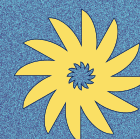


*Prepared for the Annual
General Meeting*

May 2024

2023-

2024



ANNUAL

REPORT

*A year with the League of
Canadian Poets*

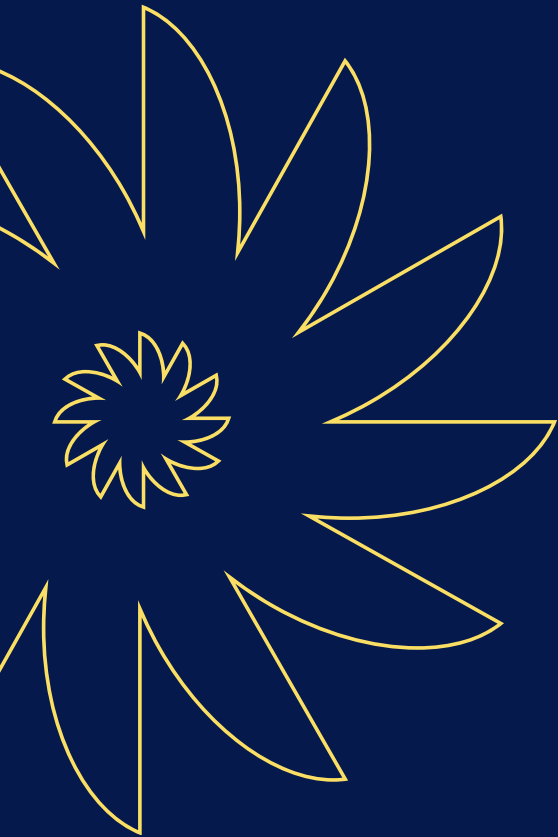
Prepared by

Nic Brewer

The League of Canadian Poets would like to acknowledge the enduring presence of Indigenous people in the land settlers call Canada. Our office in Toronto is situated on the traditional territories of the Wendat, Ashinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, and the Métis nation.

However, a land acknowledgment on its own is neither reconciliation nor decolonization, and we also recognize the organizational importance of policy, programs, services, and access that prioritize Indigenous poets and communities. We appreciate the guidance and presence of our Indigenous members and volunteers, and we celebrate Indigenous-led publishers, organizations, and businesses doing the front-line work of supporting and showcasing Indigenous poets, storytellers, and artists.

Additionally, the League recognizes the historical and ongoing colonial significance of our organization name, and we acknowledge that not all members of our community identify with the term "Canadian." We support these members and their right to self-identify while still having access to the programs and services offered by the League.



01	Executive Summary
03	About the League
04	Membership
05	Financial Report
06	Programs & Services
17	Our Community
20	Thank You
21	Appendices

Contents

Executive Summary

Rayanne Haines

President

It has been a wonderful year at the League of Canadian Poets. In June 2023, I stepped into the role of President after serving as Vice President and Alberta Representative on the Board of Directors. In the last 12 months, I have seen the League Board and Staff come together to grow and improve our programs and support an expanding diverse membership, which now exceeds 1000 members across the country. I am very proud of what has been accomplished in the past year.



In September 2023, we completed a new strategic plan for the League that was launched on April 1, 2024. This plan is comprehensive, goal-oriented, and designed to guide the League's activities until 2027. The three strategic directions for the League in the coming years are:

- Organizational Sustainability and Stability,
- Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA), and
- Sector relevance.

The League staff and Board of Directors are already hard at work in advancing the League toward our goals.

In 2023-2024, the League set a record for membership revenue. We are excited to continue supporting the talent, diversity, and community-minded spirit of our members. We were very lucky to be able to distribute almost \$170,000 to poets in the last year through our funding programs, contests, prizes, travel support, and content fees.

With the rising cost of living, and the prolonged aftereffects of COVID on the arts sector, many of our members have been challenged financially in the past few years. I am very proud that the League was able to launch the Member Support Fund, which supports poets who are not able to pay their membership fees, and

with which we hope to provide more support to poets as this fund grows. I am proud that our ability to provide fee waivers has removed a barrier for poets that may prevent them from continuing their membership in the League.

Our members are more engaged, more supportive, and more active than ever before. We have seen an incredible number of poetry events and readings and are very pleased to see a growing audience for events hosted by the League. In the coming years, we hope to be able to provide more in-person opportunities for members to connect, and staff are actively working to bring in the funding to support this work. I am thrilled to announce that this year's Anne Szumigalski Lecture will take place in-person in Edmonton, Alberta.

The League and our members have been extremely active both on and off social media. It has been wonderful to see our award winners, poets from Poetry Pause, events, and projects supported so fully by our members.

