

February 5th, 2013

Dear Mayor,

RE: Mayor's Poetry City Challenge: A Celebration of Poetry, Writing and Publishing

Like Regina, your community is known for its support of culture and the arts. In 2012, the Mayor's office issued the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge to many communities across Canada. The challenge is for participating communities to have a poet from your community read a poem at the start of your Council meeting in March or April. Thirty communities from Victoria to Cornerbrook took part in the first Challenge.

As Regina's new Mayor, I invite you to participate in the 2013 Mayor's Poetry City Challenge. Like last year, you are asked to have a local poet read a poem at the start of your March or April Council meeting. The purpose is to recognize UNESCO's World Poetry Day on March 21 and National Poetry Month, which is celebrated in April in both Canada and the United States. This initiative is a celebration of poetry, writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and all writers to the cultural life in our communities. It also celebrates libraries and the work of so many of you to promote literacy and reading.

This project is a partnership between the City of Regina, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG), and the League of Canadian Poets (LCP).

Participating Poetry City communities will be promoted in the media, in writing networks in Canada and the United States, and in communications with UNESCO. More information is provided in the attached information package.

Please confirm your intent to participate with my office by completing the attached contact information page to assist Saskatchewan Writers' Guild and the League of Canadian Poets in the management of the project.

A list of communities invited to participate in the challenge is provided in the package. Other cities are certainly welcome to join, but yours is one of those identified as a strong supporter of culture and the arts through our research.

Sincerely,



Michael Fougere
Mayor

POETRY CITY – INVITED MAYORS AND COMMUNITIES

British Columbia

Mayor Bruce Banman, Abbotsford
Mayor Richard Stewart, Coquitlam
Mayor Mike Bernier, Dawson Creek
Mayor Walter Gray, Kelowna
Mayor John Ruttan, Nanaimo
Mayor John Dooley, Nelson
Mayor Wayne Wright, New Westminster
Mayor Dave Formosa, Powell River
Mayor Dianne Watts, Surrey
Mayor Gregor Robertson, Vancouver
Mayor Dean Fortin, Victoria
Mayor Nancy Wilhelm-Morden, Whistler

Alberta

Mayor Martin Shields, Brooks
Mayor Naheed Nenshi, Calgary
Mayor Stephen Mandel, Edmonton
Mayor Bill Given, Grand Prairie
Mayor Richard Ireland, Jasper
Mayor Rajko Dodic, Lethbridge
Mayor Jeff Mulligan, Lloydminster
Mayor Norm Boucher, Medicine Hat
Mayor Morris Flewwelling, Red Deer

Saskatchewan

Mayor Roy Ludwig, Estevan
Mayor Thomas Sierzycki, Town of La Ronge
Mayor Réal Forest, Town of Gravelbourg
Mayor Deb Higgins, Moose Jaw
Mayor Ian Hamilton, North Battleford
Mayor Jim Scarrow, Prince Albert
Mayor Donald J. Atchison, Saskatoon
Mayor Jerrod Schafer, Swift Current
Mayor Debra Button, Weyburn
Mayor Bob Maloney, Yorkton
Mayor Bruce Fidler, Town of Creighton

Manitoba

Mayor Shari Decter Hirst, Brandon
Mayor Ken Wiebe, Morden
Mayor Sam Katz, Winnipeg
Mayor Eric Irwin, City of Dauphin
Mayor George Fontaine, City of Flin Flon
Mayor Earl Porter, City of Portage la Prairie

Ontario

Mayor Jeff Lehman, Barrie
Mayor Chris Friel, Brantford
Mayor Gil Brocanier, Cobourg
Mayor Karen Farbridge, Guelph
Mayor Bob Bratina, Hamilton

Mayor Mark Gerretsen, Kingston
Mayor Karl Zehr, Kitchner
Mayor Brenda Halloran, Waterloo
Mayor Joe Fontana, London
Gary Burroughs, Chair of Niagara Region
Mayor John Henry, Oshawa
Mayor Jim Watson, Ottawa
Mayor Debora Haswell, Owen Sound
Mayor Daryl Bennett, Peterborough
Mayor Marianne Matichuk, Greater Sudbury
Mayor Rob Ford, Toronto
Mayor Keith Hobbs, Thunderbay
Mayor Eddie Francis, Windsor

