

## NEWS RELEASE

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### City of Nanaimo Celebrates Local Poetry in April 2015

*April marks National Poetry Month*

#### Summary

April marks the 17th anniversary of National Poetry Month in Canada, and Nanaimo is set to celebrate. Established in April 1998 by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month brings together schools, publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, and poets from across the country to celebrate poetry, writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and writers to the cultural life of Canadians.

*Strategic Link:* National Poetry Month furthers the goals of the City's Strategic Plan of by promoting local poetry as part of Nanaimo's cultural vitality.

#### Key Points

- The City of Nanaimo has proclaimed April 2015 as National Poetry Month. Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan, will make a series of appearances in April to promote poetry. View her list of appearances on the City's website.
- The City of Nanaimo has accepted Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi's challenge to participate in the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge. Poet Laureate Naomi Beth Wakan, accompanied by David Fraser and Ursula Vaira, will take on the challenge by reading poems at the April 20, 2015 Council meeting.
- For the last year, Naomi has partnered with the Nanaimo Daily News to create a monthly poetry column "Calling All Poets" to promote local poetry and encourage residents to submit their poems. Read past poems of the month (and get full submission details) on the City's website.
- Residents can sign up to receive the City of Nanaimo's Culture & Heritage eNewsletter to receive updates on future poetry-related projects by subscribing to <http://cnan.ca/1GYq2sN>.

#### Quotes

"The City of Nanaimo recognizes the importance of language as the primary means of conveying knowledge. This month I encourage all our residents to participate in the events being held to celebrate poetry and to support the idea of promoting literature in our community."

Bill McKay  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

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