



AVALANCHE SKILLS TRAINING 1 STUDENT TEXTBOOK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Request for proposal for the development of a student textbook for
Avalanche Skills Training 1**

Background:

Avalanche Canada

Avalanche Canada (AvCan) is the national public avalanche safety organization. A non-profit, non-government organization, AvCan issues daily avalanche forecasts, coordinates and delivers avalanche awareness education and training programs, acts as a point of contact for avalanche information and supports research. Click [here](#) for more information on Avalanche Canada.

The Avalanche Skills Training program

Avalanche Skills Training (AST) courses are world-renowned and have been operating since the mid-90s. While AvCan develops the curriculum and coordinates the program, courses are delivered by a network of independent providers located throughout BC, Alberta, Quebec, Yukon and NWT. There are also providers in Chile, Japan, Norway, Iceland and Australia. In 2016 – 2017, more than 10,500 students participated in courses.

AvCan’s training program consists of the following courses that are offered to skiers, snowmobilers, snowboarders and snowshoers.

- Avalanche Skills Training 1 (AST 1)
- Avalanche Skills Training 2 (AST 2)
- Companion Rescue Skills (CRS)
- Managing Avalanche Terrain (MAT)

Click [here](#) for more information.

Project Overview

For over 20 years, the textbook used for the AST 1 course has been *Backcountry Avalanche Awareness* (BAA). The BAA is published by the Canadian Avalanche Association and authored by well-known avalanche researcher Bruce Jamieson. Although the BAA was not written specifically for the AST program it was the best option available and has served the program well. Given the numerous changes and upgrades to the AST courses over the past few years, AvCan now has the opportunity to develop its own textbook that can be specifically designed for the AST 1 course.

AvCan is seeking proposals for the development of a textbook for the AST 1 course. The intent is to award the contract to develop the textbook to an individual, group of individuals or organization that will be able to lead and complete this project with the support of AvCan.

Project Details:

This book will be required material for the AST 1 course and will also be available to the general public through retail outlets. It will follow and complement the existing AST 1 progression, curriculum and instructor manual.

This new textbook must be written in an engaging, easy-to-read manner and be fairly concise—approximately 100 pages. We are looking for a product that employs many images (photos, diagrams and illustrations) to support the text. Three or four case studies will also be an important component of the finished product.

It will also incorporate:

- Many high-resolution, colour photos illustrating modern equipment and techniques
- Diagrams and illustrations where necessary
- New material such as how to use the Avaluator in regions without a daily avalanche forecast
- Sections on further recreational training courses (i.e. Managing Avalanche Terrain, Companion Rescue Skills, AST 2)

Avalanche Canada will:

- Provide assistance in sourcing images, diagrams and case studies.
- Do the layout and design work.

Qualifications:

- Proven experience in the following, which can be demonstrated through previous work or accomplishments:
 - writing textbooks, guide books, technical manuals or similar publications
 - teaching, instructing, or involvement in pedagogical work
 - meeting deadlines and deliverable requirements
 - working with a team of reviewers
- Can demonstrate familiarity with
 - the entire AST suite of courses and related tools
 - the Canadian public avalanche safety system

Submission of Proposals

Proposal submitted in response to this RFP must be received by 5:00 PM on January 19, 2018. Proposals in PDF format can be submitted via email to Nancy Geismar at ngeismar@avalanche.ca.

Questions regarding this RFP

Questions regarding this RFP can be directed to Nancy Geismar at ngeismar@avalanche.ca or Gilles Valade at gvalade@avalanche.ca

Evaluation of Proposals

All proposals will be assessed by a team assembled by Avalanche Canada.

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| 1. Expressed understanding of objectives and what is required | 25 points |
| a. Articulation of the vision for the concept and purpose of this textbook.
This can be a general overview; the details will be discussed
and finalized with AvCan | |
| 2. Quality and Comprehensiveness of Proposal | 40 points |
| a. Chapter outline | |
| i. Brief outline of chapter contents | |
| b. Sample list of photos/images/diagrams/illustrations needed for each chapter | |
| c. Location and details of case histories to be incorporated (can be AvCan's suggested case histories or propose others) | |
| d. Style preferred of author vs editor with team | |
| i. If utilizing a team of authors, who are they? | |
| 3. Qualifications of all involved | 20 points |
| 4. Cost and value added | 15 points |

Interviews may be held as part of the evaluation process. A proposal may be rejected if it is determined that a proponent's ability to complete the project will be too limited or difficult to manage. The selection and contract award shall be made in the best interest of AvCan and the AST program. Accordingly, AvCan shall select the proposal that demonstrates the clear capability to best fulfill the purposes of this RFP in a cost effective manner.

This RFP shall not obligate AvCan to award a contract or complete the proposed project; AvCan reserves the right to cancel this RFP if it is considered to be in its best interest.

Timeline:

December 19, 2017	Request for proposal issued
January 19, 2018	Deadline to submit a proposal
January 20 to 26, 2018	Evaluation of proposals
January 27, 2017	Successful bidder informed
April 1, 2018	First draft submitted
June 1, 2018	Second draft submitted
July 1, 2018	Final Draft

Budget:

The available budget for this project is \$20,000. This project does not include layout, design and printing; these will be the responsibility of AvCan.

Contract

The successful bidder will be required to enter into a contract with AvCan. Other than usual legalities, the contract will establish the obligations of AvCan and those of the successful bidder.

Intellectual property rights, material ownership and copyright

All intellectual property, completed materials, content, photos and diagrams (other than those used under permission) and final textbook will become the property of Avalanche Canada. The author or authors will be recognized as such on the final copy of the textbook.