

**Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2017**

Edmonton seeks seventh Poet Laureate

Edmonton – Edmonton Public Library, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council have put out the call for Edmonton's seventh Poet Laureate. Edmonton's Poet Laureate reflects the life of the city through readings of poetry, and, as an ambassador for the literary arts, the Laureate incorporates poetry into a range of official and informal city activities.

"Edmonton's Poet Laureate is a central reflection of the spirit and history of our city through art," said Mayor Don Iveson. "With their own unique voice they honour poetry's important place in our culture and our lives."

Edmonton's current Poet Laureate, and first Franco-canadienne in the role, is Pierrette Requier. A bilingual poet, performer, producer, mentor and emerging playwright, Requier revels in uniting cultures through the power of language. In her time as Poet Laureate, Requier was eager to participate in bilingual and multi-lingual events, including the Rubaboo Festival, Edmonton Poetry Festival, and the presentation of her first play/tone poem *Les Blues des oubliées*. Her role granted her over 100 invitations to varied events across Edmonton, Alberta and Canada during her term, which brought a new lens to her work and her city. Reflecting on her time as Poet Laureate, Requier shares that the experience has been incredibly humbling and has allowed her to discover aspects of herself that were previously unknown to her.

"Pierrette passionately embraced a diversity of communities and events as Poet Laureate, and the breadth of her work has been inspiring" said Edmonton Arts Council Executive Director Sanjay Shahani. "All of our Poets Laureate have had different backgrounds and poetic styles, but all have had the innate desire to connect with Edmontonians. We are excited to see how the next Poet Laureate will expand the reach of poetry and the literary arts in our city."

The next Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2017. Requier will be performing in Council Chambers at 9:30am on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 for the annual Poetry Challenge.

The deadline for nominations is 4:30 pm, Friday, May 26, 2017. Nomination forms are available for download from the Edmonton Arts Council at www.edmontonarts.ca/eac_projects/poet_laureate/ or by emailing poetlaureate@edmontonarts.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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