

Some years ago, I had a manuscript for a fiction novel ready to be published. The setting was general, but set in a mountainous area, such as Western Canada. I began looking for a Canadian publisher. However, Canadian publishers wanted only stories set in a specific province of Canada, and they usually did not accept manuscripts unless they came from an agent. There were a few international publishers available, but they did not want to deal directly with an author either. Most of my inquiries were ignored. I tried finding an agent, but received no reply from any of them, except a couple who, based on my synopsis, told me that my story was not in their lines of interest. So, I self-published with Trafford Publishing in Victoria. They set the price of my book out of reach for the readers (\$32 when similar novels could be bought at bookstores for about \$8 - \$12). I sold some books, myself, heavily discounted, and received excellent feedback from all readers. Many of my readers told me that the story would be perfect for a movie. Later, Trafford Publishing was sold to a publisher in the USA, and I have since cancelled my involvement with them. Anyway, my comment is this: There should be some assistance to publish work done by new Canadian authors here in Canada, and there should be some Canadian publishers who can publish international novels and offer them on the international market. The same goes for the Canadian film industry, which only seems to be interested in short advertising clips, at least out here in the west. If there is a Canadian spirit, let's show it to the world!