



## **MAYOR'S POETRY CITY CHALLENGE 2016 – FAQ**

*The League of Canadian Poets (LCP) and the Writers' Guild of Alberta (WGA)  
in partnership with The City of Calgary*

### **What is the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge?**

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi has challenged other Mayors in communities across Canada to have a local poet read a poem at the opening of a Council meeting in March or April. The challenge is a celebration of UNESCO's World Poetry Day (March 21) and National Poetry Month in April. The purpose is to recognize poetry, writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and all writers to the quality of life in our communities. It also celebrates schools, libraries, and the work of so many mayors and municipalities to promote the arts, culture, literacy, and reading.

### **Who can participate?**

Communities large and small. A challenge package has been sent to in all provinces and territories across Canada. These communities include capital cities, communities with poets laureate, federally recognized "Cultural Capitals," and key local centres, counties and towns. Other communities are encouraged to join in and to let us know what they are doing by downloading the challenge package from [poets.ca/poetrycity](http://poets.ca/poetrycity).

### **How many communities are expected to take part?**

Seventy-one English and Francophone communities from Whitehorse and Dawson City to Victoria and St. John's took part in 2015. We expect even more this year. Some communities combine the Mayor's Challenge with writing contests, centennials and community celebrations, poetry strolls, and school programs.

### **How much administration is there?**

Very little. The readings are simply put on the agenda of a regular Council meeting. Communities are encouraged to declare March 21 as UNESCO World Poetry Day and April as National Poetry Month.

### **Are the poets compensated?**

Through Calgary Arts Development, The City of Calgary will provide its poet(s) with a fee based on established arts community rates. Many other communities have done so as well, and we encourage this practice.

### **How can I find out what's going on?**

- Read or download our national media release from [poets.ca/poetrycity](http://poets.ca/poetrycity).
- Follow along on social media—follow and use the hashtag #PoetryCity; find the League of Canadian Poets on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#); find the City of Calgary on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and the City of Calgary Arts and Culture on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#); and find the Writers' Guild of Alberta on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).
- Use your own online presence! Participating municipalities are encouraged to issue media releases and share information across social media platforms.
- Visit [poets.ca/poetrycity](http://poets.ca/poetrycity) to find an updated list of participating communities, including dates and readers.

## What communities participated in 2015?

### March/Mars

Barrie, ON\*  
Calgary, AB\*  
Caraquet, NB  
Dauphin, MB  
Drummondville, QC  
Flin Flon, MB  
Gander, NL  
La Ronge, SK  
District of Mission, BC  
Moncton, NB  
Owen Sounds, ON  
Saint John's, NL  
City of Greater Sudbury, ON  
Summerside, PE  
Vernon, BC  
Victoria, BC\*

### April/Avril

Airdrie, AB  
Bathurst, NB  
Brandon, MB  
Brantford, ON  
Camrose, AB  
Charlottetown, PEI  
Chestermere, AB  
Cobourg, ON  
Cranbrook, BC  
Creighton, SK  
Dawson City, YT\*  
Eastend, SK  
Edmonton, AB  
Edmunston, NB  
Esteron, SK  
Ferne, BC

### April /Avril (continued/continuée)

Gabriola Island, BC  
Grand Prairie, AB  
Halifax, NS  
Hamilton, ON  
Happy Valley – Goose Bay, NL  
Jasper, AB  
Kingston, ON  
London, ON  
Medicine Hat, AB  
Melfort, SK  
Moose Jaw, SK  
Nanaimo, BC\*  
Nelson, BC  
New Glasgow, NS  
New Westminster, BC  
Norfolk County, ON  
North Battleford, SK  
Oshawa, ON  
Paradise, NL  
Powell River, BC  
Regina, SK\*  
Sackville, NB  
Swift Current, SK  
Toronto, ON\*  
Truro, NS  
Vancouver, BC  
Victoria, BC\*  
Whitehorse, YT  
White Rock, BC  
Windsor, ON  
Winnipeg, MB  
Wolfville, NS  
Wood Buffalo, AB\*  
Yorkton, SK

\* Declared UNESCO World Poetry Day and/or National Poetry Month / a declare la Journée de la poésie de IUNESCO et le mois national de la poésie

The following cities also declared UNESCO World Poetry Day and/or National Poetry Month:

- Cape Breton, NS
- Red Deer, AB
- St. Albert, AB
- Whistler, BC