



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF LABOUR MEDIA**

2026 CALM Awards Rules Package

The CALM Awards are for members of the Canadian Association of Labour Media (who have paid membership fees for **2026**). The awards honour excellence in the print, broadcast, online and graphics arts fields for **material produced in 2025**. You can join CALM at any time if you'd like to make a submission to the awards contest. To confirm your union's membership status with us, please contact editor@calm.ca.

Several of the awards are split into two categories: staff or volunteer. Items produced by union communications staff or outside professionals are in the same category (staff produced). The other category is for volunteers (that includes those who get a few hours' time paid by the local). Judges reserve the right to move entries from one category to the other.

There is no fee to enter the awards. All CALM members have the right to enter any number of categories.

You may submit online at our website: calm.ca/awards with a mass file transfer service like WeTransfer, or by sending a link to a Cloud folder (Google docs, Dropbox etc.) to teuila@calm.ca.

You can also enter the CALM Awards through the mail. If you are submitting paper copies, please remember **to clearly label each entry. DO NOT SUBMIT ENTRIES TWICE (I.E. online and by mail)**. You can submit your entry partly online and partly through the mail. Due to the proximity to a Canada Post counter, we insist that packages are sent via Canada Post.

Please read the rules enclosed in this package closely. Any submission that doesn't adhere to the rules as defined in this package might be disqualified.

MAIL ENTRIES TO:

CALM
196 Rene-Levesque W
Quebec, QC
G1R 2A5

Questions?

Email teuila@calm.ca or call 647-428-8028

CALM Awards

The following rules apply for **2026** CALM awards for work done in **2025**. The awards will be announced at our annual awards conference in **Regina, Saskatchewan on June 6, 2026**. **If your entry does not conform to these rules, it may not be considered.**

1. The awards are strictly for original material published or produced last year, in **2025**. If the time they were produced crossed over **2024-2025 or 2025-26**, they can only be submitted once. Regularly occurring things like podcasts can be re-submitted as long as the work was done in **2025**.
2. They are open only to CALM members who have paid **2026** membership dues. Membership dues can be submitted at the time of the awards application.
3. Some categories are sub-divided into various classifications. Awards will not necessarily be given in all categories or classifications, depending on the number and merit of the entries. You may only submit up to two entries per category, unless otherwise stated.
4. There are five independent judges, one for print, broadcast, online, graphic design and French writing.
5. You must provide one sample for each award category you enter. If you enter something into multiple categories and send it via mail, your entry must include multiple samples/URLs.
6. Each mail-in sample must be identified with the name of the union local, the person submitting the award, the name of the person or persons who created the material, and the award category.
7. It is expected that entries be union-made, provided that union printers, producers, technicians and reproduction facilities are available to the entrant.
8. The authority to determine the appropriate award classification for each entry rests with CALM and will be based on the information provided on the attached entry form and CALM's membership records.
9. To be eligible, submissions must be received through the online submission form or at the address above no later than **April 3, 2026**. Winning entries will be posted on the CALM website on June after the awards banquet.
10. Several categories are open to English and French submissions. Read the categories closely to ensure that you submit your award to the right category, and in the right language, if applicable. All categories are open to both languages, unless otherwise noted.

If you mail your entry, please ensure to ship your whole entry to arrive at the above address **no later than April 3, 2026 if sent by regular mail.**

If entering online, make sure that every file name respects this nomenclature: category/subcategory – union – piece title. So: 1B - UNION 123 - A day in the union office.

Late entries will not be considered nor will the deadline be pushed back.

CALM Awards

Identification

NAME OF UNION & LOCAL NUMBER

ADDRESS

PHONE

E-MAIL

NAME OF PERSON PREPARING ENTRY

PHONE

Classification

Submissions will be judged in up to three classifications, most often defined by whether they are produced by communications staff or by volunteers. Staff is defined as someone on the union payroll whose job includes the publication or website or an outside professional hired by the union, local, labour council or federation. Volunteers include members who may get union-paid time away from their regular jobs to do the newsletter or production.

If submitting via mail. Please circle the award category, including the relevant sub-category.

