

## MAYOR'S POETRY CITY CHALLENGE 2014 – FAQ

*The League of Canadian Poets (LCP) and Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG)*

*in partnership with the City of Regina*

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

Regina Mayor Michael Fougere challenges his fellow mayors across Canada to have a local poet read a poem at the opening of their Council meetings 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 celebrate 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 mayors and municipalities to promote the Arts, culture, and literacy and reading.

### **Who can participate?**

Communities large and small. A letter issuing the Challenge has been sent to the mayors of selected cities, regional municipalities, and towns of all sizes, and covering all provinces and territories. 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.

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

Over thirty English and Francophone communities from Victoria to St. John's with a combined population of 10,000,000 took part in 2013. We expect 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?**

The City of Regina pays the selected poet a fee based on established writing community rates and uses a standard agreement for this purpose. Other communities are encouraged to provide an appropriate fee in support of the status of the artist.

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

Media releases will be forthcoming from the lead partners. In addition:

- Watch the League of Canadian Poets webpage at <http://poets.ca/mayor's-poetry-city-challenge>. The League will be adding a link to their blog which will highlight participating cities and poets.
- Poets can send their poems and links to Milena Džordeski at [swgevents@skwriter.com](mailto:swgevents@skwriter.com), at the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.
- Check out the facebook page for the Challenge at: <https://www.facebook.com/MayorsPoetryCityChallenge>, which has been set up by the Guild.
- Participating municipalities are encouraged to issue media releases and to post notices on social media.

## Cities and Poets Participating in the 2013 Mayor's Poetry City Challenge

### Communities and Poets:

- Victoria BC, Janet Marie Rogers\*, read in March and April
- Nanaimo BC
- New Westminster, Candace James
- Whistler BC, Poets Pause contest winners
- Vancouver BC, Evelyn Lau\*
- Nelson BC, Jane Byers and Will Klatte
- Jasper AB, John Strugnell\*
- Grand Prairie AB, Catherine McLaughlin
- Edmonton AB, Anna Marie Sewell\*
- Calgary AB, Kris Demeanor\*
- Lloydminster AB/SK, Ted Haas
- North Battleford SK, Centennial Project student writers
- Saskatoon SK, declared March 21 World Poetry Day, April as National Poetry Month
- Creighton SK, Kevin Imrie
- Moose Jaw SK, Jessy Lee Saas
- Yorkton SK, Joyce Bagley
- Regina SK, Bruce Rice; Regina sent out the Challenge and declared March 21 World Poetry Day, and April as National Poetry Month
- Dauphin MB, Jan Jenkins and Brian Erikson
- Winnipeg MB, Victor Enns
- Brantford ON, John B. Lee\*
- Norfolk County ON, John B. Lee\*
- Cobourg ON, Ted Amsden\*
- Guelph ON, Fannon Holland
- Oshawa, J. Graham Ducker
- Waterloo ON, Winner of Poetry Contest, *What do you love about Waterloo?*
- London ON, Holly Painter and Debra Franke from Poetry London
- Toronto ON, George Elliot Clark\*
- Fredericton NB, Sharon McCartney, Vanessa Moeller, respectively, read April 8 and 22nd
- Caraquet NB, Jean-Mari Pître, the first Acadian community to participate
- Sackville NB, Marilyn Lerch
- Halifax Regional Municipality NS, Tanya Davis, Lorri Neilsen-Glenn, Shauntay Grant respectively, reading at the 3 April Council meetings
- New Glasgow NS, Winner of contest for residents and students
- Charlottetown PEI, Dianne Hicks Morrow\*
- St. John's NF, Tom Dawe\*, Leslie Vryenhoek

\*Poet Laureate