Our new governance structure (launched in 2022) has helped the League to become more efficient and effective. Over the past two years the board and staff have completed a tremendous amount of work to develop and finalize new policies and procedures to better serve the membership. We look forward to the growth of our committees in the coming year.

We welcome back Lesley Fletcher, Executive Director, who was on maternity leave in 2023-2024. We all owe a huge thanks to Nic Brewer, who stepped in to act as Interim Director in the past year kept the ship afloat while working conscientiously to support our increasingly diverse membership. We are excited to enter our next year with a dual-leadership model in place, with Lesley acting as Executive Director and Nic acting as Artistic Programming Director. This new structure will help the League to have the cohesion and stability we need to support our growth in the coming years.

We are thankful to the staff and are happy to see a cohesive and effective staff team in place. Our Board of directors is inspired, responsive, capable, and tirelessly supports the work of the League. We are most grateful to our members and are proud of this creative, talented, and growing community.

I am so excited to see how the League and our membership continue to grow and develop in the coming years.

Thank you,
Rayanne Haines, President

*Rayanne
Haines*

About the League

Mission

The League of Canadian Poets supports Canadian poets and poetry in Canada.

Vision

A representative and thriving culture of poets and poetry lovers.

Values

Inclusiveness, representation, accessibility, innovation, and professionalism.

Mandate

The League of Canadian Poets' mandate is to elevate the cultural significance of poetry and champion the role of poets. Working to nurture and expand poetry communities and audiences, the organization cultivates the local, national, and international publication, performance, and recognition of poetry. The League supports equitable and inclusive artistic practice through poetry education and development.

2023-2024 Staff & Board of Directors

Rayanne Haines

President

Hendrik Slegtenhorst

Vice President

Michael Andrews

Treasurer

Frances Boyle

Secretary

Stuart Ian McKay

Chair, EDI Committee

Tracy Hamon

Past President

Jaclyn Desforges

Chair, Membership Committee

Lesley Fletcher

Executive Director

Nic Brewer

Artistic Programming Director

Caitlin Lapeña

Administrative and Communications Coordinator

2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan

The League was excited to bring together our leadership team in the the fall of 2023 for an intensive strategic planning session, which resulted in a 3-year plan that will guide the organization through to 2027. The strategic plan identifies three primary directions, and each quarter, the League's Executive Staff will report to the Board of Directors on the organization's progress towards the goals outlined in the complete strategic plan. The complete strategic plan can be found at poets.ca/about, or in Appendix A.

Organizational sustainability and stability

Stabilizing finances, programs, and services for the long term

Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility

Analyzing existing data and creating meaningful systemic change

Sector relevance

Supporting members, reaching diverse audiences, and advocating for poetry.

Membership

129 new
members

1,000+
total poet members

Thanks to the diligent work of our staff and our volunteer membership committee, the League reviewed over 150 applications and renewals. We are grateful to Britta B., Amoya Ree, Dani Spinosa, Richard-Yves Sitoski, Moni Brar, and Jaclyn Desforges for their dedication to growing the League by serving on the membership committee.

A comprehensive breakdown of our membership demographic may be found in Appendix B.

Financial Report

Michael Andrews

Treasurer



2023-2024 was a challenging fiscal year, as the League incurred an operating deficit of \$20K. Through the management and diligence of the staff and Board of Directors, the organization has maintained positive reserves, ensuring a healthy financial position.

	2024	2023
Public sector revenues	\$266,085	\$299,868
<i>Canada Council for the Arts</i>	\$187,500	\$220,500
<i>Ontario Arts Council</i>	\$55,145	\$60,282
<i>Toronto Arts Council</i>	\$19,100	\$19,100
<i>Canada Summer Jobs</i>	\$4,340	\$0
Earned revenues*	\$139,802	\$133,108
Private sector revenues	\$42,749	\$27,050
<i>Donations</i>	\$28,199	\$11,355
<i>Sponsorships and foundations</i>	\$14,550	\$15,695
Investment revenues**	\$11,047	\$8,060
TOTAL REVENUES	\$459,683	\$468,086
Unrestricted net assets	\$29,741	\$58,420
Internally restricted funds	\$90,208	\$85,298
<i>Emergency Reserve</i>	\$25,000	\$25,000
<i>Strategic planning</i>	\$0	\$8,385
<i>Special projects</i>	\$24,992	\$27,772
<i>Annual Poetry Bursary</i>	\$12,650	\$15,250
<i>Lesley Strutt Poetry Contest</i>	\$9,377	\$8,890

Revenues & assets

*Earned revenues include: Membership fees, award and contest submission fees, book sales and royalties, etc.