Québec

Michael Applebaum, maire, Montréal
M. Régis Labeaume, maire, Québec
M. Jean Tremblay, maire, Ville de Saguenay
M. Bernard Sevigny, maire, Sherbrooke
Yves Lévesque, maire, Trois-Rivière

New Brunswick

Mayor Kevin J. Haché, Caraquet
Mayor Brad Woodside, Fredericton
Mayor George LeBlanc, Moncton
Mayor Bob Berry, Sackville
Mayor Mel K. Norton, Saint John

Nova Scotia

Mayor Mike Savage, Halifax Regional Municipality
Mayor Rob Small, Town of Amherst
Mayor W.R. Wills, Town of Truro
Mayor Kevin Saccary, Cape Breton Regional Municipality
Mayor Barrie MacMillan, Town of New Glasgow

Prince Edward Island

Mayor Clifford J. Lee, Charlottetown
Mayor Basil Stewart, City of Summerside

Newfoundland and Labrador

Mayor Dennis O'Keefe, St. John's
Mayor Neville Greeley, Corner Brook
Mayor Philip Wood, Town of Bay Roberts
Mayor Woodrow French, Town of Conception Bay South
Mayor Claude Elliot, Town of Gander
Mayor Walwin Blackmore, Town of Grand Falls-Windsor
Mayor Ralph Wiseman, Town of Paradise
Mayor Leo Abbass, Town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Mayor Janice Barnes, Town of Labrador City

Nunavut

Mayor John Graham, City of Iqaluit

Yukon

Mayor Dan Curtis, Whitehorse

MAYOR'S POETRY CITY CHALLENGE
Confirmation of Participation and Contact Information

Name of Mayor: _____

City/Community: _____

Mayor's Contact Information:

_____ My community will be participating in the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge

_____ Decline

Administration Contact Information:

When do you expect the Poetry City reading to be held:

_____ March

_____ April

_____ To be determined

Return Confirmation to:

Mayor's Poetry City Challenge
Office of the Mayor
City of Regina
PO Box 1790
REGINA SK S4P 3C8
or email to: pmartin@regina.ca
or fax to: 306-777-6823

MAYOR'S POETRY CITY CHALLENGE PROJECT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Contact information for The League of Canadian Poets and the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is attached. Both organizations can assist you with any further details on the Poetry City project. Contact information is also provided for other provincial writers organizations. They have been advised of the project. In addition, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild has created a Facebook page for the project, entitled "Mayor's Poetry City Challenge," which everyone is welcome to join.

Poetry City Project Management:

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

Founded in 1969, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is a provincial cultural organization that represents writers in all disciplines and at all levels of achievement. It fosters excellence in Saskatchewan writing and promotes public awareness of our literature. It acts as an advocate for Saskatchewan writers, encourages the development of writers of all ages and levels, and strives to improve public access to Saskatchewan writers and their work. Membership is open to writers and those interested in Saskatchewan writing.

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild works to create an environment where writers and all forms of writing flourish. We do this by supporting writers and by raising public awareness of the value of the work of Saskatchewan writers. The SWG objectives are:

- to work on behalf of writers and to improve their economic status
- to foster a sense of community
- to foster excellence in writing
- to make writers and their work accessible to the public
- to make writing and literature accessible at all levels of education

Contact info:

Tracy Hamon
Program Manager, SWG
PO Box 3986
Regina, SK S4P 3R9
Phone: 306.791.7743
programs@skwriter.com

League of Canadian Poets

The League of Canadian Poets is the professional organization for established and emerging Canadian poets. Founded by six poets in 1966 to nurture the community of poets and the craft of poetry, it now represents some 700 members nationally. The League serves the poetry community and promotes a high level of professional achievement through events, networking, projects, publications, mentoring, and awards; administers programs and funds for governments and private donors; and encourages an appreciative readership and audience through educational

partnerships and presentations to diverse groups. As the recognized voice of Canadian poets, it represents their concerns to governments, publishers, and the larger society, and maintains connections with similar organizations at home and abroad. The League strives to promote equal opportunities for poets from every literary tradition and cultural and demographic background.

National Poetry Month in April is one of the highest profiled programs of the The League of Canadian Poets. During the month, the League distributes posters and resource kits across Canada. It supports readings in schools, libraries, cafes, and many other venues. Its website is accessed by teachers and others. Your "Poetry City" will be recognized during National Poetry Month Activities and on the League's Website. Poetry Cities will be acknowledged in a media release, and at the April launch of National Poetry Month in Toronto, at 10:00 a.m. on April 2 at Q Space (382 College Street).

