

chatelaine

Writers' Guidelines

Chatelaine is Canada's biggest, oldest and best women's magazine, and it's read by more Canadians than The Globe and Mail and National Post combined. Our roster of writers and reporters reflects that: award winners such as Sylvia Fraser, Austin Clarke, Sally Armstrong, Ian Brown, Stevie Cameron and Jay Teitel, to name just a few, have all contributed to the magazine. We rely on professionals, but every once in a while we get a compelling story from an ambitious and promising new writer. No matter who they are, all our contributors meet Chatelaine's exacting standards. Here are our writers' guidelines.

We accept only story ideas that are tailored to suit Chatelaine (we don't publish poetry or fiction). So please don't send us an idea you've also sent to Canadian Living, Vancouver magazine and The Globe and Mail. Your idea must show a familiarity with the magazine: you've read several recent issues from cover to cover and understand Chatelaine's "architecture." Also, please do some research and make every effort to ensure your story has not been done recently by another North American publication of any kind. That's sure grounds for a "no thanks" response from the editors to your proposal.

We're looking for topics that range from investigative reports, politics and crime to engaging profiles and first-person narratives. Of course, we're always looking for informative or controversial health stories as well. Keep in mind that most of our readers are women between the ages of 25 and 54. They may live in the city or the country; they may be married, divorced or single. About half have kids and most have had some post-secondary education. A successful Chatelaine story will be read by all of them.

Send us a query letter outlining your story (try to keep it to one page). We don't accept unsolicited manuscripts because we simply don't have the time to read pieces on spec. Send your idea by email to storyideas@chatelaine.rogers.com – we prefer this to lettermail. (Let us know in the subject line whether your idea is for the magazine or the website.) Please attach one or two clippings of previously published writing, especially if you are a new writer. Once you've sent your query, please don't expect an immediate response. It may take the editors anywhere from two weeks to a month to reply to you, whether or not we're interested. We do, however, make every effort to acknowledge receipt of your story idea.

If we accept your idea and publish the finished piece, Chatelaine buys first North American rights in English and French to your story, plus the right to archive your story and post it on our website at Chatelaine.com. You'll learn more by reading the fine print on the writer's contract that you must sign when you're assigned a story. We pay our contributors well and promptly.

All finished stories must be footnoted or annotated to show the source of all quotations, statistics, studies, etc. In addition, you must submit a comprehensive fact-checking package that includes all documents, interview transcripts (or tapes), contact numbers, etc. Chatelaine rigorously fact-checks all articles, regardless of length, to confirm the accuracy to the best of our ability. Afterwards, your story will be copy-edited and you will be shown the text before it is published.

Thanks for your interest in Chatelaine.

– The Editors