

Individual Achievement Awards

This award category is for adults who have faced challenges in life because they were not able to read or write well in either of Canada's official languages (English or French). They have taken steps to improve their reading and writing skills, and this has helped them to better their lives.

Up to 26 of these awards may be presented, one for an English-speaking person and one for a French-speaking person in each Canadian province and territory. Finalists and winners must meet a minimum score to qualify.

Am I allowed to enter?

To enter, you must:

- have improved your reading and writing skills in your first language of English or French, or improved your English or French literacy skills when they have been learned as a second language (ESL or FSL);
- have joined a recognized adult literacy or ESL/FSL program such as a workplace, community or LINC program. Programs beyond the Secondary School Diploma and General Educational Development (GED), or their equivalents, do not qualify; and
- have not won this award before.

Can someone help me write my entry?

You can receive help to complete your entry, but the story should be told from your own point of view. If someone else nominates you for this award and writes your story on your behalf, you must give them your permission and sign the nomination form.

What points should my story address?

You can use the following points as a guideline to tell your personal success story:

- What was your life like before you improved your ability to read and write? Describe some of the problems and challenges you faced because of your difficulty with reading or writing. **Include the highest level of education grade you completed in your description.**
- What made you decide to improve your reading and writing skills, and what led you to join an adult literacy or ESL/FSL program? Briefly describe the program and **be sure to include the name of the program.**
- Describe what it was like to learn to read and write. How did the teachers and tutors help you? Tell us about your experiences, both positive and negative, and any sacrifices you had to make while attending classes.
- How has learning to read and write changed your life? What things do you enjoy doing now that you could not do before? Describe how improving your reading and writing skills has helped you do things for yourself, your family or your community.