**Investment revenue in 2024 includes the annual payout from the League of Canadian Poets Arts Endowment Fund held with the Ontario Arts Foundation, the annual disbursement of the P.K. Page Trust Fund, and very minimal revenue from internally held investments and savings.

Revenues & assets (continued)

Canada Council for the Arts: In 2023-2024, the League saw a slight decrease in our revenues. In 2022-2023, the League received additional funding from the Canada Council for the Arts as part of a COVID-19 relief program. This was no longer available to us in 2023-2024.

Ontario Arts Council: In 2023-2024, the League was informed that funding from the Ontario Arts Council would be reduced. While this reduction was not material (approximately \$6,000), it does come at a time when the League is being financially challenged to maintain its current level of programming. While we are not anticipating further cuts in 2024-2025, this reduction highlights the need for the League to engage in fundraising and revenue generation beyond government sources.

Donations: Staff did an incredible job fundraising, particularly for our Member Support Fund, and helped to make up for these shortfalls. We saw a major increase in donations during the 2023-2024 year.

Assets and Internally Restricted Funds: We have restricted funds to cover a portion of our annual programming as well as unrestricted cash available, and an emergency fund is in place if required. It is important that the League continue to develop new sources of revenue to expand the support for its members and to mitigate the reliance on government funding.

Stursberg Investments: The League has held and managed a restricted investment fund. The revenue from this fund is used to support the Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize. In the 2023-2024 year, the Board of Directors approved the transfer of the funds to the Ontario Arts Foundation (OAF) to be professionally managed and invested. Changing the fiscal management of the Stursberg investment does not change the financial position of the League, however, the League's financial statements reflect the new arrangement. The Stursberg funds will be held by the OAF for three years, after which the League will receive an annual payment that will be used to support the Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize. Having these funds held externally and professionally managed will optimize the award going forward.

Expenses

	2024	2023
Administration, governance, & development	\$ 273,203	\$300,283
<i>Professional fees (eg. Audit, bookkeeping, legal)</i>	\$45,083	\$32,759
<i>Staff, office, and general admin expenses</i>	\$220,503	\$257,440
<i>Governance and development expenses*</i>	\$7,617	\$10,084
Marketing and communications	\$26,483	\$12,845
Poet payments	\$167,528	\$180,727
<i>Event funding and travel reimbursement</i>	\$147,303	\$163,527
<i>Prizes and juror fees</i>	\$20,225	\$17,200
Other programming expenses**	\$12,590	\$15,716
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$479,804	\$509,571

*Governance expenses include costs associated with the Annual General Meeting, as well as training, professional development, and support for the Board of Directors. Development expenses include costs and fees associated with fundraising and fund development.

**Other programming expenses include design fees, content fees, and costs such as printing, mailing, and software to support the execution of the League’s programs and services.

Spending and Programming: In 2023-2024, the League maintained all its funding programs, dispersing payments to poets for events, professional development, mentorship, and awards. During COVID-19, the League benefited from the receipt of additional government funds in support of poets. While these funds are no longer available, the League has continued to provide a high level of funding to poets and has maintained financial support as a high priority.

Strategic Planning and Governance Expenses: The League recently completed a strategic planning exercise and developed an updated plan that will guide our work until 2027. We also completed a process that updated the organization’s governance structure, ensuring compliance with legal requirements. These initiatives incurred one-time expenses that we will not be incurred in 2024-2025.

Looking forward

Like many in this challenging economic environment, the League is experiencing increasing costs. This impacted our 2023-2024 fiscal year.

Our staff and board are currently working hard to develop new sponsorship opportunities, solicit new donations and engage in solid fundraising plans. Increasing and diversifying our sources of revenue will ensure that the League can enhance and expand our programming and increase support for our members.

The League created a budget for 2024-2025 that includes expected expenses while ensuring the League remains financially strong, with only a minor deficit anticipated.

With the support of funders, donors, and sponsors, the League runs more than 20 different programs and services to support poets, share poetry, and advocate for the literary arts in Canada.

