



2024 CMA Awards
Submission
Guidelines

Entry Submissions

The CMA Awards celebrate Canada's leading marketing campaigns and professionals. Annually we bring the marketing community together to witness the best of the best and award creative excellence.

The Annual CMA Awards, celebrating over 55 years of excellence in marketing, is now open for campaign entries. This iconic award show honors the best creative talent and ground-breaking campaigns across many different creative disciplines.

We are pleased to announce that Early Bird Pricing will be available on May 1st, 2024.

CMA encourages submitting entries early by offering multiple deadlines with increasing entry fee rates. The early-bird deadline offers the lowest entry fee. Entry fees are increased for the final deadline with pricing surcharge for non-member taking effect in the last few days.

Type	Duration	Member Fee Per Entry	Non-Member Fee Per Entry
Early Bird	May 1 - June 21 <i>Deadline is June 21 at 12pm ET</i>	\$350	\$475
Regular	June 21 - July 05 <i>Deadline is July 05 at 12pm ET</i>	\$450	\$625
Final	July 05 - July 19 <i>Deadline is July 19 at 12pm ET</i>	\$450	\$725
Extensions*	July 19 - July 23 <i>Deadline is July 23 at 12pm ET</i>	\$550	\$925

*Regular Awards Deadline Extension Fees

The final deadline extension to submit is July 23th at Noon ET. To request this extension, please contact awards@thecma.ca prior to July 19th.

The following Special Awards are complimentary to enter, deadline August 7th at Noon ET:

- Canada Post Direct Mail Award
- Environics Analytics Data-Driven Marketing Award
- Meta Business Equity Award
- LinkedIn B2B Marketing Award
- TikTok Power of Entertainment Award

The following Premiere Awards are complimentary to enter, Deadline September 10, noon ET:

- IGM Financial Lifetime Achievement Award

Entry Submissions

In this guide you find screen shots of what to expect when completing your submission. This will provide you with a guideline of the type of information that you will need to collect.

At the end of this guide, you will find some FAQs.

We wish you the best of luck when entering your submission.

Disciplines

Discipline	Description
Brand Building	<p>Long-term marketing initiatives that drive brand health including awareness, perception, consumer behaviours, and attitudes. Campaigns should be in-market for a minimum of four months. Note: Short term campaigns should be submitted under Business/Brand Impact discipline.</p> <p>Success is defined by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Achieving excellence in creativity and strategy, with the ability to show positive long-term business results based on stated objectives and KPIs. Results provided can vary (ex: sales, brand lift, measured insights, results and media).• Great campaigns can also showcase a range of media and technology: digital, social, broadcast, out-of-home, print, as well as direct (not mandatory).• Campaign can be a product launch or traditional brand category.
Business/Brand Impact	<p>Short term campaigns play a vital role in the success of building business through activating a rapid consumer response. As compared with “Brand Building”, these efforts are designed to generate immediate outcomes, within one day to four months in market.</p> <p>These campaigns should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seasonal or tactical advertising• The ability to drive positive outcomes as stated by the client’s objectives including increase in sales, web or store traffic, event participation or rapid change in consumer behavior, increase in acquisition (which may include e-commerce success), conversation rates, retention and leads.• Provide as many KPI results as possible.• An insightful, creative, or innovative means of reaching the consumer in any form(s) of media including broadcast, social, digital, print, OOH, or direct.

Disciplines

Discipline	Description
Customer Experience & Shopper Marketing	<p>CX and shopper marketing drives sales and builds brand equity with customers using a number of channels and tactics throughout the relationship. These initiatives can be online or off-line and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sweepstakes or contests• online couponing• digital engagement (email communications)• event activations• gifts with purchase (gwp)• loyalty rewards• retail and in-store activity• e-commerce and online activity• packaging• sampling• partnerships <p>Shopper marketing encompasses successful marketing campaigns with customers sometime throughout the shopper journey. The campaign may focus on new customer acquisition or activity to drive repeat purchase and increased customer loyalty or improve an existing customer experience/journey.</p>
Engagement	<p>Engagement is about the dialogue between brands and people – B2B, B2C, partners or employees. To manage long term relationships (quarterly or annually) or lifetime value driven (as opposed to one off tactics), the dialogue can use personalization, experiential techniques, content driven or target a community.</p> <p>Social media is used to spark continued exposure (earned media, impressions, and interactions) with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• current news items• public interest topics• influencer marketing• product promotions or organizational updates <p>Programs with a CRM or 1:1 focus on specific moments in the customer lifecycle such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• acquisition• welcome/activation• cross-sell/upsell <ul style="list-style-type: none">• retention or win-back rate; or entire customer lifecycle management journeys

