

Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pierrette Requier named Edmonton's sixth Poet Laureate

Bonjour! Franco-Albertan poet to bring a bilingual voice to role

Edmonton – On July 1, 2015, Pierrette Requier will become Edmonton's newest Poet Laureate. Requier is a bilingual, Franco-Albertan poet whose work bridges English and French; over the past two decades Requier has been an enthusiastic force within Edmonton's literary community.

Pierrette Requier is honoured to be Edmonton's sixth Poet Laureate. About her chosen art form, Requier says "writing poetry is at once terror and playfulness; it is jumping into a void, and at the same time, immersing oneself into the now of play. Poets hang out with words long enough to watch the magic of an image arise out of nothing."

Requier was raised in the Peace River region of northern Alberta and has made Edmonton her home. She has served as Grant MacEwan University's twentieth writer-in-residence and as a poet mentor for the Writers' Guild of Alberta Mentorship Program. Requier's poetry has been printed in over ten publications, and she has recently completed a play/tone poem "Les Blues des oubliées" to be produced by Brian Dooley and premiered at l'Unithéâtre in October 2015.

"Poetry is an important canvas for us to capture Edmonton's history and stories," said Mayor Don Iveson. "As our newest Poet Laureate and a Franco-Albertan, Pierrette's unique voice will add new perspectives to our city's narrative and enhance our artistic and cultural diversity."

Requier encourages the local literary community with monthly *Wind Eye Writing Seminars* that she has designed and hosted for the last fifteen years. These seminars incorporate various forms of writing and spoken word, and create a space for writers of all levels, to gather. She also brings together Francophone poets in her *French Twist* events, now in their fourth year, during the Edmonton Poetry Festival.

"It is so exciting to have Pierrette Requier as Edmonton's newest Poet Laureate," said Pilar Martinez, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Edmonton Public Library. "Her involvement in the community along with her quality of work and wealth of experience proves she will be a fantastic ambassador. We look forward to working with her in her new role." Requier will serve a two-year term as Edmonton's Poet Laureate. Mary Pinkoski's term as Poet Laureate ends on June 30, 2015.

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.

"The Edmonton Arts Council is delighted to once again collaborate with the City of Edmonton and Edmonton Public Library in honouring a local poet's contribution to our literary community," said Paul Moulton, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council. "We are privileged to have Pierrette's voice in Edmonton and eager for Edmontonians to experience the work of our newest Poet Laureate."

Edmonton's Poet Laureate program is supported by The City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Public Library.

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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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