Programs & Services

20+ programs & services

1,000+ poets served

\$170k+ paid directly to poets



National Poetry Month 2024

40,000

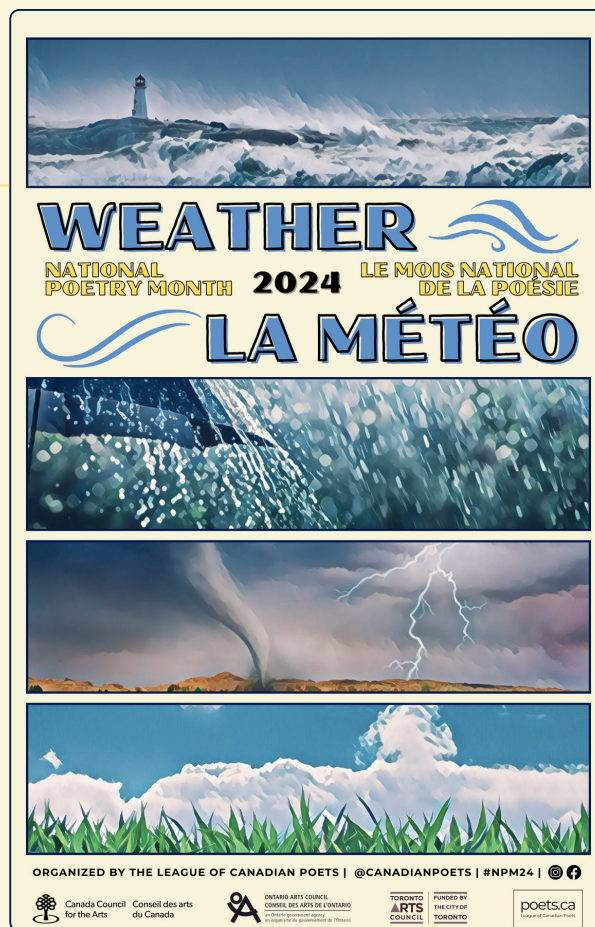
bookmarks distributed

1,600

posters distributed

400+

recipients nationwide



38,000

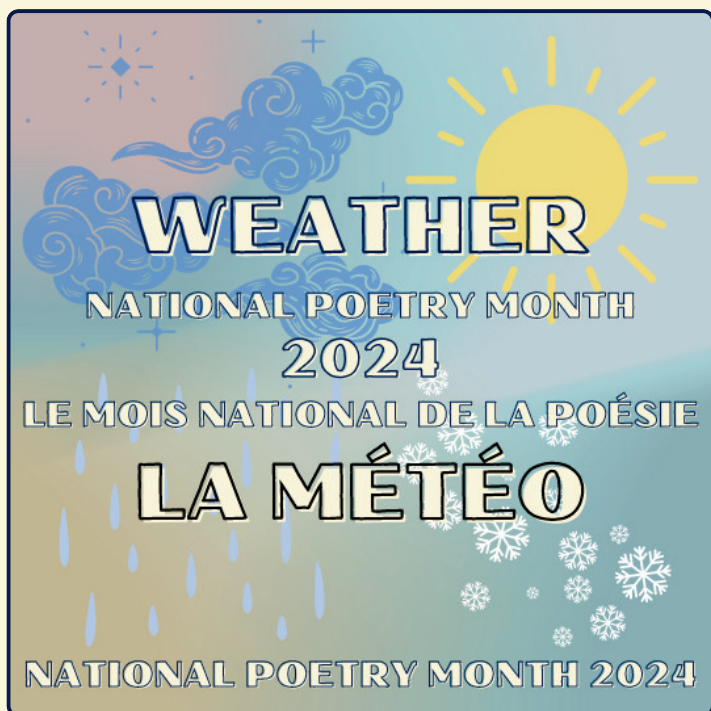
social media reach

18,000

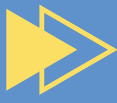
Poets.ca views

7,000

unique Poets.ca visitors



During April 2024, the League was pleased to celebrate:



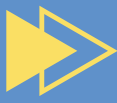
Finalists for the annual Pat Lowther, Raymond Souster, and Gerald Lampert book awards



The return of daily Poetry Pause dispatches



The launch of the Lillian Allen Spoken Word Prizes, in collaboration with the Ontario Arts Council



Guest blog posts on Poets.ca



Canadian Independent Bookstore Day



National Volunteer Week, including the winners of the Colleen Thibaudeau, Life Membership, and Honorary Membership awards



National Poetry Month events and celebrations across Canada

Poem in Your Pocket Day

April 18, 2024

15 poems

300 poets.ca visits

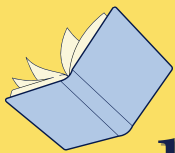
2,200 social media reach

BIPOC Writers Connect

We were thrilled to once again partner with The Writers Union of Canada to present BIPOC Writers Connect. This virtual conference for Black, Indigenous, and racialized emerging writers is your chance to connect with industry professionals, established authors, and fellow emerging writers — all in one place! BIPOC Writers Connect: Facilitating Mentorship, Creating Community includes one-on-one feedback from a published author, a practical workshop on writing query letters, an industry panel discussion, and plenty of networking opportunities.

Mentors from the 2023 summit included poets Dr. Jenna Butler, Farzana Doctor, Tāriq Malik, and Dane Swan.

