

## 2016 Rules and Regulations

The Polaris Music Prize is a not-for-profit organization that annually honours and rewards artists who produce Canadian music albums of distinction. A select panel of music critics judge and award the Prize without regard to musical genre or commercial popularity.

All genres of contemporary music are considered for the Polaris Music Prize and no entry fee is required. Artists or their representatives do not submit to Polaris.

A Long List of 40 nominated Albums of the Year will be selected by an independent jury from the fields of music journalism, digital media and broadcasting from across Canada. This same jury will vote for a Short List of 10 titles that will be announced to the media on July 14, 2016. A second panel of 11 members of that jury will convene at the Polaris Music Prize Gala September 19, 2016 to select the winner of the Polaris Music Prize.

### 1. Eligibility.

#### 1a. Criteria.

Polaris Music Prize nominees and winners will be selected solely on artistic merit without regard to genre, sales history or label affiliation.

#### 1b. Album definition.

Only albums of previously unreleased recordings qualify for consideration. An album is defined as at least 20 minutes of music, or at least 5 songs. Exceptions to this definition are noted in 1e, below.

#### 1c. Release definition.

A release is a full-length recording (as defined in 1b. above) that has been made available:

- a) via free or paid music streaming services that are available in Canada.
- b) for purchase in Canada from any digital retailer or artist website.
- c) for purchase in Canada at any physical retailer.

d) for free with the artist's consent. Promotional advances (i.e. media streams or watermarked copies) will not be considered released until they are made available to the general public.

e) for purchase or giveaway directly from the artist at performances, appearances or on-line.

1e. Compilations and re-releases.

Compilations of previously released recordings such as "greatest hits" or "best of" packages or similar are not eligible. Re-released albums do not qualify. There are two exceptions to this rule: 1) A self-released album that did not have national distribution and did not make the Long List in its initial qualifying release window gets a re-release with national distribution in a subsequent qualifying window. A self-released album is defined as one that is sold or given away exclusively by the artist at performances, on-line, or to record retailers. 2) At the discretion of the Executive Director and the Jury Foreperson, Polaris may allow curated and historical multi-artist compilations to be considered. Should such an album win, the prize money will be awarded to each artist featured on the compilation, pro-rated to the number of tracks each artist contributed to the recording.

1f. Qualifying period.

To qualify, albums must have been released in full between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016.

1g. Canadian definition.

Artists must be Canadian citizens or Canadian landed immigrants. For groups, at least 50% of members must be Canadian. Proof of Canadian citizenship includes:

- a) Valid Canadian passport.
- b) Canadian citizenship papers.
- c) Canadian Birth Certificate.
- d) Landed immigrant status via a Canadian Permanent Resident Card.

2. Jury Process.

2a. Submission.

There is no submission process for artists or their representatives. An independent panel of jurors will consider eligible releases. The results of their voting (as detailed in 2d.) will produce 40 albums for the Polaris Music Prize Long List, and 10 albums for the Polaris Music Prize Short List.



## 2b. The jury.

Jurors are selected from across Canada. The jury includes those who regularly review and/or program local and national artists, and independent and major label artists. Jurors can be music journalists and programmers or producers from daily, weekly, local and national print publications, local and national radio, music television, and digital media.

## 2c. Conflict of interest.

A potential jury member, as defined in 2.b., who professionally or otherwise represents an artist, or has a personal relationship with an artist or artists, or who is a recording artist, must disclose these conflicts to Polaris. In the event of a conflict of interest, the juror will not be allowed to submit the related artist on their list or mention the associated artist in any internal Polaris jury discussions. The consequence of not disclosing a potential conflict of interest is cancellation of the entire ballot for that year and lifetime exclusion from the jury. Conflicts of interest are decided by the Executive Director and Jury Foreperson.

A complete list of Polaris jurors is available at [www.polarismusicprize.ca/jury](http://www.polarismusicprize.ca/jury)

## 2d. Voting.

The selected jurors submit a ranked list of what they consider to be the five best Canadian recordings. These picks are vetted for eligibility and tabulated to form a Long List of 40 nominees. The jury then selects from this Long List to comprise the 10-title Short List.

11 jurors ("The Grand Jury") convene the night of the Gala to select the winner. The Grand Jury voting procedure consists of ranking the Short List in a series of three ranked ballots. The results of the final ballot determine the winner of the Polaris Music Prize. A tie-breaking vote will be held if there is a tie after three ballots.

## 3. Polaris Music Prize Winner.

The Polaris Music Prize will be announced at a gala in Toronto on September 19, 2016.

The winning artist or group will receive a cash prize of \$50,000 (Canadian). Runners up from the Short List receive a cash prize of \$3,000.

## 4. Additional interpretations.

Any additional interpretations of the rules, including individual rulings on the eligibility of individual recordings or the status of jury members, shall be at the sole discretion of the Executive Director and the Jury Foreperson. All rulings are final.