



## RBC Taylor Prize

THE RBC TAYLOR PRIZE commemorates Charles Taylor's pursuit of excellence in the craft of writing. The prize is awarded annually to the author whose book best combines an excellent command of the English language, an elegance of style, quality of thought, and a subtlety of perception. 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of this prize.

With a desire to increase the impact of the prize cycle for the shortlisted authors and on the genre of literary non-fiction, the 2020 prize cycle will feature the third year of the RBC Taylor Prize Emergent Writer program. The additional requirements this program has for the shortlisted authors are detailed in this submission package. During the process of preparing the submissions, if any questions arise please email Sheila Kay, Prize Manager at [rbctaylorprize@gmail.com](mailto:rbctaylorprize@gmail.com).

The RBC Taylor Prize is a combination of national promotion and a monetary award. Past history reveals that the strong emphasis the prize places on publicity delivers important promotional benefits for all finalists and the winner. When you submit a book for consideration, it is important to make your writers aware of the prize's intent to create public engagement and media opportunities and the prize's compliance requirements regarding participation as outlined in the publishers' submission package.

The RBC Taylor Prize Emergent Author Mentorship Program requires RBC Taylor Prize shortlisted authors to mentor one of five nationally selected emergent non-fiction writers. The mentorship requires reading a manuscript, engaging in three conversations with the emergent author between the pairing and the prize awarding itself, mentoring the emergent author during RBCTP public and private events, and maintaining a minimum of three months mentorship contact post prize awarding. In recognition of the increased level of activity, immediately following the award ceremony finalists (including the winning author) will each receive a \$5000 purse, the winning author will receive a \$25,000 purse.

All finalists are required to be available for travel and public engagements from February 26, 2020 culminating in Toronto for the RBC Taylor Prize Event Weekend

### DETAILS FOLLOW:

- Wednesday February 26, 2020 – author travel to Toronto
- Thursday February 27, 2020 – authors available for daytime media appointments, one on one meeting with emergent writer, followed by public TIFA evening event.
- Friday February 28, 2020 – authors available for daytime press engagements, followed by a private Finalist dinner
- Saturday February 29, 2020 – private brunch with round table discussion with short listed and emergent authors – evening free
- Sunday March 1, 2020 – mid morning: Ben McNally Books Annual Brunch with short presentation by finalists at the King Edward Hotel
- Monday March 2, 2020 – mid morning: Gala Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, Travel from Toronto to point of origin

The winner of the RBC Taylor Prize will be required to nominate an emerging author in the genre of literary non fiction within two weeks of being named the 2020 RBC Taylor Prize winner. The choice of this author need not be from the emergent program. The emerging author selected by the 2020 prize winner will receive a \$10,000 cash prize and the opportunity to be mentored under the nominating author.

The mentorship requirement is intended to be a natural communication between writers that will be influenced by time and place in writing cycle for the emerging author and the winning author. The degree of mentoring will be determined between the authors.

THE CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION OF THE EMERGING AUTHOR IS:

A published author (short story, poetry, article, essay – in a recognised online forum, journal, magazine, or in book format) who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident. The candidate should be at work on a significant writing project in literary non-fiction. It is anticipated that the prize of \$10,000 will enable the author to progress in the creation of a final draft. The trustees will review the submissions and consult with other publishers and appropriate advisors within the Canadian literary community to ensure their eligibility.

Participation in the events and promotional opportunities that make up the RBC Taylor Prize are exciting, but rigorous. It will be assumed that your signature on the publishers' submission form signals that your shortlisted author(s) will participate. Please review the Eligibility Requirements with your author before signing the Publishers' Submission Form for each submitted book. Conditions of entry, participation, and obligatory dates are found in the sections titled Eligibility Requirements and Publisher Requirements.

TIMETABLE FOR WINNER IN ADDITION TO ALL OF THE ABOVE

- Availability for mid-cycle media interviews .....TBA
- RBC Wealth Management tour dates (minimum: 2 events) .....TBA

TIMETABLE FOR RBC TAYLOR PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wednesday, December 4, 2019.....Longlist announcement
- Wednesday, January 8, 2020.....Shortlist announcement
- Monday March 2, 2020 .....Gala Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, Toronto

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. All entries for the 2020 prize must be Canadian-authored titles published in English between November 1, 2018 and October 31, 2019, and widely available through book-stores and libraries.
2. Only titles in the genre of literary non-fiction are eligible.

3. Publishers are invited to nominate authors by submitting their books. Self-published books are not eligible. The submission of an author's work will be taken as agreement by the author that he/she is willing to have the submitted work be considered and will abide by the rules of the RBC Taylor Prize.
4. Authors must be alive at the time of submission.
5. Titles may be single-authored or co-authored. Multi-authored collections, anthologies, and conference proceedings are not eligible.
6. Posthumously published works, as well as second or later editions, revisions, and reprints are not eligible.
7. Translated works are eligible. In the event that a book in translation is selected as the winner, the writer and translator will share the prize money equally. Media support will also be provided to the translator.
8. The jury is selected by the trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation which administers the RBC Taylor Prize.
9. The jury may request the submission of titles as it sees fit. All publishers and authors of jury-requested titles will bear the same responsibilities as are in place for publisher-submitted titles.
10. Each jury will determine the parameters or criteria of their deliberations. The jury will have sole responsibility for the selection of the longlist, shortlist, and one winner. The jury's decision is final. Neither discussion nor correspondence concerning any decision can be entered into.
11. Each author and each publisher are aware of the nature of the prize, know the relevant dates, and agree to comply.
12. The trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation reserve the sole right to refuse any entry for any reason considered justifiable.
13. The trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation reserve the sole right to vary the Eligibility Requirements and conditions of entry from year to year.
14. The trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation reserve the sole right to grant exemptions to the listed author and publisher requirements for reasons of illness, incapacity, or other reasons. These exemptions will be considered by the trustees on a case-by-case basis.

