



WORD ALIVE
P R E S S

2024 Braun Book Awards Information Package



Greetings,

Thank you for your interest in our annual Braun Books Awards! We are thrilled to begin the search for the next great Christian non-fiction and fiction manuscripts in Canada.

But first, a little bit about ourselves... Word Alive Press is a company that has been publishing Christian literature for over twenty years. Our hybrid publishing formula is unlike any publishing company out there; our authors retain 100% of the rights to their work, plus receive supply-chain distribution services. Our goal is to help writers get their stories of faith published and into the hands of readers, ultimately to impact God's kingdom on earth.

Two winning manuscripts (one non-fiction and one fiction) we each receive a traditional publishing contract. One of our winners could be you! There are also secondary prizes available, including credit towards our hybrid publishing services. Still not sure whether this opportunity is for you? Check out this blog post with more amazing reasons to participate! <https://wordalivepress.ca/blogs/news/an-opportunity-of-a-lifetime>

This document includes information about:

[The Braun Book Awards](#)

[Eligibility Requirements](#)

[Reasons to Enter](#)

[Prepare Your Manuscript](#)

[How to Enter](#)

[The Evaluation Process](#)

[FAQs](#)

Should you have any questions, please review the most common questions (and answers) in our FAQs section, or reach us via one of these means:

- Email your contact directly
- If you do not yet have a contact, please [contact us](#) via our website or email our Braun Book Awards Administrator: ariana@wordalivepress.ca
- Call us: (toll-free) 1.866.967.3782



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

The Braun Book Awards

Word Alive Inc. began as a distributor in 1987 and grew into one of the largest and most trusted suppliers of Christian books, entertainment, and giftware in Canada.

With Word Alive Inc.'s relationship with publishers in mind, authors would approach the President, Jeremy Braun, with completed manuscripts, hoping he would send them to his publishing contacts. And he did. Jeremy read the manuscripts and was often impressed with the quality of the writing and the importance of the messages. So, he would write a letter of recommendation and send the manuscript off to his publishing contacts. Unfortunately, traditional publishers receive thousands and thousands of submissions, and the Canadian writers did not have a large enough platform to warrant their attention. Jeremy began to notice that there is some wonderful writing that remains unpublished. With his passion for supporting the Canadian market and his strong belief that books can transform lives, Jeremy had an idea...

Back in the early 2000s, Word Alive Press was conceived in a format that can best be described in today's vernacular as a "hybrid" publisher—a company that harnesses the power of conventional royalty-based publishing and distribution, infusing into it a new partnership approach.

Since inception, sales, marketing, and distribution have been at the forefront of our growth. Because of our history, we understand the Canadian Christian market, and our authors benefit from that expertise. When working with Word Alive Press, authors have access to professional services, and in particular, the supply-chain distribution that's needed to reach the widest possible audience with their message.

Word Alive Press has grown into a trusted name in Christian publishing. We have published books by Sheila Wray Gregoire, Phil Callaway, Lorna Dueck, Steve Geyer, World Vision, and we are equally thrilled to have published books by amazing writers who are not yet household names. We are proud to have worked on many award-winning titles, and also humbled to have played a role in books that encouraged someone in their faith.

In 2019, Jeremy decided to step away from the publishing business to focus on other ventures. We know that we, and many authors, appreciate the legacy of what he started. To honour his tremendous contribution to Canadian Christian writing, our annual Free Publishing Contest was renamed the Braun Book Awards.

One fiction and one non-fiction manuscript will each be chosen to receive a publishing contract, which includes:

- Free copies of your book.
- Professional editing services, cover design, and typesetting of your book.
- eBook creation and distribution.
- Sales and marketing of your book to bookstores, churches, and ministries.
- Distribution from one of North America's leading Christian book providers, Word Alive Inc./Anchor
- Royalties on book sales.



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible entrants for the Braun Book Awards adhere to *all* of the following criteria:

- This opportunity is open to Canadian citizens (including Canadian citizens living abroad) and to non-Canadians living in Canada who have legal permanent resident status.
- Eligible manuscripts have not been previously published in part or in full (this includes self-published titles), and have not previously been published in any other format (eg. eBook).
- If you have previously won our Braun Book Awards, Free Publishing Contest, or Women’s Journey of Faith Contest, you are not eligible for future Braun Book Awards. We welcome you to contact us directly to discuss your latest manuscript.
- Eligible manuscript submissions must apply to one of the two categories:
 - Non-fiction (Adult/Youth chapter book)
 - Fiction (Adult/Youth chapter book)
- Entries must be received no later than midnight on March 15, 2024, through the submission portal on our website <https://word-alive-press-bookstore.myshopify.com/pages/entry-form>.
- All participants must affirm our statement of faith, which is the Apostles’ Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;

He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Please carefully read the eligibility requirements and Statement of Faith listed above. Only manuscripts that are congruent with these guidelines will be considered for publication. If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact us.