Rules

- Material must be original
- Material must include the **date(s)** it was published
- **If you're submitting online, please follow the online prompts at the submission portal at www.calm.ca/awards**
- **Each mailed item submitted must have a label that clearly identifies to which category it is being submitted, the name of the person submitting the entry, the union name and local number, and the name of the person(s) who produced the work.**

CALM Awards

Please indicate which of the award categories below you would like to enter by circling the number and letter (if appropriate). You can enter up to two entries per category (unless otherwise stated), and as many categories as you would like. Be sure to include samples as specified for each category that you enter. **Each mailed sample must have the following information either written on the back of the entry or on a separate piece of paper attached to the entry: name of union local; name of the person submitting the entry; the number/letter of the award you're submitting the entry to; name of the author(s) if it's not embedded in the entry.**

Please only submit ONE entry per category or sub category.

1. Ed Finn Award for excellence in writing [ENGLISH ONLY]

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

2. Best photograph. Include photographer's name.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

3. The Freeperson Award for best cartoon, illustration or infographic. Include artist's name.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

4. The Morden Lazarus Prize for best editorial, column, or opinion piece that thoughtfully argues labour's position on an issue [ENGLISH ONLY]. Include the author's name.

5. The Cliff Scotton Prize for a narrative, video, audio or visual that reflects history, traditions and culture of the labour movement [ENGLISH ONLY]. Include the creator's name.

6. The Fighting Oppression Award for a communications initiative that raises consciousness and contributes to struggles against racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism and other forms of oppression and discrimination [ENGLISH ONLY]. Submit one initiative, along with a covering note explaining how it achieved change in your organization.

7. Best campaign. Please include in your submission a write-up about the campaign, the kinds of material you produced for this campaign, and the successes that the campaign led to.

- a) best local campaign (volunteer produced)
- b) best local campaign (staff or agency produced)
- c) best provincial or national campaign

8. The Katie FitzRandolph Award for best overall regular print publication. Best combined use of writing, graphics, design, editorial content and judgment.

- a) Staff produced **[ENGLISH ONLY]**
- b) Volunteer produced **[ENGLISH ONLY]**
- c) Produced in French **[FRENCH ONLY]**

9. Rosemarie Bahr award for excellence in print layout and design in regular print publication for imaginative and effective use of graphics, cartoons, photography, typography and layout.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

10. Best opinion, news or feature story that demonstrates excellence in labour writing [FRENCH ONLY]. Submit up to three original stories.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

11. Best short video, made for TV broadcast or online distribution. Submit URL or file and names of the individuals or agency who produced it.

12. Best narrative video, or video series documentary. Submit URL or file and names of the individuals or agency who produced it.

13. Best audio production: radio ad. Submit URL or file and names of the individuals or agency who produced it.

14. Best podcast. Submit one episode that best represents a series, plus a full episode list, host information and a description of the podcast format. Include the names of individuals or agency who produced it

15. Best hard copy promotional material (posters, brochures, buttons, Frisbees etc.). Submit sample by mail or images online with a short explanation of where and how the material was used. It can be a set of different materials for the same campaign.

16. Best print advertisement. Submit a URL or digital file of the ad as it appeared in print. It can be for a billboard, a newspaper ad or other printed material.

17. Dennis McGann Stroke-of-Genius Award for the most unusual, innovative, novel communications project. Please attach a statement explaining why it was such a good idea along with any visuals that will aid your submission.

18. Best poster. Submit up to two entries in **soft copy only** (URL, PDF, JPG etc.). Hard copy submissions **will not be considered**.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

19. Best membership mobilization material. Demonstrate how the material was used for outreach/impact, with a focus on creativity

20. Best website content. Submit one URL and a password if the judge will need one.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

21. Best website redesign. Submit one URL and a password if the judge will need one. Please include a short write-up about the redesign process, including the goals you had set out to meet.

- a) Produced with budget under \$15,000
- b) Produced with budget over \$15,000

22. Most innovative online tool. Submit the tool (URL etc.) and explain how this tool was used effectively

23. Best meme. Submit up to two entries in **soft copy only** (URL, PDF, JPG etc.) Hard copy submissions **will not be considered**.

24. Best use of social media by a union. Submit links to your social media presence and include an explanation.

- a) Staff produced
- b) Volunteer produced

25. Best Short Video made for social media.

For any questions, comments or concerns, don't hesitate to email teuila@calm.ca or call 647-428-8028.