Poetry Pause



141 poets

182 poems

1627 subscribers

Fresh Voices

3 issues

17 poems

NEW publication format



Publications

LCP Chapbook Series

Due to funding and staff limitations, the LCP Chapbook Series published just one chapbook in the 2023-2024 year: The Next Generation (Volume 4), an anthology of poems from the 2023 Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize. However, we are excited to have two chapbooks forthcoming which have been under development throughout the 2023-2024 year: Splendor of Wings, an anthology of writers over 65; and an anthology of trans and non-binary writers, edited by Tara Borin.

Poet Ambassador in Residence

The Poet Ambassador in Residence program is an opportunity for the League to work with some of Canada's most exciting poets in support of our mission. Launched in 2023, we welcomed Yukon-based poet Tara Borin as our inaugural Ambassador!

15 trans and non-binary poets selected for a forthcoming chapbook

1 in-person drop-in consultation session at the Dawson library

3 free online drop-in consultation sessions for members and non-members

1 free online workshop for members and non-members

I'm forever grateful to the League for the chance to turn my focus to poetry so fully these past few months. I'm grateful to all of you who showed up at my readings, my drop-ins, and my workshops. Connecting with all of you, hearing your poems, and discussing poetry and the writing life with you, has truly filled this poet's cup to overflowing. I look forward to carrying on in these connections and this poetic endeavour, knowing that I'm not alone. My hope is that we can all continue together, creating and sharing new work with each other and the world.



Tara Borin

\$10,000+

prizes awarded to poets

20 award recipients

Awards & Contests

Each year, the League recognizes some of the most creative and dedicated poets and poetry supporters through contests, prizes, and special recognition awards.

Special Recognition Awards

Life Membership

Awarded to Bānoo Zan and Sarah de Leeuw



Bānoo Zan



Sarah de Leeuw

Honorary Membership

Awarded to McGill-Queen's University Press and Shelf Life Books

Colleen Thibaudeau Award for Outstanding Contribution

Awarded to Daniela Elza



Daniela Elza



Hannah Green

Book Awards

Gerald Lampert Memorial Award

Hannah Green, *Xanax Cowboy*

Raymond Souster Award

Bradley Peters, *Sonnets from a Cell*

Pat Lowther Memorial Award

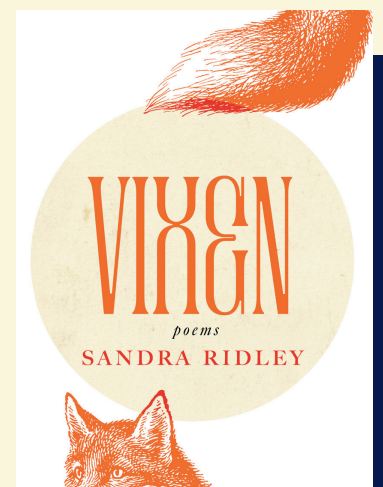
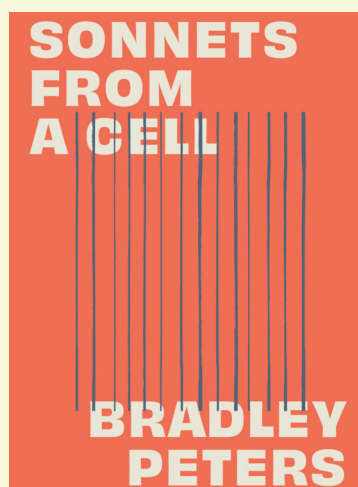
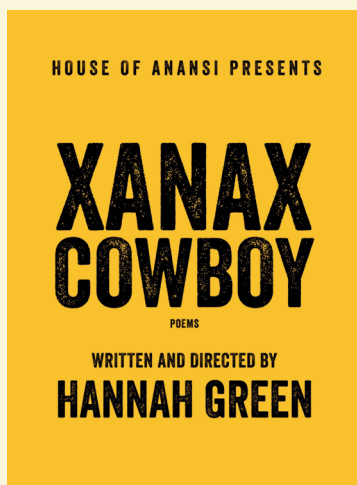
Sandra Ridley, *Vixen*



Bradley Peters



Sandra Ridley



Contests

*Toronto Arts & Letters Club
Foundation Annual Poetry Award*

Em Dial, “Against Beauty”

Lesley Strutt Poetry Contest

Cindy Patrick, “I Don’t Need I
Love You”

Very Small Verse Contest

Kelly Madden, “Blue Shell”

National Broadsheet Contest

Jessica Lee McMillan,
“Transformer Stone”



