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## Media Release

for immediate release

### **Nisha Patel named Edmonton's eighth Poet Laureate**

*Edmonton* – On July 1, 2019, Nisha Patel will become Edmonton's eighth Poet Laureate.

Nisha Patel is an award-winning Indo-Canadian poet and artist. She is a graduate of the Alberta School of Business and has been practicing her art professionally for five years.

In 2018 she was a recipient of the Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund Award, and her poetry chapbook *Limited Success* was published in May 2018—it entered its second printing in May 2019. In May 2019 she also received the titles of Edmonton Slam Champion and Canadian Individual Slam Champion. In June 2019, she took on the role of Executive Director of the Edmonton Poetry Festival, which is now in its fifteenth year after being founded by Edmonton's first Poet Laureate, Alice Major.

"I am excited to embody the truth that poetry changes lives, and to do so in this city is a privilege and responsibility," Patel says. "I hope that through teaching, writing, and performing, we can explore new avenues for love and justice together. It is so exciting to be elevated and have a platform for change and growth."

"The City of Edmonton is thrilled to welcome Nisha Patel as our eighth Poet Laureate," said Mayor Don Iveson. "Nisha has proven herself to be as driven as she is eloquent, and we're excited to see the impact she will have on our community over the next two years in this role."

Supported by The City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Public Library, the role of Edmonton's Poet Laureate is to reflect the life of the city through readings and poetry. As an ambassador for the literary arts, the Laureate brings poetry into a range of official and informal city events.

"As Poet Laureate, Ahmed "Knowmadic" Ali has been a true leader in Edmonton's vibrant poetry and spoken word community. I am especially grateful for his leadership in bridging diverse cultures, and the many ways in which he has inspired Edmontonians through the power of poetry," said Edmonton Arts Council Executive Director, Sanjay



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Shahani. “Nisha’s passion and enthusiasm for community building and mentorship, along with the quality of her work, proves she will be an outstanding ambassador for our city’s literary arts. I’m excited to see how her poetry will empower emerging voices. I look forward to experiencing Edmonton’s stories through her unique lens.”

Nisha Patel will serve a two-year term as Edmonton’s Poet Laureate beginning July 1, 2019.

Keep informed about Nisha’s work and events by following @AnotherNisha on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, and visiting her website [nishapatel.ca](http://nishapatel.ca).

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The Edmonton Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes the arts community in Edmonton. The EAC works to increase the profile and involvement of arts and culture in all aspects of our community life.

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