

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed September 5, 2019

### Calling all poets! Apply to be Nanaimo's next Poet Laureate

*Deadline for applications is Thursday, October 31, 2019*

#### Summary

The City of Nanaimo is calling all poets to apply to be Nanaimo's next Poet Laureate (for a three-year term, January 2020 to January 2023). The purpose of a Poet Laureate is to serve as the "people's poet" and to raise awareness of poetry, the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life.

The terms of reference and application form are available online ([www.nanaimo.ca/culture-environment/poetry/poet-laureate](http://www.nanaimo.ca/culture-environment/poetry/poet-laureate)), attached to this news release, in person at the Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street), or by contacting the City at 250-755-4483 or [cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca](mailto:cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca). The deadline for application submission is 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2019.

*Strategic Link:* The Poet Laureate programs 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 "Livability" in the City's Strategic Plan.

#### Key Points

- The City of Nanaimo is calling all poets to apply to be Nanaimo's next Poet Laureate (for a three-year term, January 2020 to January 2023).
- The purpose of a Poet Laureate is to serve as the "people's poet" and to raise awareness of poetry, the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life.
- The deadline for application submission is Thursday, October 31, 2019 (4:00 pm).

#### Quotes

"There are so many talented poets in Nanaimo, and finding poets who are dedicated to encouraging and inspiring those in our community is very important for the success of this position. We are very excited to see who will be Nanaimo's next Poet Laureate."

Chris Barfoot  
Culture & Heritage Coordinator  
City of Nanaimo

"The role of a Poet Laureate is to reflect the life of our city through poetry. As an ambassador for the literary arts, the Laureate incorporates poetry into a range of official and informal city activities each celebrating, reflecting and provoking thought on our beautiful city."

Leonard Krog  
Mayor  
City of Nanaimo

Continued... Calling all poets! Apply to be Nanaimo's next Poet Laureate

## Quick Facts

- Past recipients include inaugural Poet Laureate Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan (2013-2016), and present Poet Laureate Ms. Tina Biello (2017-2020).

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<https://cnan.ca/2ZPwtw2>