



Edmonton Public Library - Mill Woods Branch

The **Public Lending Right (PLR)** Program sends yearly payments to creators whose works are in Canada's public libraries. The PLR Commission oversees the program.

PLRP FAQs

PUBLIC LENDING RIGHTS PROGRAM



▶ What is it?

- ▶ The PLRP is a fund that is similar to a “royalty” for audiobooks that are in a lending library catalogue and is distributed equally among audiobook title holders.

What does this mean to me?

a.If you have narrated an audiobook that was released in the last 5 years, you, as the narrator, can register yourself and any of the books you have narrated for consideration by the fund.

Go on, I'm listening...

a.The service then tracks them year after year and pays the narrator at maximum of 50% of the available amount per title per catalogue. The amount changes year to year depending on how many titles are registered. This year the amount is \$61.47 so a Narrator could be allocated 50% of that amount. Cheques are only cut over \$50.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO REGISTER?

GO TO THE WEBSITE:

[HTTPS://PUBLICLENDINGRIGHT.CA/](https://publiclendingright.ca/)

IT'S A 5 PAGE REGISTRATION FORM AND ONCE YOU ARE REGISTERED YOU WOULD ONLY NEED TO ADD NEW TITLES ANNUALLY IN THE REGISTRATION PERIOD. IT GOES BY ISBN NUMBER. THE CURRENT REGISTRATION PERIOD IS FROM FEBRUARY 15 TO MAY 1, 2025.

Am I eligible?

a. Maybe. Here are the criteria:

i. You must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident

b. You must be a:

i. Writer

ii. Editor (note: only editors with original written contributions qualify)

iii. Translator

iv. Photographer

v. Illustrator, or

vi. Narrator



Is the book eligible?

a. Maybe. Here are the types of Audiobooks that are eligible:

- i. Your book must be published in the last five years (i.e.: from January 1, 2019 to May 1, 2025).
- ii. Your audiobook must be a physical media format (CD) or digital download (MP3) and have a valid 13-digit ISBN. Not sure if your book has an ISBN?

b. Eligible genres

- i. Fiction
- ii. Poetry
- iii. Drama
- iv. Children's literature
- v. Non-fiction
- vi. Scholarly work



c. Ineligible genres

- i. Practical books — Cookbooks, self-help, “how-to” guides, travel guides, manuals, reference works, etc.
- ii. Educational books — textbooks, books resulting from a conference, seminar or symposium
- iii. Periodicals — Newspapers, magazines
- iv. As a new title: a second or subsequent edition of an eligible book, unless at least 50% of this edition constitutes completely new text, not revised text;



Once I register, what else do I have to do?

- a. You need to Calculate Your Percentage Share
 - i. To be eligible for the program, your percentage share must be at least 10%. Your percentage share will be validated by PLR staff after you register a title.
 - ii. As a narrator of an eligible audiobook, you may claim up to 50% of the potential PLR payment.
 - iii. For translated audiobooks, you may claim 33%.
 - iv. If more than one narrator is involved, you must divide the percentage share among the narrators.



What are all of the steps?

- i. Check Your Eligibility
- ii. Calculate Your Percentage Share for Each Title
- iii. Collect Your ISBNs

Please note: The PLR Program requires a valid ISBN in order to search for an audiobook in a public library collection. Audiobooks created for Amazon's proprietary Audible system and e-books that have an ASIN in place of an ISBN are not eligible for registration. These titles are not currently available through Canadian public libraries.

- iv. Make Photocopies (For each audiobook, provide a photocopy of the following: the audiobook box cover or bibliographic record (on which you are credited) and that shows the ISBN and year of publication.)
- v. Download & Fill Out the Form
- vi. Double-check everything
- vii. Mail the Form & Support Material

For deliveries by Canada Post
PLR Program
150 Elgin St, PO Box 1047
Ottawa, ON K1P 5V8



For couriers and deliveries
PLR Program
150 Elgin St., 2nd floor
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1L4

What Happens After You Sign Up?

You will be notified of your eligibility and, if applicable, receive any payments in February 2026

Why does it take so long?

The program has a staff of 4. Every year they:

Review the applications of 750+ new creators

Survey public library systems across Canada

Enter 4000+ new titles into the database

Calculate payments for 85,000+ titles

Process payments for 17,000+ creators

