

**Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Edmonton seeks sixth Poet Laureate

Edmonton – Edmonton Public Library, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council have put out the call for Edmonton's sixth 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 broke new ground in 2005 with the appointment of our city's first poet laureate," said Mayor Don Iveson. "Since then, with their own unique voice, each poet laureate has vividly captured our city's spirit, history and events. These poets not only represent the wealth of artistic talent that exists in Edmonton, they serve as an important reminder of the valuable contributions our arts and cultural community make to the life of our city."

Edmonton's current Poet Laureate is Mary Pinkoski. Mary is a dynamic spoken word performer who has been active as a poet for nearly a decade and represented Edmonton's poetry scene throughout North America. As the City of Edmonton Poet Laureate, Mary travelled to Ottawa and Reykjavik, Iceland to represent Edmonton's literary community. Engaging with Edmonton citizens, Mary coordinates performances at the CBC Centre Stage in the City Centre Mall and is involved with many organizations and festivals in Edmonton. She works to involve young aspiring writers with YouthWrite workshops at Victoria School of the Arts, founding YOURS: Edmonton Youth Open Mic Series for youth ages 12 to 19, and initiated the creation of the Youth Poet Laureate position with the Edmonton Youth Council. Throughout her term as Edmonton's Poet Laureate, Mary has performed at over 80 events.

The next Poet Laureate will serve a two-year term beginning July 1, 2015.

The deadline for nominations is 4:30 pm, Friday, May 29, 2015. 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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