



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2025-2026 City of Victoria Poet Laureate

The City of Victoria is seeking nominations for the position of Victoria's Poet Laureate. The "People's Poet" is an honorary position that was established in 2006 to celebrate literature and poetry in Victoria.

Through a nomination process, a mid-career writer will be selected to represent the cultural richness of our community. Victoria's Poet Laureate reflects the life of the city as an ambassador for the literary arts by incorporating poetry into a range of official and informal city activities.

During the two-year term, the Poet Laureate will act as a champion for poetry, language and the arts and create a unique, artistic legacy through public readings and civic interactions.

The Poet Laureate Program is funded by the City of Victoria. We would like to thank the Greater Victoria Public Library for their \$1,000 sponsorship towards this program.

Eligibility Criteria

Nominees for the City of Victoria Poet Laureate position must fulfill the following requirements:

- reside within the boundaries of the Capital Regional District
- have an established body of work that demonstrates poetic richness and flexibility (more than one style)
- have produced a minimum of two published works (not self-published) as well as other publications that display literary excellence

Nominees cannot be current City of Victoria employees or elected officials.

We encourage a diversity of applicants, including and not limited to considerations of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status, class, and religion.

Duties and Responsibilities

The successful nominee will:

- participate in the literary life of the City
- assume the role of literary and cultural ambassador for the City of Victoria for a two-year term

The City of Victoria is located on the homelands of the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum Nation.

- each year they must produce at least three new original works that reflect or represent ideas and issues of importance to the people of Victoria
- present works of significance at City events, City Council meetings and official functions
- read from their work at the annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize gala and other community events
- organize and lead one project or activity per year during Poetry Month (April) that engages the community in poetry and the literary arts

Term and Remuneration

The Poet Laureate is an honorary two-year term position that begins on January 1, 2025 and runs until December 31, 2026. The Poet Laureate is provided with an honorarium of \$5,500 per year. In addition, the Poet Laureate will have up to \$2,000 each year to cover programming costs for their annual project or event.

Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

All eligible nominees will be evaluated by a peer-based selection committee based on the following selection criteria:

- artistic merit and talent
- contributions to the local literary community
- clear and innovative project ideas that can be accomplished during the term
- their ability to elevate poetry through this role
- demonstrated ability to engage and collaborate with poets, writers and audiences

Short-listed nominees agree to participate in a review process that may include a live reading and an interview with the selection committee.

Nomination Requirements

Nominees must submit a complete application package including an application form, which can be found [here](#). They must also email the attachments listed below to acollins@victoria.ca by **11:59 p.m. on October 24, 2024**.

- Expression of interest - a letter from the poet outlining the reasons for the nomination
- A two-page proposal detailing:
 - how the nominee would represent the City of Victoria and interact in civic life
 - potential civic projects or activities, including project goals and information about project viability
 - an action plan including a list of resources needed as well as potential challenges and effective strategies for overcoming them
- Curriculum vitae
- A minimum of two recently published works (cannot be self-published) as well as other publications that display literary excellence

- Spoken word submissions must provide audio and video documentation as well as transcripts of the original poems
- Letter(s) of support from literary peers (optional)

Intellectual Property

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the Poet Laureate's tenure will remain the property of the Poet Laureate.

Nomination Deadline

Applicants must submit a complete application form along with all required materials by **October 24, 2024 at 11:59 p.m.**

Contact

For support or questions please contact:

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Business and Community Relations
City of Victoria
E: acollins@victoria.ca