Jessica Lee McMillan



Kelly Madden



Em Dial



Cindy Patrick

LCP Spoken Word Award

This inaugural award, comprising
two \$1,000 prizes, was presented to
Adeena Karasick and Ian Keteku



Adeena Karasick



Ian Keteku

Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize for young writers

Winners, senior category:

Vivian Sun, “The Last Day of the
Circadian Ache”

Zixuan Xu, “the outcast (to be a
writer)”

Winners, junior category:

Sana Huang, “Mirrors”

Meala Sang, “Nightsky
Observations”

Caoimhe Karl, “Life is Rain”

Microgrants & professional development

The League provides financial support and professional development opportunities to members, at no cost to mentees, through several programs. These include the P.K. Page Mentorship Program, the Workshops and Consultations Fund, and the LCP Annual Poetry Bursary.

\$13,000

disbursed directly to poets in support of mentorship and professional development

3 member webinars

11 Funded one-on-one consultations

5 P.K. Page mentorship pairs

12 Funded workshops

Event microgrants

\$17,000

honoria disbursed for school visits in Ontario

\$85,000

honoria disbursed for poetry readings

\$17,000

travel reimbursement paid to poets

500

events

200

organizers

220

poets

9 Member open mic nights

Celebrating Freedom to Read Week

November 20, 2023

Reading and discussion with TWUC Freedom to Read Award-winners Farzana Doctor and Gary Geddes.

Celebrating Black History Month

November 20, 2023

Open mic with featured readers: LCP Spoken Word Award-winner Ian Keteku and Halifax Youth Poets Laureate Asiah Sparks and Damini Awoyiga

Anne Szumigalski Lecture Series

November 20, 2023

“On Reparative vs. Paranoid Writing: the Ethics and Carework of Storytelling,” presented by Joshua Whitehead

Cross-Pollinations Virtual Rounds Series

Held monthly, this event bringing together poetry and medicine has featured speakers on such topics as:

- Inuk mental health
- Sleep
- Eating disorders
- Anticolonial poetics
- Madness & race
- Transplant medicine
- Amputation
- Disability
- Self-harm
- Vision loss
- Fatphobia

Thank you to the volunteers, jurors, and selection committees who make our programs possible! 2023-2024 volunteers include:

Manahil Bandukwala, Erin Bedford, Tara Borin, Jenna Butler, Louise Carson, Conyer Clayton, Joan Conway, Briar Craig, Adebe DeRango-Adem, Josie Di Sciascio-Andrews, Antonia Facciponte, K.P. Heyming, Maureen Hynes, Kevin Irie, Deborah L. Kelly, Donna Langevin, Sharon Lax, Rion Levy, Vivian Li, David Ly, Grace Ma, Kate Marshall Flaherty, Laura K McRae, Stephen Morrissey, Anita Ngai, Pearl Pirie, Eric Schmaltz, Michael V. Smith, Andrea Thompson, Isabella Wang, Shannon Webb-Campbell, Susie Whelehan, Elana Wolff

Our Community



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

The League thanks Stuart Ian McKay for guiding the EDI Committee through the 2023-2024 year. After working to develop the policies for this essential Committee, we are currently seeking a Co-Chair who will help to guide the work of the EDI Committee through the next year and over the course of our strategic plan through to 2027. The next meeting of the EDI Committee will take place in the summer of 2024.

Committees

Poets Anonymous

Poets of faith; those who believe their craft is in service to a Supreme Being.

Chair: Stephen Roney
sroneykor@mail.com

Community Committees of the League are formed by volunteer members who wish to create a gathering space for poets of a shared experience, identity, interest, or cause.

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee and Regional Representative Committee are committees of the Board.

Regional Representatives Committee

The League is thrilled to welcome Holley Ghadery as the new Chair of the Regional Representatives Committee. Holley will be working with the Regional Representatives Committee to ensure the League is in touch with our national membership and on specific projects that will support poets across the country. The next meeting of the Regional Representatives Committee will take place in the summer of 2024.

Feminist Caucus

The Feminist Caucus of the League of Canadian Poets strongly and uncompromisingly champions the rights of those who identify as women and/or feminists in Canada and worldwide. Our mandate is to celebrate, promote, and support women's creativity within the League and beyond. We oppose systemic misogyny, anti-feminist traditions, and rights-restrictive cultural relativism and commit to take action against any infringement of women's rights and their creative work. The Feminist Caucus respects and advocates for equality and freedom of expression in its practices and membership.

Chair: Diana Manole
dianamanole2013@gmail.com

Parenting Poets

A committee whose purpose is to create community for poets often isolated by the demands of parenting, to discuss issues pertinent to parenting poets, and to organize events that attempt to eliminate the barriers parents often face.