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Prepare Your Submission

Format Your File

While you are writing your manuscript, please feel free to set up the files any way you like. Choose any font, page size, spacing, and text colour that helps spur your creative process. However, once you are finished and ready to share it with us, please prepare it as follows:

- The pages should be 8.5 by 11 inches, with one-inch margins
- The text should be 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced
- Begin every paragraph with a one-inch indent

Since editors read and edit for hours each day, this layout is designed to be easy on the eyes. And, when everything looks precisely the same, it's easier for the editor to focus on the words and catch errors.

Finalize Your Manuscript

Before you send in your manuscript to us, please create a title page as follows:

In the top left corner, include your contact information. For example:

Jane Doe
123 Any Street
City, PR Postal Code
(123) 456-7890
name@email.com

In the center of the first page, include the following details:

Manuscript Title: (also the subtitle if applicable)
By Jane Doe
75,000 words (the word count)
Last Edited DD/MM/YY

Finally, be sure to save the file as a Microsoft Word or Rich Text document. (If you are working in Pages, simply export it to Microsoft Word for us.)



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Write a Synopsis

In addition to sending in your manuscript, please also write a synopsis (which tells us about the book). In most cases the synopsis should be 3-5 pages. This material provides us with key insights into your manuscript. For example, does the tone and style of your book match your intended audience?

For Non-Fiction:

- Write a few sentences about the purpose of your book. What led you to write this project? Who is your intended audience (be as specific as possible)? What do you hope readers will learn from reading your book? Why are you the right teacher for them?
- For each chapter (including your introduction, if applicable) write one paragraph that explains the message of that chapter. Briefly outline the key points that you cover in this section.
- (If your book is divided into parts, please also write one paragraph to overview the purpose of each part, and how the chapters in that part work towards that end.)
- In your conclusion remind us of how the book accomplishes your stated purpose, and emphasize why this is an important message for your target audience.

For Fiction:

- Write a few sentences about the purpose of your book. What led you to write this project? Who is your intended audience (be as specific as possible)? What do you hope readers will glean from reading your book?
- Write a short paragraph to summarize the setting (paint the picture of the world that you are exploring and/or creating).
- For each chapter (including your prologue, if applicable) write one paragraph to explain the major plot points.
 - Introduce the key characters, including details on their personality, physical attributes, applicable history, and motivations. Place character names in ALL CAPS the first time they are mentioned.
 - Yes, give away the ending.
- Finish by emphasizing why this topic/theme/lesson is an important message for your target audience.

Here is a link that provides helpful advice: <http://wordalivepress.ca/blog/Writing-an-Effective-Synopsis>

As with everything, should you have any questions regarding this, please let us know. Once written, please include the synopsis at the end of your manuscript, clearly labelled.



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

How to Enter

Once you are ready to submit your manuscript, please visit our Braun Book Award submission page: <https://wordalivepress.ca/pages/the-braun-book-awards>

Or, go to our homepage (<http://wordalivepress.ca>) and, click on the “The Braun Book Awards” which will bring you to the entry portal.



Please note: Our entry form portal is not supported by Internet Explorer, but is supported by Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, and Mozilla Firefox. If your only browser is Internet Explorer, please [contact us](#) for help.

Important Dates

- The Braun Book Awards submission portal will become live on January 15, 2024.
- Entries must be submitted no later than midnight on March 15, 2024.
- The recipients of this year’s Braun Book Awards will be announced in late May/early June 2024.

Submission Guidelines

- Please carefully review this document before submitting your manuscript. Once your manuscript is submitted, no further changes may be made to the content or the entry form.
- No submission fee is required.
- More than one entry per participant may be submitted. Each manuscript must be submitted separately.
- All entries must be submitted electronically via our online portal.
- Clicking on the “submit” button will bring up the online entry form. We encourage you to prepare your answers in advance to the questions, which can be found below in the [Entry Form Questions](#). Prepare in advance by writing:
 - A short author bio.
 - A summary of the manuscript (in only one or two sentences).
- After filling out the online form, you will receive an email with instructions on emailing in the manuscript. Before it is sent, please confirm that the manuscript is ready:
 - It has been formatted as requested. Here is a link with instructions on how [Format Your File](#).
 - Your three to five page synopsis has been written and is saved in your manuscript document as the last few pages, titled “Synopsis.” Click on the link to return to the section on how to [Write a Synopsis](#).



