



17,500 Canadian authors receive \$9.9 million in Public Lending Right payments

Ottawa, March 2, 2011 – The Public Lending Right Commission (PLRC) announced today that 17,487 Canadian writers, translators and illustrators received \$9.9 million for the presence of their books in Canadian public libraries in 2010.

“Every day people in communities across the country have free access to great Canadian books, through our public libraries. For the past 25 years, PLRC has been proud to compensate Canadian writers for making their books available to us all – and to recognize the value they bring to readers across Canada,” said Ken McGoogan, chair of the PLRC.

This year, authors received an average payment of \$566 and the maximum payment to an author was \$3,392. PLR payments are based on the holdings of a representative group of Canadian public libraries. The complete distribution of payments by province can be found on plr-dpp.ca.

To mark its 25th anniversary, the Commission will celebrate Canadian authors’ contribution to our culture through various events. The first, organized by the League of Canadian Poets will bring hundreds of poetry readings to Canadian public libraries in April during National Poetry Month (NPM). The launch of NPM is planned for April 4 at the Toronto Public Library. The PLRC will announce the other events on its website under [Let’s Celebrate!](#)

Canada is one of 29 countries with an active public lending right payment program. These programs recognize the right of authors to be compensated for the use of their works in public libraries, and are based on the understanding that PLR funds paid to authors are an investment in advancing that country’s literary expression. For authors, the payments represent fair compensation for free access to their work and they are an important recognition of their contribution to culture.

The PLR Commission operates under the administrative aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Funding for the PLR program comes from the federal government through the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Canada Council for the Arts.

Authors interested in receiving PLR payments for this year need to register by May 1, 2011. For more information, please visit plr-dpp.ca.

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