

2026 Forest of Reading® Winners Announced at Annual Forest of Reading Festival

Readers across the country voted for favourite Canadian titles in readers' choice award program

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (May 14, 2026) – The Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Forest of Reading are excited to announce the winners of the 2026 Forest of Reading Awards, presented at the Forest of Reading Award ceremonies, a two-day, in-person and digital event, hosted by Ainara Alleyne.

The Forest of Reading English Award Winners are:

- Blue Spruce Award™ Winner: **The Great Dinosaur Sleepover** by Linda Bailey (Tundra Books)
- Silver Birch Express Award® Winner: **The Great Puptective 02 Purranormal Activity** by Alina Tysoe (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)
- Silver Birch Fiction Award® Winner: **The Last Hope School for Magical Delinquents** by Nicki Pau Preto (Penguin Young Readers / Viking Books for Young Readers)
- Yellow Cedar Award Winner: **A Sick History of Medicine: A Warts-And-All Book Full of Fun Facts and Disgusting Discoveries** by Jelena Poleksic (Neon Squid)
- Red Maple Award™ Winner: **If We Tell You** by Nicola Dahlin (Kids Can Press)
- White Pine Award™ Winner: **For She is Wrath** by Emily Varga (Raincoast / St. Martin's Press)

The Forest of Reading English Honour Books are:

Blue Spruce Award™ Honour Books:

- **Fox and the Mystery Letter** by Alex G. Griffiths (Frances Lincoln Children's Books)
- **The Weedflower** by Elizabeth Davaze (Owlkids Books)

Silver Birch Express Award® Honour Books:

- **The League of Littles** by Casey Lyall (Greenwillow Books)
- **Plant Attack!: The Fascinating Ways Flora Defends Itself** by Erin Silver (Orca Book Publishers)

Silver Birch Fiction Award® Honour Books:

- **Death by Whoopee Cushion** by Vicki Grant (Tundra Books)
- **Taxi Ghost** by Sophie Escabasse (Random House Children's Books / Yearling)

Yellow Cedar Award Honour Books:

- **Spooky Lakes: 25 Strange and Mysterious Lakes That Dot Our Planet** by Geo Rutherford (Abrams Books for Young Readers)
- **Octopus Ocean: Geniuses of the Deep** by Mark Leiren-Young (Orca Book Publishers)

Red Maple Award™ Honour Books:

- **Finding Harmony** by Eric Walters (Orca Book Publishers)
- **The Factory** by Catherine Egan (Scholastic Canada)

White Pine Award™ Honour Books:

- **The History of Everything** by Victoria Evans (HarperCollins)

- ***A Drop in the Ocean*** by Léa Taranto (Arsenal Pulp Press)

Since October, almost 154,500 children have read nominated books, which include Canadian fiction and non-fiction books by English and French-language authors. Over 128,000 kids voted this year across 9 programs.

The Forest of Reading consists of ten programs distinguished by age group and reading level, each with ten nominated titles. The English school-aged programs are Blue Spruce, Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction, Yellow Cedar, Red Maple, and White Pine. French literature is celebrated through the Peuplier, Mélèze, and Tamarac programs. The adult program, Evergreen, celebrates excellence in Canadian literature. There are 100 nominated titles with ten books in each program.

We recognize the major support from our Festival sponsors and partners: Tinlids Inc., Harbourfront Centre, Government of Canada, First Book Canada, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Government of Ontario, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Toronto Arts Council and Access Copyright Foundation. The 2026 Festival is also made possible through the support of Indigo Love of Reading Foundation (Access Partner) and Scholastic Canada (Dear School Library Program Partner).

Follow the conversation [#ForestofReading](#) and [#IReadCanadian](#).

- 30 -

About the Ontario Library Association: The [Ontario Library Association \(OLA\)](#) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 4,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

About Tinlids: [Tinlids Inc.](#) is the official wholesaler for the 2026 Forest of Reading program.

Media and program contacts:

[Meredith Tutching](#)

Director of Forest of Reading® & Logistics
Ontario Library Association
1-877-340-1730 ext. 22

[Laurel McLeod](#)

Communications Officer
Ontario Library Association

1-877-340-1730 ext. 25