

Quick Start Guide



2026 UPDATES

- The 2026 competition is open to members of News Media Canada only.
- Entry fees have been reinstated at previous rates.

ELIGIBILITY

Entrants must be non-daily community newspapers or newsmedia sites published in Canada in English or French and contain content of a general nature for a Canadian audience. To be eligible the publisher must be a general or associate member of News Media Canada in good standing.



CATEGORY CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Within each category, each community newspaper or newsmedia site shall compete in the class applicable to it.

PRINTED NEWSPAPERS:



Circulation figures will be used from the latest audited or sworn average total circulation per issue for the edition of record.

DIGITAL-ONLY SITES:



Sites will be classified based on size of market(s) served (using Statistics Canada data).

- Large market sites with population greater than 100,000 will be grouped with printed publications having circulation 10,000+.
- Small market sites serving markets with population under 100,000 will be grouped with printed publications having circulation up to 9,999.

ENTRY DETAILS

Newspapers must submit entries from the 2025 calendar year.

A maximum of three (3) entries may be submitted into EACH of the following categories:

Premier Awards:

- 201 - Best News Story
- 202 - Best Feature Story
- 203 - Best Feature Series
- 204 - Outstanding Columnist
- 205 - Outstanding Reporter Initiative
- 208 - Best Historical Story
- 209 - Best Local Civic Journalism
- 210 - Best Local Cartoon*
- 211 - Best Spot News Photo Coverage
- 212 - Best Feature News Photo

- 213 - Best Feature Photo
- 214 - Best Sports Photo
- 215 - Best Photo Essay
- 216 - Best Ad Campaign*
- 217 - Best Ad Design*
- 218 - Best Reader Engagement Campaign*

Special Competitions:

- 302 - Excellence In Rural Reporting
- 303 - Best Business Writing
- 305 - Best Agricultural Story



A maximum of one (1) entry may be submitted into EACH of the following categories:

Premier Awards:

- 206 - Best National Editorial
- 207 - Best Local Editorial
- 221 - Outstanding Community Service
- 223 - Best Coverage Of The Arts

- 224 - Best Sports Coverage
- 226 - Best Community Newspaper Website*
- 227 - Best Multimedia Feature
- 228 - Best Multimedia Breaking News Coverage

Special Competitions:

- 301 - Best Special Section*
- 304 - Best Agricultural Edition*

General Excellence:

- 101 - General Excellence

*Printed newspapers only.

Entrants competing in General Excellence must submit one issue from **March 2025** and one issue from **September 2025** (randomly selected by News Media Canada) and enter them in the appropriate circulation class.

ENTRY DEADLINE & FEES



The final entry deadline is Thursday May 21, 2026, at 11:59 PM Eastern

All entries must be submitted and paid in full by the deadline in order to qualify.

General Excellence: **\$75**

Premier Awards or Special Competitions: **\$20** per entry submitted

All amounts include 13% HST. Payment must be made by Paypal through the contest website. All payments must be received no later than the entry deadline.

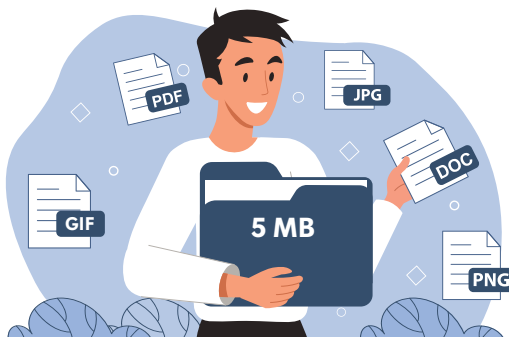
All entrants must register and complete entry forms online at www.cnaawards.ca.

Quick Start Guide



ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM

All entrants must register and complete entry forms online. Click **ENTRY DETAILS** at www.ccnawards.ca.



File Formats Accepted: PDF, DOC/DOCX, TXT, JPG, GIF and PNG.

For the Best Community Newspaper Website, Multimedia Feature and Multimedia Breaking News Coverage categories, a URL link may be provided for your website and online/multimedia components.

File names must not contain spaces or special characters.

The following format is acceptable: Community-News-March-22-2025-pg1.pdf

Maximum file size: 5 MB

For larger files (5-50 MB), you may upload your file(s) to a 3rd party website such as www.issuu.com and copy and paste the hosted item's web address into the website URL field.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Any work published in more than one newspaper or newsmedia site may only be entered by the publisher with the highest circulation or market population. The work must be entered in the applicable class. The awards committee, staff, and judges reserve the right to disqualify any duplicate or incorrectly submitted entries at any point that they are discovered during the competition.

Any image created or manipulated beyond basic lighting or cropping changes using computer software may not be entered in the Best Spot News Photo, Best Feature Photo, Best Sports Photo or Best Photo Essay categories.



Submissions become the property of News Media Canada and may be reproduced by News Media Canada in any of its publications.

Maintain a copy of your submissions for later announcements. Due to the high volume of entries, News Media Canada is unable to trace individual entries following submission to judges. Be sure to keep a copy of your entry form(s) for your files.

THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES SHALL BE FINAL.

WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Winners in all categories and classes will be announced on the Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards website, www.ccnawards.ca on Monday September 14, 2026.



QUESTIONS?

Call the News Media Canada office toll-free at 1-877-305-2262 ext. 3221 or email awards@newsmediacanada.ca.