

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Nanaimo will now have a Youth Poet Laureate**

*Nanaimo expands its Poet Laureate program with a Youth Poet Laureate.*

#### **Summary**

On Monday June 13th, 2016, City Council approved the establishment of Nanaimo's inaugural Youth Poet Laureate.

The purpose of a Youth Poet Laureate will be to serve as a "young people's poet" and to raise awareness of poetry and the literary arts, and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life.

The Youth Poet Laureate will pave the way for youth to engage on a civic level with the community through their artistic voice. Mentored by the Poet Laureate, the Youth Poet Laureate will present original work to the City and the community through a variety of civic events. The selected poet will also have the opportunity to organize community-based youth poetry projects or events.

A call for the Youth Poet Laureate will be made in July, 2016 with the selection for Nanaimo's Youth Poet Laureate being made at the end of October, 2016.

*Strategic Link:* Establishing a Youth Poet Laureate program will ensure that Nanaimo has a strong and vibrant culture which evolves with a coordinated and collaborative effort leading to greater popularity as a place to visit, live, work and play furthering the goals of the Cultural Vitality pillar of the Strategic Plan.

#### **Key Points**

- On Monday June 13th, 2016, City Council approved the establishment of Nanaimo's inaugural Youth Poet Laureate.
- The Youth Poet Laureate will have the ability to engage hundreds of youth and encourage participation on a civic level through their artistic voice.
- A call for the Youth Poet Laureate will be made in July, 2016.

#### **Quotes**

"The Youth Poet Laureate will have the opportunity to encourage peer to peer education and inspiration through projects and events. This is an exciting opportunity for the many artistic youth in our community."

Chris Barfoot  
Culture and Heritage Coordinator  
City of Nanaimo

#### **Quick Facts**

- In 2013, Council approved the Poet Laureate program for the City of Nanaimo and in 2014, Naomi Beth Wakan, was selected as the inaugural Poet Laureate for a three-year term.

Continued... Nanaimo will now have a Youth Poet Laureate

**Contact:**

Chris Barfoot  
Culture and Heritage Coordinator  
City of Nanaimo  
chris.barfoot@nanaimo.ca  
250-755-7522

Culture and Heritage Department  
Department  
City of Nanaimo  
cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca  
250-755-4483



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