NEWS RELEASE

Distributed April 11, 2016

City to Participate in Mayor's Poetry Challenge on April 18

Poems to be read at Council Meeting

Summary

The City of Nanaimo has been challenged by the Mayor of Calgary to once again participate in the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge. Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, joined by the winners of the High School Poetry Competition, will take on the challenge by reading poems to Mayor & Council at the April 18 meeting.

Inspired by the Poet Laureate to encourage younger poetry voices, the winners of the first High School Poetry Competition are as follows:

- 1ST PLACE: EDEN ROWE "Harbour City"
- 2ND PLACE: ELI BUECKERT "Nanaimo"
- 3RD PLACE: SOPHIA HALFYARD "Breath on Mount Benson"

Honourable Mentions:

- SENA CLEAVE "Nanaimo in the Shores"
- OWEN LAURIE "Piper's Lagoon"
- PRENTICE OLAFSON "Our Harbour"

April marks the 17th anniversary of National Poetry Month in Canada, and Nanaimo is set to celebrate. Established 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 Nanaimo's cultural vitality.

Key Points

- Watch the April 18 Council Meeting to hear Nanaimo's Poet Laureate and the winners of the High School Poetry Competition read poems to Mayor & Council.
- Learn more about what's happening during Poetry Month on the City's website.

Quotes

"This month I encourage all of 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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