



CCNAwards 2026 Contestant Guide

The 2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards are hosted on the BetterBNC platform. This guide provides directions for preparing and submitting your entries.

CCNAwards 2026 Contestant Guide

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If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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For the rules of entry and category descriptions, download the entry book at

<https://nmc-mic.ca/ccnawards/>.

NOTE: BetterBNC is optimized for Google Chrome and Firefox browsers.

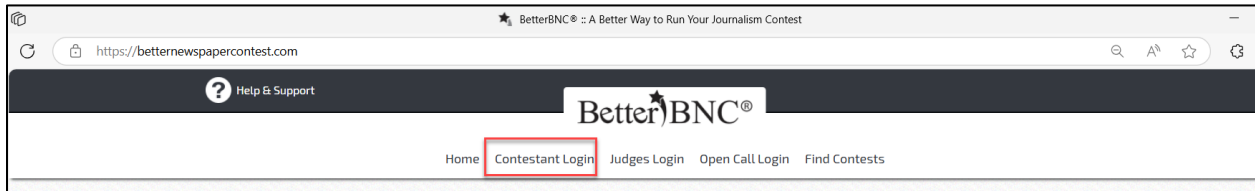
For the best user experience, please have a recent version of either of these browsers installed. Other browsers may also work, but if you experience issues, it may be a result of not using the recommended browser.



The deadline for entries is May 21, 2026.

Login

Go to www.betterbnc.com

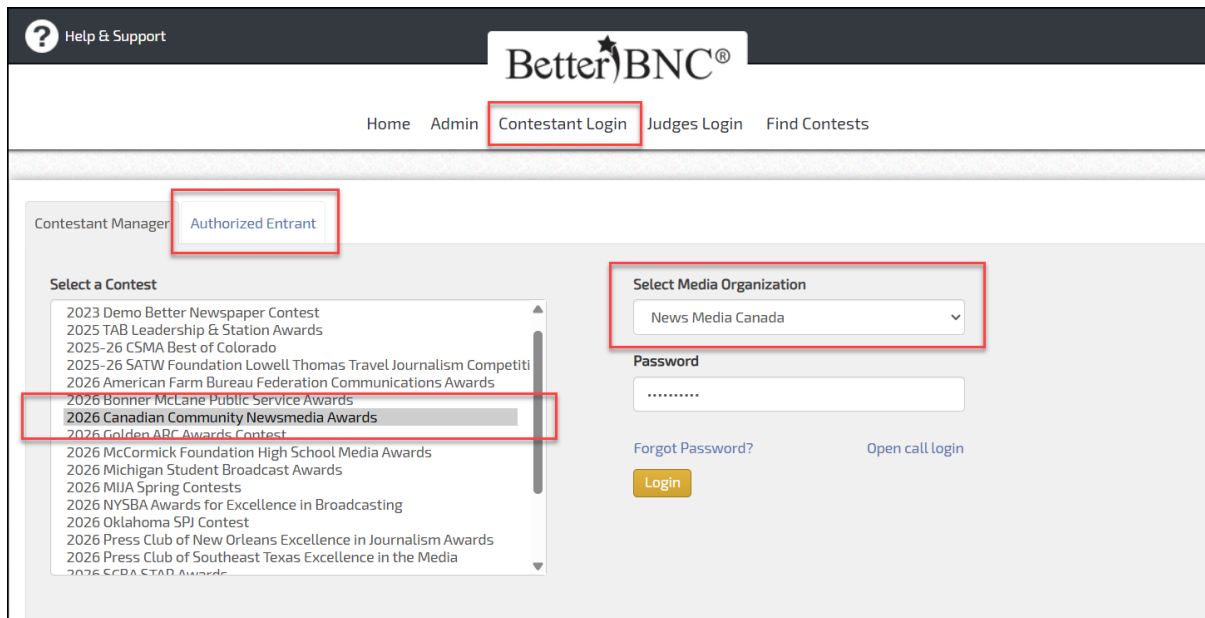


Click “Contestant Login” at the top.

Select the appropriate contestant type from the available tabs:

Authorized Entrant: If you have received an email authorizing you to submit entries on behalf of your media organization, select “Authorized Entrant” on the login page, then skip to step **Authorized Entrant Login**.

Contestant Manager: If you are your organization's single point of contact, select “Contestant Manager,” then skip to step **Contestant Manager Login**.



Authorized Entrant Login:

- Select a Contest: Click “**2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards**”
- Select your **Media Organization**—i.e., your publication.
- Enter your email address.
- Enter your password.
- Click “**Login**”



Contestant Manager Login:

- Select a Contest: Click **“2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards”**

- Select your Media Organization—i.e., your publication.*

*NOTE: If your publication is not listed, contact the awards coordinator to verify eligibility and have it added to the list.

- Enter your password.

****NOTE—FIRST-TIME BETTERBNC USERS: If this is your first time logging into your account, use the temporary password: **bnc** (lower case).****

After logging in, the system will require you to create a new password. Going forward, you will log in with the password you set.

- Click **“Login”**

If the designated Contestant Manager is no longer with your media organization, [contact your Contest Administrator](#) to have the contact information in your account updated.



