



THE CITY OF  
**CALGARY**

February 20, 2015

Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton  
71 Main Street West  
Hamilton, ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

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

For the past three years the City of Regina's Mayor has issued a challenge to the Mayors across Canada to participate in an annual Mayor's Poetry City Challenge. This year the torch has been passed from Mayor Michael Fougere to me, and I am honoured to challenge you to some friendly literary competition.

The purpose of the Challenge is to recognize both UNESCO's World Poetry Day on March 21 as well as National Poetry Month, which is celebrated in Canada and the United States for the month of April. Last year, 45 communities from Whitehorse and Dawson City to Victoria and St. John's took part. Fifty established, emerging and student poets were recognized.

In this spirit, I would like to issue this Challenge – to have a local poet read a poem at the start of one of your Council meetings in March or April. In addition to ensuring that Calgary's Poet Laureate is provided with an opportunity to open a Council meeting with a reading, I also undertake to declare March 21 as World Poetry Day and April as National Poetry Month in Calgary. I hope you will join me in making a similar declaration.

A confirmation form and guide, FAQ, and list of communities that participated in 2014 are attached. Please confirm your intention to participate by completing the confirmation form and returning it to the League of Canadian Poets at the address provided. The League is the lead organization for day-to-day management of this initiative and any questions you may have. I am sure you will find that the municipal requirements are easily managed. Participating communities will be promoted through traditional and

social media, as part of National Poetry Month campaign and will be recognized in special promotion for the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge.

All Canadian cities are encouraged to meet the Challenge, but yours is one of those identified as a strong supporter of culture in your region. If you have participated before, thank you for your support and leadership. If this is a new undertaking, I am excited to see you join this initiative which touches artists and citizens alike.

Calgary is proud of its support for the literary arts, and of the many poets and writers in our community. Calgary is pleased to be this year's host city, with our partners, the League of Canadian Poets (LCP), the Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA), and Loft 112 literary hub. With this challenge, we are pleased to be supporting local artists, while raising awareness and profile on a national level.

I hope you will take up the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge for 2015.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Naheed Nenshi', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi  
City of Calgary

Attachments