Disciplines

Discipline	Description
Innovative Media	<p>Winning campaigns that successfully use marketing to reimagine how customers interact with brands, in the way that media is harnessed to effectively communicate to consumers. These campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• live beyond "the moment"• lay the groundwork for new media applications and approaches• will represent innovation within existing media channels or in emerging platforms• drive strong measurable business results <p>Entries need to outline how innovative media helped achieve the strategy. They use creative solutions and innovative media technologies to effectively influence or engage their target audiences and demonstrate how tech drove results. Successful submissions will represent innovation within media channels showing strong metrics supporting business KPI's. Strong entries will show innovation beyond the client brief or pivots from the traditional brand norms.</p>
Public Relations	<p>Public Relations is a critical marketing practice of skillfully communicating an organization, individual or program's message, using a variety of earned, owned, paid and shared tactics, to build mutually beneficial relationships with the public. A public relations strategy could include media campaigns, events, social media and stakeholder communications, among other activities.</p> <p>Campaigns can be identified as internal or external. Entries can be further categorized in two investment classifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campaign budgets between \$0 - \$50,000• Campaign budgets over \$50,000 <p>Note: Campaign budgets will be seen by the judges only. You can choose to not disclose budget.</p> <p>Entries can cover many areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crisis management• Corporate social responsibility• Brand development• Community relations• Media relations• Government relations• Influencer Campaigns

Categories

Automotive	Business	Consumer Products & Services
<p>Product and services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manufacturers • dealers • aftermarket • automotive services 	<p>B2B product and services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information technologies (ex: hardware, software and networking system infrastructure) • transportation • delivery • professional services (ex: real estate, legal, etc.) • business self-promotion (a company promoting to other businesses) 	<p>Products intended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal care • for use in the home • these can include consumer goods, books, electronics, beauty products, consumer devices/software, sports/leisure equipment, clothing • entertainment services, cable, media, mobile, internet (not in a retail environment) <p>*Excluding F&B, automotive, financial and health care products. Refer to these categories.</p>
Financial	Food & Beverage	HealthCare
<p>All financial product and services from financial institutions and include programs developed around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead generation • traffic building • customer service • order generation • database building • retention or acquisition • these can include all banking services, credit (cards), insurance, investment, new products and wealth management 	<p>Products intended for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumer consumption <p>*Excluding products for health care, personal care, or for the home.</p>	<p>Products (OTC included) and/or services intended for maintenance and improvement of physical and mental health campaigns supporting pharmaceutical, health & wellness clinics/centres and hospitals.</p>

Categories

Retail/Consumer Businesses

Initiated by:

- retailers (off-line and online) including restaurants, gyms, and automotive retailers
- distributors, delivery services
- manufacturers
- food services stores to build traffic and sales

These include catalogue and e-commerce websites and other interactive methods that include product information and ordering devices.

Social Causes

This includes:

- NGO
- PSAs
- charities
- fund-raising
- causes
- foundations

Associations, government, public sector supporting a specific social cause.

Criteria

Background and Marketing Challenge/Objectives	Strategy/Insights
<p>Identify the key business challenge, market and competitive insights that led to this campaign. Could also be driven by an internal business challenge.</p> <p>Clarify if this campaign was a new initiative or an extension of a previous program.</p> <p>What were the quantifiable core business objectives (ex: "generate a lift of 2% in gross sales")?</p> <p>Provide KPI's that support the business challenge that this campaign set out to address.</p> <p>What were the campaign specific communication objectives (ex: "generate an increase in brand awareness of 5% points etc.)?</p> <p>Include any key market and competitive insights.</p>	<p>What was the strategic impetus and key consumer insight that shaped the campaign's direction?</p> <p>What problem were you trying to solve and how did this strategic insight shape this campaign?</p> <p>What was unique and different about your approach?</p> <p>Who was the core target market/audience?</p> <p>What behaviour or attitude were you trying to invoke?</p> <p>Research, insights, statistics, and any data supporting the strategy are key.</p>