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Entry Form Questions

The following is an outline of the questions you will be asked to fill out when entering the Braun Book Awards. This is not the official entry form, it is here for your reference so that you may prepare your answers in advance. The official entry form can be found online: <https://wordalivepress.ca/pages/the-braun-book-awards>.

All manuscripts must be submitted electronically via our online submission portal.

Manuscript Details:

What is the genre of your manuscript?

NON-FICTION:

- Biography
- Christian Life
- Devotional
- Academic
- Poetry
- Other: _____ (please specify)

FICTION:

- Historical
- Romance
- Contemporary
- Suspense
- Other: _____ (please specify)

Manuscript Title:

Word Count:

Summary: In one or two sentences, please tell us what your book is about:

Synopsis: Please prepare a three to five page synopsis of your manuscript. This should give a detailed description of your story from beginning to end. Please include this in your manuscript document as the last few pages, titled "Synopsis."

Author Information:

Author Name:

Pseudonym (if applicable):

Address:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Daytime Telephone:

Alt. Telephone:

Email Address:



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Author Bio: Please tell us a little bit about yourself in a few sentences. This could include your educational background, current/past employment or volunteer experiences, previous publications, etc. If applicable, please let us know how these details are relevant to your manuscript (for example, you are a nurse who has written a medical mystery novel, or you have been married for thirty years and have written a book for newlyweds on establishing a marriage that will last).

How did you hear about the Braun Book Awards?

- Email Announcement
- Word Alive Press Website
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Radio
- Printed Ad
- Bookstore
- Church
- Word of Mouth
- Other

I meet the following eligibility requirements:

- I am a Canadian citizen or am living in Canada with legal permanent resident status.
- I affirm our statement of faith, which is the Apostles' Creed.
- My manuscript has not been previously published in part or in full, and has not previously been published in any other format, including eBooks and audiobooks.
- I am not a previous winner of the Braun Book Awards, Women's Journey of Faith, or Free Publishing Contest produced by Word Alive Press.
- I understand that author names and manuscript titles for our contest winners and shortlisted titles will be celebrated via email, on the Word Alive Press website, on social media, etc. Should my manuscript be among the finalists I give Word Alive Press permission to include my name and manuscript title in this list.

By checking "yes" to the preceding statements you are confirming your eligibility to be an entrant in this contest. If any of the statements you affirmed are found to be false, your entry will be withdrawn.

I agree to the above conditions



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Email the Manuscript File

Once you submit your online entry form you will receive an email that reads:

Thank you for submitting your entry form! There is one final step to complete your entry into the Braun Book Awards.

Please reply to this email, by attaching your manuscript to finalize the submission process.

After you've emailed in your manuscript, you will receive one final confirmation that you have now officially submitted your entry.

You're done! Congratulations, you have entered our Braun Book Awards!

Follow Us

Please watch for Braun Book Award updates by:

- Signing up to receive our monthly eNewsletter ([subscribe here](#) or email your contact to request this)

Or by visiting us on:

- Facebook: [Word Alive Press](#)
- Instagram: [Word Alive Press](#)
- [wordalivepress.ca](#)





WORD ALIVE P R E S S

The Evaluation Process

Each manuscript that we receive is like a gift that we can't wait to unwrap. It's also a significant project for us each year! Reviewing the entries involves a large team of staff, editors, industry professionals, and avid readers.

There are eight criteria that we consider for each manuscript:

- Care/Research (Is the writer consistent and accurate?)
- The Hook (Does the book grab the reader's attention from the start?)
- Originality (Is the tone of the writing fresh, does it take a unique approach?)
- Structure (Does it have pace and momentum?)
- Mechanics (How does the author manage punctuation, vocabulary, etc.?)
- Relevance/Importance (Will readers become invested?)
- Articulation and Focus of Ideas (Will readers understand?)
- Voice (Does the writer's faith/experience impart unique qualities to the work?)

For fiction, we additionally consider:

- Dialogue (Is it convincing and in tune with the characters? Does it have style, rhythm?)
- Characterization (Are the characters well rounded, consistent, and motivated?)

We also wrote a blog series that provides an in-depth look at each of the above topics. Here is handy link to where you will find all of those posts: <https://wordalivepress.ca/blogs/news/tagged/manuscript-evaluations>.

Remember to Request Your Free Feedback

When submitting your manuscript, the online form will ask whether you would like to receive your feedback. We are pleased to provide each participant with free feedback and recommendations for your manuscript. Sometimes, we will suggest [developmental editing](#) to further iron out areas that we believe could be even better. Or, we may recommend taking another look at an aspect of your writing, or a specific section. Sometimes, an additional draft of the manuscript would be useful to take it to the next level—one of our editors could even walk you through that process through our [Spark Mentorship Program](#). And of course, there are projects that are ready to work with a professional editor. If so, we will provide a free editing sample, and a quote for our editing services.



