

## Writers' Council Application Guide

Eligibility for Writers' Council membership requires a minimum of 12 points across the four categories listed in the following pages.

- At least 5 points must be earned in Category 1.
- At least 3 points must be earned across Categories 2 and/or 3.
- The remaining points may be earned in any category.

## Terminology

Each **criterion** in the four categories represents a set of experiences and skills that prepare authors to undertake Writers' Council opportunities.

- The **point-value** of a given criterion (or of its variants) represents the relative breadth or depth of experience gained through the activity.
- When multiple **variants** are available for a criterion, the variants are not cumulative: you may earn points for only one variant.
- For each criterion you select in your application, you must collect the **required portfolio material** in a single PDF or DOC file and upload this portfolio document along with your application. Portfolio material must be labelled with the alphanumeric codes (e.g., 1A, 2C) of the relevant criteria.

## Supplemental Definitions

**Traditional publishing agreement:** an agreement with a publisher who assumes all financial obligation for publication, whose submission process includes evaluative selection, and whose publication process includes editing of the manuscript (with an on-staff or contracted editor) toward final publication

**Hybrid / partner publishing agreement:** an agreement with a publisher who shares financial obligation for publication with the author, whose submission process includes evaluative selection, and whose publication process includes editing of the manuscript (with an on-staff or contracted editor) toward final publication

**Indie / self-publishing:** any arrangement in which all financial risk is assumed by the author (regardless of the author's financial obligation [e.g., print-on-demand publishers]) or in which the publication process does not include evaluative selection

<b>Category 1: Publication &amp; Performance of Original Work</b> You must earn at least 5 points in Category 1.			
Criterion	Variant	Points	Required portfolio material
1A. Author of 1 or more books published through a traditional publishing agreement (including books illustrated by another creator)	Sole author	10	URL of most recent relevant book on publisher or distributor website
	Co-author (minimum 40% authored content)	7	
1B. Author of 1 or more books published through a hybrid / partner publishing agreement (including books illustrated by another creator)	Sole author	4	URL of most recent relevant book on publisher or distributor website
	Co-author (minimum 40% authored content)	3	
1C. Author of 1 or more indie / self-published books (including books illustrated by another creator)	Sole author, with any book approved by The Writers' Union of Canada's Membership Committee	5	URL of most recent relevant book on distributor or author website AND If applicable, confirmation from The Writers' Union of Canada of book approval
	Sole author, with no book approved by The Writers' Union of Canada's Membership Committee	3	
	Co-author (min. 40% authored content), regardless of approval by The Writers' Union of Canada	2	
1D. Author of short-form works (e.g., short stories, essays, poems) published in edited periodicals, anthologies, collections, and/or chapbooks	Five or more short-form publications	5	URLs of up to five most recent short works published digitally AND/OR For short works published in print only, URLs of and/or images of the tables of contents of the relevant publications
	Four or fewer short-form publications	3	
1E. Performer of original writing, speaker, or panelist at one or more invited and / or paid literary engagements	Total of at least 30 minutes speaking time across events	3	URL(s) of relevant event(s) archived digitally AND/OR For relevant event(s) not archived digitally, image(s) of promotional material

*Total points possible in this category: 27*

<b>Category 2: Instructional &amp; Editorial Work</b> You must earn at least 3 points among Categories 2 & 3.			
Criterion	Variant	Points	Required portfolio material
2A. Instructor / mentor of 1 or more literary courses, workshops, or mentorships	Compensated instructional / mentorship role	3	URL of relevant program / event archived digitally OR For relevant program / event not archived digitally, image of promotional material
	Volunteer or uncompensated instructional / mentorship role	1	OR Support letter from recipient of instruction / mentorship
2B. Editor of 1 or more books, anthologies, collections, or periodicals published through a traditional publishing agreement	Contributing editor (contributing 1 or more short stories, chapters, or suites of poems)	3	URL of most recent relevant book on publisher or distributor website
	Non-contributing editor	2	
2C. Member of 1 or more writing groups that met at least nine times annually, participating in the group(s) for at least one year	n/a	2	Support letter from member of relevant writing group
2D. Juror / judge of 1 or more writing awards that had a cash (or equivalent) value of at least \$500 CAD	n/a	2	URL of relevant award archived digitally OR Support letter from relevant award administrator
2E. Writer of 1 or more book reviews that were published in edited periodicals or on edited platforms	n/a	2	URL of most recent relevant book review published digitally OR For relevant review published in print only, URL of or image of the table of contents of the relevant publication
2F. Employer of 1 or more independent editors for book-length manuscripts	n/a	2	URL of editor website AND Support letter from same editor

*Total points possible in this category: 14*

<b>Category 3: Literary Education &amp; Recognition</b> You must earn at least 3 points among Categories 2 & 3.			
Criterion	Variant	Points	Required portfolio material
3A. Graduate of 1 or more literary mentorship programs of at least 12 weeks in duration	n/a	4	Support letter from relevant mentor
3B. Graduate of 1 or more undergraduate or graduate creative writing programs (major, minor, or focused diploma program)	n/a	3	Image of relevant diploma OR Support letter from relevant program administrator
3C. Recipient of 1 or more national or international writing awards (including poetry slam and spoken word prizes)	n/a	3	URL of announcement (or archival record) of award receipt
3D. Recipient of 1 or more regional or provincial writing awards (including poetry slam and spoken word prizes)	n/a	2	URL of announcement (or archival record) of award receipt
3E. Current member of The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC)	n/a	2	URL of public TWUC profile OR Support letter from TWUC
3F. Subject of 1 or more book reviews in edited national or international periodicals	n/a	2	URL of most recent relevant book review published digitally OR For relevant review published in print only, URL of or image of the table of contents of the relevant publication
3G. Subject of 1 or more book reviews in edited regional or provincial periodicals	n/a	1	URL of most recent relevant book review published digitally OR For relevant review published in print only, URL of or image of the table of contents of the relevant publication

*Total points possible in this category: 17*

<b>Category 4: Production of Other Works</b> No points are required in Category 4, but points earned in this category count toward the total requirement of 12.			
Criterion	Variant	Points	Required portfolio material
4A. Sole screenwriter	Of 1 or more scripted feature-length films screened at juried film festivals, distributed commercially, or broadcast on national television or a commercial streaming service	4	URL(s) confirming sole writing credit on relevant film / episode and confirming its screening, broadcast, or streaming
	Of 1 or more television episodes of at least 22 minutes' duration	4	
	Of 1 or more scripted short films screened at a juried film festivals, distributed commercially, or broadcast on national television or a commercial streaming service	2	
4B. Sole playwright	Of 1 or more plays staged by professional theatre companies	4	URL(s) confirming sole writing credit on relevant play and confirming its staging
	Of 1 or more plays staged by semi-professional theatre companies, at community theatres, or as part of Fringe theatre festivals	2	

*Total points possible in this category: 8*