Submit Entries

- Navigate to the “Manage Entries” page (My Contest > Manage Entries).
- Click “Submit Entry”

Help & Support

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Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards
Manage Entries -- Entry Deadline 05/21/2026

Welcome to the BNC

News Media Canada is a member of circulation Circulation up to 1499.

You have a total of 0 entries.

- My Account
- Submit Entry
- Logout

Calculate Entry Fee

- On the “Create New Entry” page, select a **Division** (i.e., a group of categories).

Help & Support

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Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

News Media Canada is a member of the Circulation up to 1499 circulation group.

You have a total of 1 entry.

First Step: Create New Entry

All entries subject to rules and eligibility requirements.

Division

Category (When a category's entry limit has been reached, the category will no longer appear in the list.)

Headline or Title of Entry

Enter date of publication. (Not required for Best Website category. For General Excellence entries, enter issue dates in the Comments section.)

Choose - Choose - Choose



- Select a **Category**.
- Enter the entry's **Headline** or title.
- Enter the entry's **Publication Date**, if required.

News Media Canada is a member of the Circulation up to 1499 circulation group.
You have a total of 0 entry.

First Step: Create New Entry

All entries subject to rules and eligibility requirements.

Division: Premier Awards/Special Competitions

Category (When a category's entry limit has been reached, the category will no longer appear in the list.): 201 Premier Awards - Best News Story

Premier Awards - Best News Story --Category Note
OPEN TO PRINT NEWSPAPERS AND DIGITAL-ONLY SITES.

An entry will consist of one story dealing with a local event of some newsworthy importance.

Each entry must include the article URL or one set of full-page PDF tearsheets containing the article clearly marked and visible for judging. Please include the writer's name with the entry. Syndicated material will not be accepted.

Up to three different entries per calendar year may be submitted in this category. A separate entry form must be completed for each entry. URLs or full-page PDF tearsheet(s) of your entry are required.

An explanatory letter should provide background information.

Headline or Title of Entry: News Story Headline

Enter date of publication. (Not required for Best Website category. For General Excellence entries, enter issue dates in the Comments section.)
March - 13 - 2025



- Add entry content (varies by category—consult the [entry book](#) for details). Entry content may include:
 - File attachments (see below);
 - Website URLs;
 - Multimedia - web/audio/video content (see below); or
 - Explanatory letter (if required).

The screenshot shows a web interface for uploading attachments. At the top, it says "Next Step: Upload Attachments & Links Need Help?". Below this, there are two main sections:

- Get File(s) to Attach to this Entry**: This section includes a "Choose File" button (highlighted with a red box) and a "Browse & Attach More Files" link. Below this is a "Browse my Scrapbooks" button.
- Get Links to Attach to this Entry**: This section includes five "Paste URL/Link here" input fields (the first one is highlighted with a red box).

On the right side, there is a box titled "Publish Large PDF Files" with text: "Judges prefer smaller PDF files. Third party vendors -- offers vary." Below this are logos for Scribd, Issuu, and Yudu, and a link "Help with large files".

To upload digital file attachments (other than audio/video):

- Click “Choose File,” navigate to the desired file, and then click “Open.”
- Allowed file types: PDF, DOC/DOCX, TXT, JPG, GIF, and PNG.
- To upload additional attachments, click the “**Browse & Attach More Files**” link.
- Maximum file size: 5MB. For files larger than 5MB, you can upload your file to your publication’s website or a third-party website that hosts large documents and then copy and paste the URL into the URL/Link field on the Submit Entry page.
- Here are some examples of third-party websites that provide hosting services:
scribd.com, issuu.com, pagesuite.com, pressreader.com, etc.

To add web/audio/video content:

- To host your content online, either upload it to a free streaming content website (e.g. YouTube) or talk to your IT person about uploading it to your publication’s website. Make sure the content will be accessible online throughout the duration of the contest and awards process.
- Copy and paste the content’s URL address into the provided URL/Link field.
- Here are some examples of free streaming content websites where you can upload audio and video content:

Audio: www.kiwi6.com, www.soundcloud.com

Video: www.youtube.com, www.vimeo.com



- Add **Comments**, if any.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE RE: PAYWALLS:** If your online items are behind a paywall or a password-protected area, provide username/password info in the **Comments** section. Judges may disqualify your entry if work samples are inaccessible.***

If your entry requires a letter, you have the option to enter it in the **Comments** field if you prefer not to include an attachment.

- Enter **Credits**, if required.
- Check the “I am not a robot” box for user verification.
- Click “**Submit Entry**”.

Next Step: Comments, Credits & Other Info

Comments: If your website has a paywall, enter username and password here for judging use only. For General Excellence entries, enter issue dates here.

Who should be credited for this entry? Enter the names of up to 3 people.
Note: Consult the CCNAwards entry book for categories that require credits--i.e., the name(s) of the individual(s) who created the work. (Not required for General Excellence and Best Website categories.)

First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
First Name	Last Name
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Manage Entries

After submitting your entries, you can go back and view a list of your entries and review them individually. You can also change your mind about submitting an entry or edit it to provide more details and content.