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

FAQs

May I submit my entry via mail or email?

All submissions must be made through our online submission portal. If you are having technical difficulties, or are not able to submit via these means, please connect with your contact at Word Alive Press, or call us (toll-free: 1-866-967-3782).

What is the minimum word count?

For this competition, the manuscript should be at least 14,000 words. Please keep the manuscript under 150,000 words, or submit it in multiple volumes.

Can I submit book proposals elsewhere when entering the Braun Book Awards?

Yes.

Do I need an agent in order to enter?

No, we welcome submissions from all authors. Please note that if you are currently working with an agent, you are welcome to enter provided that you have discussed the opportunity with your agent.

Must the manuscript be completed?

Yes, the manuscript must be submitted in its entirety to be eligible.

Does my manuscript need to be fully formatted and/or edited before it is submitted?

Editing is not a prerequisite, but submitting the best version of your work will only enhance the impression you give to the judging committee (see the section on page 14 regarding Editing). Please make sure your manuscript in 8.5" x 11" format, double-spaced at Times New Roman 12-point font.

Must my manuscript be faith-based with a Christian theme?

Yes. We are a faith-based Christian publishing company and are seeking to award and publish titles that have the opportunity for success through Christian retail outlets.

Is your call for submissions associated with a specific denomination or theological framework?

Word Alive Press is a Canadian Christian Publisher, and we are not associated with a specific denomination. We have published books by authors representing a wide variety of denominations.

Can children's books be submitted?

While we do publish children's picture books, the Braun Book Awards are limited to adult/youth chapter books. For information on children's book publishing, please [contact us](#) or visit our website: wordalivepress.ca.



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

Do I have to be Canadian?

Yes, this opportunity is exclusively open to Canadian citizens (including Canadian citizens living abroad) and to non-Canadians living in Canada who have legal permanent resident status. We are pleased to work with international authors via our regular hybrid services: wordalivepress.ca.

Are there any age restrictions for participants?

We welcome manuscript submissions from all ages, without any restrictions.

May I submit a title that was previously published and now revised?

Only original non-fiction and fiction manuscripts are eligible. Books previously published in part or in whole are not eligible for the Braun Book Awards. However, we would certainly be pleased to discuss working with you via our regular author services! Please [contact us](#) for further details.

I submitted a manuscript to one of your previous contests and it did not win. Can I re-submit this manuscript?

This call for submissions is intended not only to discover fresh, new Canadian Christian writing, but also to encourage writers, and help them grow their skills. If you have entered previously, we would encourage you to revisit your manuscript to ensure it is of the highest quality it can be. A manuscript critique or developmental edit may also be helpful if you previously submitted and would welcome advice on areas that could be improved.

I have previously won your Free Publishing or Women's Journey of Faith Contest. Am I eligible to enter a new manuscript?

We reserve our Braun Book Awards for writers who have not yet had a chance to win a publishing contract with us. However, we would love to see your new manuscript! Please contact us directly to discuss the possibility of partnering with us on publishing your latest project.

May I submit a title that has been previously published in another language?

Our call for submissions is limited to original non-fiction and fiction manuscripts. Books previously published in part or in whole in another language are not eligible. However, we would certainly be pleased to discuss our regular author services with you! Please [contact us](#) for further details.

I have previously published other books, am I still eligible?

While previously published works are not eligible, authors who have previously published other books (including with Word Alive Press) can submit new material to the Braun Book Awards.

I posted an excerpt of my manuscript on my blog, does that make it ineligible?

If you have posted a portion of your manuscript for review and/or critique, you are still eligible. However, if you have purchased an ISBN, and/or published a print/eBook online, that manuscript would not be eligible.



WORD ALIVE P R E S S

May I make revisions to my submission after it has been submitted?

Once your manuscript has been sent in, no further changes can be made. Please carefully check over your manuscript before submitting it.

I'm having trouble submitting my manuscript online. Can I mail in my submission?

We are not able to accept submissions in the mail. For help submitting, please reach out to your contact at Word Alive Press, email us at publishing@wordalivepress.ca or call us (toll-free: 1-866-967-3782).

Are royalties paid on the winning titles?

Yes. Royalties will be paid quarterly as defined by our contract.

When will the winners be announced?

Winners will be announced in late May to early June 2024 . Please watch for Braun Book Award updates by:

- Signing up to receive our monthly eNewsletter ([subscribe here](#) or email your contact to request this)

Or by visiting us on:

- Facebook: Word Alive Press
- wordalivepress.ca

Thank you again for your interest in our Braun Book Awards! We look forward to receiving and reviewing your manuscript. Please don't hesitate to [contact us](#) if you have any questions regarding this material.