Co-Chairs: Jessica Coles and Jennifer Bowering Delisle
jessica.n.coles@gmail.com
delisle.jennifer@gmail.com



870k
reach

500
posts

5.8k
followers



Our online communities

4,500

average monthly
website visitors

2208

Between the Lines
subscribers

1641

Poetry Pause
subscribers

210k

Poetry Pause opens

7.7k

reach

99

posts

5.5k

followers



Our supporters

There are so many people, groups, and partners that make what we do at the League possible. A special thank you to some of our partners and supporters from the past year!



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



TORONTO
ARTS
COUNCIL
FUNDED BY
THE CITY OF
TORONTO



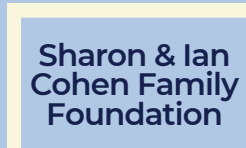
ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Canada



THE HEALTH ARTS
RESEARCH CENTRE



- Canada Council for the Arts
- Ontario Arts Council
- Toronto Arts Council
- Health Arts Research Centre
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Canadian Association for Health Humanities
- Toronto Arts Foundation
- Ontario Arts Foundation
- Toronto Arts & Letters Club Foundation
- Sharon and Ian Cohen Family Foundation
- Canadian Independent Booksellers Association
- Prairie Fire magazine

Special thank you to our donors, including:

- Margaret Atwood
- David Dowker
- Alice Major
- D.C. Reid
- The Stursberg Family
- Anonymous supporters

Our Quill Club Members

- Melanie and Sean Barton
- Donald Cold
- Kathryn Guthrie
- Carrie Hill
- Louisa Howerow
- Paul Kloschinsky
- Christine Montgomery
- Martha Patrick
- John RC Potter
- Laurel Ralston
- Greg Santos
- Catherine Thompson
- Johanna Zomers

Thank you



The League of Canadian Poets would be nothing without our incredible members, volunteer Board of Directors, and generous supporters. Thanks to our community, we have been able to not only survive the pandemic but also grow our programming, increase poet payments, and create even more opportunities to share poetry with new readers.

We now serve over 1000 members across Canada, and provide support to even more poets who have yet to join. There are more poetry events, readings, contests, opportunities and programs for poets than have ever existed before. We are excited to have poets engaging with the League and the larger poetry community in unprecedented numbers, and we can't wait to do more to serve Canada's wildly talented poetry community.

As we move into 2024 and beyond, we're excited to continue pursuing partnerships and opportunities that will increase funds paid directly to poets, develop new programs and services to support professional and emerging poets in Canada and strengthen the League's foundation so that our resources will be available to poets for many years to come.

We look forward to prioritizing equity, accessibility, and stability in our programs, services, and operations in 2024 and beyond, and we know that with your help, nothing is out of reach.

Thank you for everything you help us do for poets and poetry in Canada!



Lesley Fletcher

**Executive
Director**



Nic Brewer

**Artistic
Programming
Director**

*Lesley
Fletcher
&
Nic
Brewer*

Appendix A

2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Organizational sustainability and stability. The League is a nearly 60-year-old organization, and has in the past faced financial crises, staff challenges, and leadership issues. Today, the organization is in a financially stable position, but action must be taken to stabilize the organization in the long term, and to ensure that the organization's finances, programs, and services are sustainable for many years to come under unknown circumstances.

Goals:

- Complete transition to Governance Board structure
- Complete an organizational review
- Increase and diversify revenues
- Develop risk management standards, processes, and policies

Strategic Pillar: Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). Under its current and recent leadership, the League has made great strides towards meaningful diversity and inclusion in its programming and membership, but lacks a supporting framework for IDEA in all facets of the organization.

Goals:

- Complete an equity audit of membership, staff, Board, and programs
- Reduce barriers to membership, programs, and services
- Develop community and advocacy partnerships
- Develop comprehensive policies around access, equity, and diversity in leadership, membership, and programs

Strategic Pillar: Sector relevance. The League is grateful and fortunate to have the dedicated support of many members, readers, and supporters, but as both the arts and the charitable sector face increasing obstacles—from burnout, to lower donation rates, to unfavorable governments—the League must invest in itself to ensure that the programs and services offered, as well as the communities served, are unique, valuable, and relevant.

