

Willow Awards Update

Much has changed as we respond to COVID-19. More than ever, we want to encourage a love of reading and great Canadian literature among the children and youth of Saskatchewan!

First, we are delighted to announce the 2020 Nominations. They are listed on the [Willow Awards home page](#) under Voting Update. These will be officially launched in the fall, but are announced at this time for libraries and schools to get their orders ready for the fall.

Secondly, with the abrupt closure of schools in March, many schools have not been able to submit their student votes. In light of this, we have made some changes to the Willows this spring. All of this information is available on our [website](#).

1) Voting Update

The voting deadline for the 2019 Willow finalists has been extended to **June 1, 2020**. We would like to encourage teachers, librarians and parents to please collect as many votes as possible and submit them on our website.

We will announce the winners over three days; the Shining Willow winner on **June 16th**, the Diamond Willow winner on **June 17th**, and the Snow Willow winner on **June 18th**.

We hope that children and youth around the province will be able to vote either through their classroom teachers and teacher-librarians or from home with the help of their parents.

2) The 2020 Willow Awards Gala Has Been Cancelled

With our voting deadline extended and the continued uncertainty around COVID-19 and social distancing, we are unable to celebrate with the 2020 Willow Awards Gala that was to be held at Wilfred Hunt School in Regina on May 29, 2020.

Please stay tuned for possible virtual celebrations around the announcement of the winners June 16-18.

3) Alternate Means of Voting for the 2019 Willow Finalists

Thanks to Pamela Wenger, a teacher-librarian in Regina Public Schools, a Google Form is available to allow educators and librarians to gather votes online from their classes. The teacher/librarian will need access to the Google suite of apps. Students will just need a link. The votes collected can then be entered on our website. If you are interested in using this form to collect votes, please contact us on our [Contact Form](#) and we will send it out to you.

If you are unable to collect your students' votes, please encourage parents to submit their children's votes on our website.

Shining votes - <https://willowawards.ca/vote/shining-willow/>

Diamond votes - <https://willowawards.ca/vote/diamond-willow/>

Snow votes - <https://willowawards.ca/vote/snow-willow/>

4) Read Aloud Permissions and Online Availability

Here is some information that might help teachers, teacher-librarians and parents continue to encourage children and students to read the 2019 Willow finalist books.

A number of publishers have agreed to allow online read aloud sessions through the Read Aloud Canadian Books Program. The list of participating publishers and authors along with their guidelines can be found [here](#).

Further guidelines have been posted by School Library Journal [here](#).

We have compiled a list of the **Read Aloud Permissions & Online Availability** for the 2019 Willow Finalists.

Any teachers and librarians who find they need a certain work for an “online story time”, but can’t find that work, can contact Access Copyright at permissions@accesscopyright.ca and provide title, publisher, and ISBN. The agency will then look into getting copyright permission from the rights holder.

Thank you for your continued support through this ever-changing situation. Stay safe and healthy!