



APPLY TO BECOME NANAIMO'S NEXT POET LAUREATE! (2020-2023)

Poet Laureate positions exist across Canada. In 2014, Council established the City of Nanaimo's Poet Laureate position to serve as the "people's poet" to raise the profile of the local literary arts by creating and presenting works relevant to the life and culture of our city.

Past City of Nanaimo Poet Laureates include Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan (2014-2017), and Ms. Tina Biello (2017-2020).

Term and Remuneration

The City of Nanaimo's Poet Laureate will be provided a \$1,300 honorarium and \$200 of project funding each year. The term is for three (3) years (2020-2023) and will begin February 2020.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible as Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, candidates must be able to demonstrate excellence of work and reside within the Regional District of Nanaimo. Candidates can be nominated by someone else or be self-nominated. Please include the following documentation as part of the submission:

- A literary curriculum vitae;
- examples of published works;
- a letter of intent, including an outline of the vision for the Poet Laureate position and at least (3) sample ideas of projects they would undertake as Poet Laureate; and
- three (3) references.

Poet Laureate Duties

Nanaimo's Poet Laureate will:

- participate in the cultural life of the city and serve as a literary ambassador for Nanaimo;
- participate in at least five (5) important civic cultural events (example: Canada Day, Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony, Mayor's Poetry City Challenge, Immigrant Welcome Reception, etc.) by presenting works that are relevant to life in Nanaimo (works of the own or others);
- plan activities or events to celebrate National Poetry Month (April);
- produce at least one (1) original work each year of the term that is relevant to life in Nanaimo;
- collaborate with City Staff and other community partners to find creative avenues to disseminate the work; and
- work with Nanaimo's Youth Poet Laureate.

Selection Process

A selection panel will review all applications and provide a recommendation to Council for final approval. The selection panel will consist of the following members:

- one (1) members of City staff;
- two (2) peer representatives from the literary community (poets, writers); and,
- one (1) representative from the Vancouver Island University Creative Writing Faculty.

Selection Criteria

Finalists for the Poet Laureate position will be invited for an interview with the selection panel. Selection criteria is as follows:

- Demonstrated ability to engage and inspire the community.
- Clear and innovative ideas regarding the vision for the position of Poet Laureate.
- Ease and skill at presenting and performing work to the public.

Intellectual Property

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the Poet Laureate's tenure will remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

Deadline for Applications

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Applications must be received **by 4:00 pm on Friday, January 17, 2020**. Deliver completed applications c/o Culture & Heritage to:

In Person: 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo, BC
By Mail: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
By Email: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca

Questions?

Contact us directly at 250-755-4483 or cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.