



Program Overview

There are three stages that total a 17 week duration for each community Readers' Choice Awards program. The community decides the nominations and votes for the winners in specific categories.



BUSINESS REGISTRATION

Register your business early for the categories that best suit your offers. By registering you will ensure your business will be easily found when nominations begin.



NOMINATIONS

The program "Opens" with the nomination stage. People can go to their local Readers' Choice site and register to nominate businesses of their choice in specific categories. People are encouraged to nominate all of your favourite businesses along with your favourite categories.



VOTING

Once all of the nominations have been collected. The top 5 nominees for each category are set up for the voting stage. The voting stage "Opens" with these nominees and you have the ability to go to your local Readers' Choice Awards site and "Vote" for your favourite business. The top businesses in each category will be Awarded the Readers' Choice Winners.



WINNERS

The Readers' Choice Winners are decided by the total amount of votes received for each business per category. The ranking goes as follows: (1) Diamond (2) Platinum (3) Gold. The Winners will be published online on the Readers' Choice Site and also in the local print publication (where available).



Tips for a Successful Best of Campaign

Use our Best of Readers' Choice 2026 Assets EVERYWHERE!

We've created assets for you to showcase your business. These include:

- Instagram Post Frame. Layover an image of your company/product/service.
- Instagram Story Frame. Layover an image of your company/product/service within the Instagram app.
- Instagram Post. Use this on your feed to announce that you're looking for nominations. You can also use this as a graphic anywhere online.
- Flyer Ad. Print it out and use it in your store, hand to people, or even place it on your window!
- Tent Card. Print this out and use it in your store or place it on your shelves or counter.

Tap into your newsletter lists!

- Leverage your email lists to ask your community to nominate you! Use the assets we've provided to create an engaging email that will drive votes, and directly link to your category for easy nominations.

Advertise on our nominations page next to YOUR category!

- Thousands of people in your area will be nominating their favourites. Remind them of your business by advertising on our nomination pages, right next to your category. We offer low-cost ads! Contact us for all our advertising options or buy directly on our online self-serve portal!

Tell everyone you know!

- Friends, family, employees, no one should be left out! Spread the word with shameless and persistent campaigning! The more people you ask to nominate you, the better your chances of landing in the top 5 and advancing into our voting stage! Good Luck!



Posting instructions for Instagram and Facebook

POSTING ON INSTAGRAM

Post a photo on Instagram	https://help.instagram.com/442418472487929
Using stickers on Instagram	https://help.instagram.com/151273688993748
Create Stories	https://help.instagram.com/1660923094227526
Share story to Facebook	https://help.instagram.com/1936968516554161
Share post to Facebook	https://help.instagram.com/797182937605779

POSTING ON FACEBOOK

Post on a page on Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/help/424946150928896
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GENERAL GUIDELINES

- When sharing as a post, ensure you are adding your Readers' Choice link
- When sharing as a story, be sure to add a "Link" sticker and input your Readers' Choice URL to make it easy for users to vote for you
- Keep your copy short and engaging
- Get your message across quickly so be straight forward with your message
- Remember to communicate what you want people to do