April 24, 2012
Edmonton, AB

The Edmonton Arts Council, on behalf of Edmonton City Council, has produced a new collection, *Writing the City: Poets Laureate of Edmonton, 2005-2013.* Edited by Douglas Barbour (poet, reviewer, and Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Alberta) this anthology features works written by Alice Major, E.D. Blodgett, Roland Pemberton (Cadence Weapon), and Anna Marie Sewell during their tenure.

“This little anthology of their own work as Poets Laureate and of some of the work by others they admire and see as further expressing something about our city will, we hope, offer readers a sense of their commitment to the oddly public imaginative effort becoming Poet Laureate demands.” ~ Douglas Barbour

Edmonton broke new ground in 2005 with City Council’s cultural initiative to appoint the city’s first Poet Laureate. Seven years and four Poets Laureate later, a rich legacy is unfolding as each ‘civic poet’ expresses a unique voice and way in which to represent the city back to its citizens.

The anthology will debut with readings by current poet laureate Anna Marie Sewell, editor Doug Barbour and other poets from *Writing the City* during Edmonton Poetry Festival’s Poetry and Music for a Spring Afternoon, Saturday April 28, 3-5pm at the Artery (9535 Jasper Ave).

*Available for purchase at TIX on the Square store, and Audrey's Books Ltd.*
**About the City of Edmonton Poet Laureate**

Edmonton’s Poet Laureate program is supported jointly by The City of Edmonton, the Edmonton Public Library and the Edmonton Arts Council. The role of Edmonton’s Poet Laureate is to reflect the life of a city through readings of poetry. As an ambassador for the literary arts, the Laureate incorporates poetry into a range of official and informal city activities.

**About the Edmonton Arts Council**

The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) is a not-for-profit society and charitable 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.

**For additional information, contact:**

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**Related Links:**

[www.epil.ca/poetlaureate](http://www.epil.ca/poetlaureate)  
[www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com](http://www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com)  
[www.edmontonartscouncil.ca](http://www.edmontonartscouncil.ca)