Criteria

Creative Idea & Execution	Results
<p>How did your strategy manifest into a creative look and feel?</p> <p>What was the inspiration behind the creative idea (can be tied to insights)?</p> <p>How did you leverage the many platform/media options to further amplify your creative product?</p> <p>And how did the creative idea manifest itself across various channels?</p> <p>What made it stand out and be noticed by your target?</p>	<p>Confirm how your campaign performed against the numbers provided in the objectives section in Question 1. Did you reach your objectives?</p> <p>Identify KPIs (key performance indicators) that proved your marketing initiative delivered a positive business impact for the advertiser.</p> <p>Understanding that some results are confidential, try to provide at minimum, comparisons like industry benchmarks, past results from the company, showing growth % etc.</p>

Category + Discipline Selection

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments

🔴 Step 1 ▾

1. Choose a **category**
2. **Name** your entry
3. Select a **discipline**

If you would like to enter into multiple categories, feel free to copy your entry via *My entries*.

Category

Member ▾

Automotive ▾

Product and services include:

- manufacturers
- dealers
- aftermarket
- automotive services

📄 [Download blank entry PDF for reference](#)

Campaign Name

TEST

Discipline:

Brand Building ▾

Long-term marketing initiatives that drive brand health including awareness, perception, consumer behaviours, and attitudes.

Campaigns should be in-market for a minimum of four months.

Note: Short-term campaigns (under four months) should be submitted under Business/Brand Impact discipline.

Success is defined by:

- Achieving excellence in creativity and strategy, with the ability to show positive long-term business results based on stated objectives and KPIs. Results provided can vary (ex: sales, brand lift, measured insights, results and media).
- Great campaigns can also showcase a range of media and technology: digital, social, broadcast, out-of-home, print, as well as direct (not mandatory).
- Campaign can be a product launch or traditional brand category.

Save + next

Cancel

Contact Details

Category + Discipline Selection **Contact Details** Campaign Details Agency/Client Details Credit Details Criteria Attachments

Company name
Test Inc.

Country
CAN

Province (of Applicant)
Ontario

Phone Number
0000000000

[Save + next](#) [Save + close](#) [Preview](#) [Submit entry](#)

Campaign Details

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments



Only entries whose campaign start and end dates fall within **December 1, 2022 through June 1, 2024** will be accepted.

Should the campaign continue after June 1, 2024, you may still submit as long as the results entered are within the above dates.

Campaign Start Date

2022-12-01

Campaign End Date

2024-06-01

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit entry

Agency/Client Details

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments

Agency Details

Agency Name

Agency Country

Agency Phone Number

Client Details

Client Company

Client Country

Client Phone Number

Client Approver Name

Client Approver Email

Social Media Handles

Social Media

Agency Twitter Handle (Put N/A if not available)

Client Twitter Handle (Put N/A if not available)

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit entry

Credit Details

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments

Please ensure accuracy as these credits will be used on the awards website.

EXAMPLE: Chief Creative Officers: First Name Last Name - Executive Creative Director: First Name Last Name - Creative Directors: First Name Last Name

If you have multiples names under a title please separate with a comma.

Team Members

Chief Creative Officers: John Doe
Executive Creative Director: Jane Doe
Creative Directors: Adrian Brown, Laura Brown

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit entry

Criteria

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments

🔔 Important Note ▾

DO NOT include the agency name in the body of text entered in the fields below. **DO NOT** include if this campaign was done pro bono.

Background and Marketing Challenge/Objectives

0 / 1300 characters

- Identify the key business challenge, market and competitive insights that led to this campaign. Could also be driven by an internal business challenge.
- Clarify if this campaign was a new initiative or an extension of a previous program.
- What were the quantifiable core business objectives (ex: "generate a lift of 2% in gross sales")?
- Provide KPI's that support the business challenge that this campaign set out to address.
- What were the campaign specific communication objectives (ex: "generate an increase in brand awareness of 5% points etc.)?
- Include any key market and competitive insights.