You may make changes until the **2026** deadline.

- To view a list of your entries, navigate to the “**Manage Entries**” page (My Contest > Manage Entries).
- To view the details of an entry, locate the entry in the list and click “Label”.
- To edit an entry, locate the entry in the list and click “Edit”.
- If you decide not to submit an entry, you can:
 - click “Disable” to not submit it into the contest but keep it in your account; or,
 - click “Delete” to remove it from your account.
 Disabled entries will appear in a separate list below.
- If you change your mind and decide to re-submit a disabled entry, click “Enable” beside the entry.

The screenshot shows the BetterBNC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Home', 'My Contest', 'Contest Info', 'Judges Login', and 'Find Contests'. The main content area features a banner for the '2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards' with a 'Manage Entries' link highlighted in a red box and an 'Entry Deadline 05/21/2026' notice. Below the banner, there is a 'Welcome to the BNC' section with links for 'My Account', 'Submit Entry', and 'Logout'. A 'Calculate Entry Fee' button is also present. The page includes a red warning message: 'Welcome to the 2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards (CCNAwards)!'. Below this, it states '**NEW for 2026**' and 'Entry fees reinstated. Open to ALL News Media Canada print and digital members in good standing ONLY.' A link is provided to download the 'Entry Book and Contestant Guide' at <https://nmc-mic.ca/ccnawards/>.

The 'Entries' section contains the following table:

Entrant	Category	Title	Pages	Files/URLs	Created	Actions
Contestant Manager	201 Premier Awards - Best News Story	News Story Headline	1		2026-04-07 14:47:55	Label Edit Disable Delete



Payment

- Payment is required upfront for your entries to be forwarded to judges.
- When all entries are submitted, navigate to the Manage Entries page (My Contest > Manage Entries).
- Click “[Calculate Entry Fee.](#)”

Help & Support

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Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards
[Manage Entries](#) - Entry Deadline 05/21/2026

Welcome to the BNC

News Media Canada is a member of circulation Circulation up to 1499.

You have a total of 1 entries.
[Calculate Entry Fee](#)

- My Account
 - Submit Entry
 - Logout

Welcome to the 2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards (CCNAwards)!

****NEW for 2026****
 Entry fees reinstated.
 Open to ALL News Media Canada print and digital members in good standing ONLY.
 Make sure to download the Entry Book and Contestant Guide at <https://nmc-mic.ca/ccnawards/>.

Entries

Entrant	Category	Title	Pages	Files/URLs	Created	Actions
Contestant Manager	201 Premier Awards - Best News Story	News Story Headline	1		2026-04-07 14:47:55	Label Edit Disable Delete



CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSMEDIA AWARDS

- Follow the on-screen instructions to pay for your entries:
 - Print or save the Entry Fee Calculation page.
 - Click the [Pay Now With Card](#) box to submit payment via credit card/PayPal.

[? Help & Support](#) **BetterBNC®**

Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

You are managing content for 2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards
News Media Canada Circulation Group Circulation up to 1499.
As of 04/07/2026 2:54 pm
Disabled entries are not in fee calculation.

How to pay:
* Use the check boxes to select the entries you want to pay
* Click the "Pay By Card" button to pay using a credit card, debit card or via PayPal.
* When done, print a copy for your records. After the entry deadline, you will not be able to access this page.

Carefully follow the on screen instructions to ensure proper handling of your entry fees. All financial transactions are directly with the sanctioning organization, not BetterBNC. For help with PayPal transactions, contact your contest administrator.

[Print](#)

Entrant	Division	Category	Title	Entry Fee	Select Entries to Pay	Payment Status
Contestant Manager	Premier Awards/Special Competitions	201 Premier Awards - Best News Story	News Story Headline	C\$20.00	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not received
			Premier Awards/Special Competitions subtotal	C\$20.00		
			Total Entry Fee Due	C\$20.00		
			Base Contest Fee	C\$0.00		
			Total Entry Fee Paid	C\$0.00		
			Total Outstanding Entry Fee	C\$20.00		

Payment Amount

[Pay Now With Card](#)

[Pay with PayPal](#)
The faster, safer way to pay [CHECK OUT WITH PayPal](#)

[Pay with credit or debit card](#)
Card number
Expiration date /
[Pay Now](#)



Manage Your Account

Your BetterBNC account includes your contact information and password details. If you want to be tagged on social media when the winners are announced, you can also include that information in your account.

Help & Support

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Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

2026 Canadian Community Newsmedia Awards
Manage Entries -- Entry Deadline 05/21/2026

Welcome to the BNC

News Media Canada is a member of circulation Circulation up to 1499.

You have a total of 1 entries.

- My Account

- Submit Entry

- Logout

Calculate Entry Fee

Help & Support

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Home My Contest Contest Info Judges Login Find Contests

News Media Canada (999999)

Current Password

Forgot Password? | Change Password

Contact First Name

Contact Last Name

Contact Phone

Contact Email

Confirm Email

Social Media Contact Information

Facebook

Instagram

Twitter

Other (if more than one, separate by commas)

Submit or Manage Entries