



## **Rules and Regulations**

May, 2009.

The Polaris Music Prize is Canada's first juried award for creative artistic achievement in recorded music. This national critic's prize honours the full-length album as an art form and awards a cash prize of \$20,000 to the artist or artists who create the best album of the year.

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. Only titles suggested Polaris jury members are considered for the Polaris Music Prize.

A Long List of 40 nominated Albums of the Year will be selected by an independent panel of over 180 jurors from the fields of music journalism, blogging and broadcasting from across Canada and announced to the media June 12, 2009. This same jury will vote for a Short List of 10 titles which will be announced to the media on July 7, 2009. These 10 titles will also be marketed through various means and specially presented at music retail across Canada. A second panel of jurors will convene at the Polaris Music Prize Gala in September, 2009 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. There is no submission process or entry fee.

#### 1b. Genres.

All forms of contemporary music (including, but not limited to, pop, rock, hip-hop, R&B, electronic, experimental, jazz, classical, instrumental, country and blues, or any combination of the above, and including genres not mentioned or invented at the time these rules were written) are eligible for the Polaris Music Prize.

#### 1c. Album definition.

Only albums qualify for consideration. An album is defined as at least 30 minutes of music, or at least 8 songs. Compilations of previously released recordings, including remixes, are not eligible. Records with bonus tracks that bring the total tracks or running time over these minimums are also not eligible.



1d. Qualifying period.

To qualify, albums must have been released commercially on CD between June 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009.

1e. Release definition.

A commercial release is defined as a) available for purchase in Canada at any bricks and mortar retailer or b) available for purchase digitally in Canada from any recognized digital retailer or artist website c) available through an artist website either directly from the artist or via a recognized internet fulfillment operation.

1f. Canadian definition.

Artists must be Canadian citizens. For bands, at least 50% of members must be Canadian citizens. Proof of Canadian citizenship includes either:

- a) Valid Canadian passport
- b) Canadian citizenship papers
- c) Canadian Birth Certificate

Citizens of another country, resident in Canada either part time or full time, who do not hold either a valid Canadian passport or Canadian citizenship papers are not eligible.

1g. Additional interpretations.

Any additional interpretations of the rules shall be at the sole discretion of the Polaris Music Prize Board Of Directors. All rulings are final.

2. Jury Process:

2a. Submission.

There is no submission process for artists or their representatives. An independent panel of jurors will consider all eligible releases and nominate 40 albums for the Polaris Music Prize Long List, and 10 albums for the Polaris Music Prize Short List.



2b. The jury.

2.b.1. The Jury is.

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

2.b.2. The Jury isn't.

The jury does not include artist managers, record label employees, agents, publishers, promoters, publicists, music retailers or anyone who professionally or otherwise represents, gives away or sells a recording artist or artists or their work.

2c. Conflict of interest.

In the event that a potential jury member, as defined in 2.b.1, professionally or otherwise represents, as defined in 2.b.2, a recording artist or artists, or is a recording artists themselves, they must disclose any possible conflicts to Polaris before being accepted as a jury member. In the event that there is a conflict of interest, he/she will not be allowed to submit the related artist on their list. Lack of conflict of interest disclosure will result in cancellation of their entire ballot for that year and lifetime exclusion from the jury.

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

2d. The voting.

The selected jurors submit a list of what they consider to be the five best Canadian recordings in any genre. 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 Short List which will be announced at a press conference July 7, 2009.

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A smaller group of 11 jurors (“The Grand Jury”) will convene and select the winner the night of the gala ceremony.

3. Polaris Music Prize Money:

The Polaris Music Prize will be announced at a Gala Ceremony in Toronto in September, 2009.

The winner will be selected that evening by (11) judges selected from the Polaris Music Jury. This jury is called the Grand Jury.

The winning band or artist or group will receive \$20 000.