Strategy/Insights

0 / 1600 characters

- What was the strategic impetus and key consumer insight that shaped the campaign's direction?
- What problem were you trying to solve and how did this strategic insight shape this campaign?
- What was unique and different about your approach?
- Who was the core target market/audience?
- What behaviour or attitude were you trying to invoke?
- Research, insights, statistics, and any data supporting the strategy are key.

Creative idea

0 / 1600 characters

- How did your strategy manifest into a creative look and feel?
- What was the inspiration behind the creative idea (can be tied to insights)?
- How did you leverage the many platform/media options to further amplify your creative product? And how did the creative idea manifest itself across various channels?
- What made it stand out and be noticed by your target?

Results

0 / 1200 characters

- Confirm how your campaign performed against the numbers provided in the objectives section in Question 1. Did you reach your objectives?
- Identify KPIs (key performance indicators) that proved your marketing initiative delivered a positive business impact for the advertiser.
- Understanding that some results are confidential, try to provide at minimum, comparisons like industry benchmarks, past results from the company, showing growth % etc.

Website Write Up:

0 / 350 characters

Should your campaign win GOLD, please include a write-up for the public CMA website. Please use full sentences.

EXAMPLE: Destination Pride launched globally with over 100 geographically individualized Facebook Ad campaigns running in 92 countries and in 46 languages. Each ad campaign targeted people interested in LGBTQ+ topics, groups and events, and travel. Ads were also contextual to local news events, such as the cancellation of the Pride parade in Uganda.

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit entry

Attachments

Category + Discipline Selection

Contact Details

Campaign Details

Agency/Client Details

Credit Details

Criteria

Attachments

 Attachments information 

Accepted File Formats

PLEASE NOTE: Agency names MUST NOT appear on any submitted materials, except in the **Information** tab. Please check document headers and footers carefully before submitting files and set up an alias for website URL's hosted by an agency. Client hosted URLs are accepted.

- Video (.avi .m4v .mov .mp4 .mpeg .mpg .srt)
- Audio (mp3)
- Image (.pdf, .jpg, .png)
- Website (URL) - website URLs are accepted. For websites that cannot be accessed publicly (i.e. intranet websites), entrants are recommended to take screenshots and assemble them in a multi-page PDF file. Please be sure to alias your website URL's away from addresses that identify the submitting agency. Client URLs are accepted.
- Documents (pdf)

Important:

- No video attachment required to enter.
- Maximum size for any upload is 1GB and no longer than 2 minutes in length.
- Should your entry have a commercial, please upload the commercial as it would have aired with sound and no added result overlays.
- When uploading attachments please include only the most relevant creative examples that are supporting this entry.

NO MORE THAN 6 CREATIVE ELEMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED
(this includes file attachments **and** URLs.)



Drag your files here
or

Select attachments

Add URL

0/8 attachments

Save + next

Save + close

Preview

Submit entry

FAQs

Question	Details
Where do I submit entries and how do I create an account?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All submissions will be entered on Awards Force.
What is the cost and entry deadline?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CMA encourages submitting entries early by offering multiple deadlines with increasing entry fee rates.The early-bird deadline offers the lowest entry fee.Entry fees are increased for the final deadline with pricing surcharge for non-member taking effect in the last few days.
CMA Awards Entry Deadlines 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Early Bird Deadline June 21, 2024 @ 12PM ET Member Pricing: \$350 Non-Member Pricing: \$475Regular Deadline July 05 @ 12PM ET Member Pricing: \$450 Non-Member Pricing: \$625Final Deadline July 19 @ 12PM ET Member Pricing: \$450 Non-Member Pricing: \$725
Deadline Extension Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The final deadline to submit is July 23rd at 12PM ET. If you require an extension below is a list of the fees. To request an extension please contact awards@thecma.ca.Member: \$550, Non-Member: \$925
Special Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Annually, we present a series of Special Awards that are complimentary to enter. This year's Special Awards are the following:Canada Post Direct Mail AwardEnvironics Analytics Data-Driven Marketing AwardMeta Business Equity AwardLinkedIn B2B Marketing AwardTikTok Power of Entertainment AwardIGM Financial Lifetime Achievement Award