Contact info:

Joanna Poblocka
The League of Canadian Poets
312 – 192 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2
Phone: 416.504.1657
Joanna@poets.ca

GUIDELINES FOR POETRY CITY COMMUNITIES

1. Be sure to provide the contact information for the person in your Administration who will be the lead for this project.
2. Choose a poet from your community to read a poem at your Council meeting in March or April 2013.
3. The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild or the League of Canadian Poets can suggest poets from their membership. A list of provincial writing organizations is also attached. These organizations have been advised of the project and can also help you to select your poet.
4. Please provide us with the contact information for your poet as soon as one is selected.
5. The objective is to have a poem entered into the formal minutes of your proceedings as a permanent record of the event. We suggest a minimum reading time of five minutes.
6. In order to support the Status of the Artist, all communities participating in the 2013 Mayor's Poetry City Challenge are encouraged to compensate the writer for their reading. This is similar to other payments to artists. For example, City of Regina will pay a fee of \$125 to the poet reading at their Council meeting, which will cover preparation and travel, in addition to the reading itself.
7. Under provincial Status of the Artist Legislation, Saskatchewan communities should have an agreement with the artist. An example is attached.
8. Poets will be invited to post their poems on-line on the League of Canadian Poets website and on "Mayor's Poetry City Challenge" Facebook page created by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.
9. Participating communities will be identified in media releases and other promotions.
10. Please feel free to promote this event through your schools and other forums. The poems and teaching resources can be found on-line on the League of Canadian Poets National Poetry Month webpage in April at <http://poets.ca>. Information and activities for Young Poets Week from April 8-14, 2013 can be found on the same page.

PROVINCIAL WRITERS' ORGANIZATIONS

The following provincial writers organizations can assist you in identifying a local poet to participate in the Mayors' Poetry City Challenge, or you may already have a Poet Laureate or a poet who is a Writer-in-Residence in your community.

The Federation of British Columbia Writers

PO Box 3887 Stn Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 2Z3
Phone: 1.604.683.2057
Email: info@bcwriters.ca

Writers' Guild of Alberta

11759 Groat Road
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6
Phone: (780) 422.8174
Toll Free: 1.800.665.5354
Email: mail@writersguild.ab.ca

Manitoba Writers' Guild

218-100 Arthur Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1H3
Phone: 204.944.8013
Email: info@mbwriter.mb.ca

Saskatchewan Writers' Guild

PO Box 3986
Regina, SK S4P 3R9
Phone: 306.791.7743
Email: programs@skwriter.com

The League of Canadian Poets

312 – 192 Spadina Avenue
Toronto, ON M5T 2C2
Phone: 416.504.1657
Joanna@poets.ca

Quebec Writers' Association

1200 Atwater Ave
Westmount, QC H3Z 1X4
Phone: 514.933.0878
Email: admin@QWF.org

Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia

1113 Marginal Road,
Halifax, NS B3H 4P7
Phone: 902.423.8116
Email: director@writers.ns.ca

Writers' Federation of New Brunswick

PO Box 306
Moncton, NB E1C 8L4
Phone: 506.459.7228
Email: info@wfnb.ca

Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador

202-223 Duckworth Street
St. John's, NL A1C 6N1
Phone: 709.739.5215
Email: wanlassist@nf.aibn.com

PEI Writers' Guild

c/o Volunteer Resource Centre (VRC)
81 Prince Street
Charlottetown, PE C1A 4R3
Email: peiwritersguild@gmail.com

SASKATCHEWAN ARTISTS AGREEMENT

Draft

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

{Contractor}

AND

{Poet's Name }

Address, etc. here

City and Province, postal code here

(Hereinafter called the "Poet")

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING is hereby made and entered into by and between the Contractor and _____ {Name of person/client} regarding the reading of one poem during a Council Meeting on _____ {date}. The poem will be entered into the minutes of the Council Meeting.

1. **Payment.** In consideration of the Poet's performance of these services, the Contractor agrees to pay \$125 {e.g. on receipt of an invoice—up to each contractor how to go about payment}.

This Memorandum of Understanding is made on the ___ day of _____ {month}, {year} at _____ {city/town}, Saskatchewan {Province}.

Agreed to and accepted by:

The Client

Date

Contractor staff person & position

Date