#### DEFINITIONS

1. Canadian author means any author with Canadian citizenship or permanent resident status in Canada at the time of publication.
2. A book, or title, is a work that has a minimum of 48 pages, carries an ISBN, is bound, and is printed in an edition of no fewer than 500 copies.
3. A publisher is a company that carries out as its primary business the publishing of books. Such firms must have established terms of trade and have coast-to-coast distribution in Canada.

4. Literary non-fiction is understood to include well-crafted titles in the form of essays, memoirs, collected letters and diaries, criticism, history, biography and autobiography, among others.
5. The prize cycle is the period from the announcement of the shortlist to the announcement of the winner.

#### PUBLISHER REQUIREMENTS

Publishers will work in cooperation with the RBC Taylor Prize to promote their authors. The publisher is required to submit the Publishers' Submission Form digitally as per the instructions on the form found on the last page of this document. The submission of this form will be taken as confirmation that the author agrees to having his or her book submitted to the RBC Taylor Prize and will comply with the rules of the prize. By submitting the Publishers' Submission Form, the publisher agrees to:

1. Communicate with their author the known dates of prize activity noted above and confirm their author's availability, prior to signing the Publishers' Submission Form.
2. Work cooperatively and actively with the prize publicity and administrative teams to promote the shortlisted books, the winning book, and the prize.
3. To pay, within 30 days of the Shortlist Announcement, \$1,500 per shortlisted book, in a cheque, money order, or bank draft, made out to the Charles Taylor Foundation, as a contribution in support of the advertising and promotion costs incurred by the prize.
4. To maintain sufficient stock levels of the shortlisted and winning book as may be necessary for publicity purposes. Shortlisted publishers, or their sales and marketing designates, will be available for a marketing call on or around Friday January 10, 2020, and be prepared to ship a minimum of 12 copies of their shortlisted book(s) immediately following this meeting. A further 40 copies to be shipped to the address provided as soon as possible.
5. To secure permission from the Charles Taylor Foundation when using seal artwork on reprints of shortlisted or winning titles
6. To advertise the finalists' or winner's book in the media as they see fit.
7. For each reprint of the hardcover or paperback edition of the winning title, there must be clear mention of the RBC Taylor Prize on the cover.
8. International editions of each shortlisted title must mention that it is a finalist or winner of the RBC Taylor Prize.

#### SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

1. All submissions must be made by publishers. Submissions made by authors or anyone acting as their agent will not be accepted, as self-published titles are not eligible. There is no limit to the number of titles a publisher may submit.

2. Publishers are asked to send their submissions according to the following schedule. Please do not wait to send in your submission as books are disseminated regularly to the jury allowing them enough reading time for each submission.

*The dates for submissions for the 2020 RBC Taylor Prize are as follows:*

- June 3, 2019, for books published between November 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019
- August 26, 2019, for books published between June 1, 2019 and August 23, 2019
- October 7, 2019 for books published between August 24, 2019 and September 30, 2019
- November 4, 2019 for books published between October 1, 2019 and October 31, 2019

*Finalist announcements are scheduled as follows:*

- Wednesday, December 4, 2019 – Longlist announcement via press release
- Wednesday, December 18, 2019 – Reaffirmation of author availability completed
- Wednesday, January 8, 2020 – Shortlist announcement press conference (author presence not requested)
- Friday, January 10, 2020 – conference call in Toronto, between prize and finalist author representation to review timelines, expectations and other pertinent information

3. All submissions must be published as finished books. Submissions received after the final deadline of November 4, 2019 but published on or prior to October 31, 2019, are ineligible for the 2020 prize.
4. Four copies of each title must be delivered in accordance with the above schedule of deadlines, to the following address:

RBC Taylor Prize  
c/o Sheila Kay,  
10 Hogarth Avenue, #814  
Toronto, ON M4K 1J9

5. Having moved fully to a digital submission process the submission form does not require downloading or emailing. To access, fill in, and submit the submission form, please go to: [www.rbctaylorprize.ca/online\\_submission\\_form.asp](http://www.rbctaylorprize.ca/online_submission_form.asp)
  - Hard copies of this form are no longer required to complete your submission.
  - By completing the form and hitting submit, you are accepting the terms and conditions outlined by herein and have the authority to make this submission.
6. When preparing to fill out the submission form please have prepared for upload:
  - An ebook version of the submitted book. A PDF version is acceptable where an ebook version cannot be uploaded,
  - A current author biography, title information and catalogue copy,
  - Electronic images for both the book cover and the author, in high resolution.

7. For further information please direct all inquiries as follows:

Sheila Kay,  
Prize Manager  
RBC Taylor Prize  
Phone: 647-391-9829  
Email: rbctaylorprize@gmail.com

8. Each submission received will be acknowledged electronically.