FAQs

Question	Details
Why are there multiple deadline dates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMA encourages submitting entries early by offering multiple deadlines with increasing entry fee rates.• The early-bird deadline offers the lowest entry fee. Entry fees are increased for the final deadline with pricing surcharge for non-member taking effect in the last few days.
When does Early Bird Pricing End?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early bird pricing will end on June 21st at 12pm ET.
How do I know if I'm a CMA member?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMA membership is assigned to companies. Therefore, if your organization is a CMA member, you are a CMA member.• Find out if you/your organization is a CMA member by viewing the member directory.
What is the cancellation/refund policy for entries submitted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refunds can be made only if written notification of the entrant's wish to withdraw their entries reaches the CMA office before June 21. Refunds made up until this date will be subject to a \$95 administrative cancellation fee. No refunds will be considered by the CMA after June 21, regardless of any extension to the entries deadline. Entries can only be cancelled by the CMA and cannot be cancelled or removed from the CMA Awards in any way after June 21.

FAQs

Question	Details
What are the dates for campaign eligibility for 2023?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your campaign must have results tabulated between December 1, 2022 and June 1, 2024. We have extended the campaign eligibility period to allow companies to enter campaigns that they could not submit last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.• Entries containing results tabulated after June 1, 2024 may be disqualified at the discretion of the judging committee and CMA. CMA is not responsible for any entrant submission error. The decision of the judging committee and CMA is final.
What is the criteria for submitting an entry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criteria for different disciplines and categories can be accessed through the entry form in Awards Force. Please note that there is a character limit (that includes spaces).
How many creative files will be accepted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A maximum of 6 supporting files will be accepted. Attachments are optional (including videos) and the maximum file size for any upload is 1GB and no longer than 2 minutes in duration.• If a PDF is submitted with multiple creative elements, each creative element is counted as 1 attachment.• The following file formats accepted are: Video (.avi .m4v .mov .mp4 .mpeg .mpg .srt), Audio (mp3), Image/Document (.pdf, .jpg, .png), Documents (pdf) and Website URLs.
How many times can I enter a campaign?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CMA limits the submission of each unique campaign to 5 times or less. The campaign can be submitted across any of the disciplines/categories.• This limit does not apply to special awards (Direct Mail Award, Data-Driven Marketing Award, Business Equity Award and B2B Marketing Award).• Organizations can submit an unlimited number of unique campaigns.
My campaign ran in the US, is it still eligible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Campaigns that ran in Canada or campaigns that ran in other markets but were developed by Canadian marketers for Canadian clients are eligible for entry. CMA reserves the right to reassign the entry discipline or category at any time.

FAQs

Question	Details
Who can help me decide which category my campaign should be submitted into?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact awards@theCMA.ca for assistance in determining into which category(s) your campaign should be entered. We are happy to help!
Why is my text cut off in one or more of the boxes for campaign details?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each section contains a maximum character count.
When will I find out if my submission has been shortlisted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notifications will be emailed to the individual listed as the contact person for each entry that is shortlisted by early September.
PayPal won't accept or process my credit card. Who do I contact for assistance?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are having difficulties processing payment through our PayPal account online, please contact awards@theCMA.ca.
I can't upload my supporting documents. Who do I contact?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please contact Award Force technical support at support@awardforce.com.

FAQs

Question	Details
How do I enter the Canada Post Direct Mail Award? What is the entry fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Canada Post Direct Mail Award is free to enter. Please review the requirements carefully to ensure your entry is eligible.
How do I enter the LinkedIn B2B Marketing Award? What is the entry fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The LinkedIn B2B Marketing Award is free to enter.• Please review the requirements carefully to ensure your entry is eligible.
How do I enter the Environics Analytics Data-Driven Marketing Award? What is the entry fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Environics Analytics Data-Driven Marketing Award is free to enter.• Please review the requirements carefully to ensure your entry is eligible.
How do I enter the Meta Business Equity Award? What is the entry fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Meta Business Equity Award is free to enter.• Please review the requirements carefully to ensure your entry is eligible.
How do I enter the TikTok Power of Entertainment Award? What is the entry fee?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The TikTok Power of Entertainment Award is free to enter.• Please review the requirements carefully to ensure your entry is eligible.

Thank you!