PRIZES**
**Cash prizes.** BANNS will offer three cash prizes in each category.
– $500 1st place prize
– $250 2nd place prize
– $100 3rd place prize
**Finalists.** BANNS will announce 5 finalists in each category by January 21, 2027.
**Contest winners.** Contest winners will be announced by February 15, 2027.
**Reduction of prize awards.** The Jury maintains the right to not award all 3 cash prizes per category if jury members feel there are insufficient entries to a selected category and/or entries did not achieve level of merit deserving of all 3 available prizes.
In the above cases, judges may award a single 1st place prize ($500), 1st and 2nd prizes ($500 and $250) only, or no prizes per category.
**Reduction of finalist list** The Jury maintains the right to reduce the number of category finalists or eliminate the release of a category finalist list altogether if jury members feel there are insufficient entries to a selected category (e.g. if only 3 entries were received in a category, the release of a finalist list may be eliminated).
**Maximum wins per category**. Participants may win only one prize per category entered. Entrants submitting to multiple. categories can only win a single prize in each category entered. However an entrant can be a multiple prize winner if entered in more than one contest categories.
**Modification of submission deadline**. BANNS reserves the right to extend submission deadline as a means of generating more entries if it chooses. Modified deadline dates will be posted on the BANNS website.
**Modification of finalists and winners announcement**. BANNS reserves the right to modify the announcement dates of contest finalists and winners. Modified announcement dates will be posted on the BANNS website.
**Modification of Contest Rules**. BANNS reserves the right to modify the contest rules and regulations at any time without any responsibility towards entrants. Any modification to the contest rules and regulations will be posted on the BANNS website.

**GENERAL ETHICAL AND LEGAL RULES FOR ENTRANTS**

**Participation Agreement.** Submission to the contest implies acceptance of the rules and regulations set by BANNS.

**Disqualification from contests**. Entrants who make any false statements on their entry form and do not meet all the conditions described in the CLLC rules, shall be disqualified from the contest.

**Proof of eligibility.** BANNS may ask entrants to provide information proving they have met all criteria set out in contest rules and regulations before being confirmed as finalists and winners.

## Submission process

1. Click on https://banns.ca/canaan-land-literary-contests/
2. Review Contest Rules and Regulations
3. Open CLLC Entry Form
4. Complete all personal identification questions
5. Upload files for author CV
6. Upload author headshot
7. Select category of your submission
8. Create title page(s) that lists all categories entered and provides a numbered summary of titles of work submitted in each category.
9. Prepare and title required manuscript and audio files per entry
10. Upload required individual manuscript and audio files per entry
11. Confirm Participation Declaration
12. Input date of submission
13. Submit completed entry form

**Note the Canaan land Literary Contests (CLLC) is not the same as the Canaan Land Anthology Application (CLLA). Each has their own Entry Form**

**For contest inquiries, send questions via email to admin@banns.ca**