Goals:

- Increase cross-sectoral and regional presence through partnerships, relationships, and collaborations
- Evaluate and define the League of Canadian Poets brand
- Expand the League's membership

Appendix B

Membership report

New full members (67)

Clare Dalgarno
S.A. Leger
Lidice Megla
Peace Akintade-Oluwagbeye
Krystal River
Diane Taylor-Sexton
Spencer Butt
Daniel Maluka
Kazim Ali
Ben Robinson
Andrea Josic
SJ Valiquette
M W
Patrick Grace
Melanie Dennis Unrau
Deborah Fannie Miller Miller
PAMELA MORDECAI
shō yamagushiku
Cory Lavender
Jimmy Dawn
Annette Lapointe
Nasser Hussain
Amber McMillan
Meghan Kemp-Gee
Fatima-Ayan Malika Hirsi
Leilei 莫譯 Chen
Cherie Hanson
Shani Mootoo
Sina Queyras
Shane Book
Andreas Gripp
Emily Austin
Jill Solnicki

Yoyo Comay
Affrica Spence
Miranda Krogstad
Hamish Guthrie
Namitha Rathinappillai
m. patchwork monoceros
Wanda John-Kehewin
Amani Omar
Zoë Landale
Kristina Bresnen
Melanie Marttila
Kamila Rina
Ashley Qilavaq-Savard
Maggie Burton
Gwynn Scheltema
Pujita Verma
Domenica Martinello
Dina Del Bucchia
Zach Polis
Maya Spoken
Bradley Peters
Jennifer Wenn
Mike Madill
Adam Beardsworth
Sam Cheuk
Meghan Fandrich
James Ritchie
Cathy Stonehouse
Emma McKenna
Lélia Young
Suzanne M Steele
Aaron Boothby
andrea bennett
Jónína (Nina) Kirton

New associate members (62)

Veronika Gorlova
Charlotte Blair
Chantel Daniels
Jennifer BS Williams
Emily Bulicz-Arnelien
Diane Massam
Natalie Fraser
MERKAT/Meredith
Hoogendam
Gail M. Murray
Mel Thompson
Emma Rhodes
P. W. Jarungpiterah
Kurt Trzcinski
Aldona Dziedziejko
Ling Ge
JR MacLean
John Mulligan
Dianthe West
Faisal Mirza
Pushpa Acharya
Telmo dos Santos
Sharon Christie
Marilyn Belak
Daniel Bliss
Dany Gagnon
Prince Amoako
Josiah Nelson
Welming Chen
Wren Jones
Sarah Rauch
Kaila Gallacher
Angelle McDougall
Janis La Couvée

Membership report

New associate members (cont'd)

Francine Diodati
Lee Ann Eckhardt Smith
Elizabeth McCallister
Dennis Todd
Justine Rory Ramos
David Swartz
Manouan Arabel Boissonault
Émond
Dawn Steiner
Erin Brown-John
Danielle Hubbard
Ella Bachrach
Ariane Tapp
Mikella Boulanger
Karl Meade
Trisia Eddy Woods
Obii Udemgba
Sophie Lafrenière
Moineau Shin Binon
Sophie Cameron King
Angelina Yeung
Michael McNeil
Silvae Mercedes
Lana Crossman
Sarah Platenius
Renee Cronley
Gail Helena corbett
Kimberly Peterson
Jesse Keith Butler
Saraswoti Lamichhanne

Approximately 100 members resigned or were suspended in 2023-2024.

Membership demographics

As of May 1, 2023, 239 of our members (24%) identify spoken word as one of the genres they work in.

Late into the 2022-2023 membership year, the option to self-identify as Black, Indigenous, Racialized, and/or LGBTQI2S+ in a member's public profile was added. To date, 200 poets have chosen to complete this field, with the following results:

- 14.6% Black
- 6.5% Indigenous
- 33% Racialized
- 62.5% LGBTQI2S+

Membership geographical breakdown

Region	Members
BC (not including Vancouver)	175
Vancouver, BC	71
AB	83
SK	31
MB	28
ON (not including Toronto)	324
Toronto, ON	234
QC	68
NB, NS, NL, and PE	78
YT, NU, and NT	7

Membership report

New and renewing members' motivations for joining or returning

New and renewing members' reasons and referrals	
Poet colleagues	81
Other	30
Another writers' organization	20
Publisher	19
Social Media	15
Financially possible to renew at this time	15
Literary or industry event	13
Access to funding programs	13
Google search	11
Renewing members' motivations for returning	
New book of poetry	9
Returning from a poetry break	8
Looking for community	8
Renewed interest for personal reasons	7
Raymond Souster Award eligibility	7
New or renewed interest in League programming	6
LCP member-only opportunity	6
LCP Chapbook Series eligibility	5
Prompted by publisher	2
Moved back to Canada	2

Appendix C

Communications report

Introduction and overview

I'm Caitlin Lapeña, the League's Communications and Administrative Coordinator since November 2023. I'm a visual artist and arts administrator living in rural New Brunswick, outside of Saint John. Previously, I was co-director of Peter Estey Fine Art from 2018 to 2023, an artist-run auction house and art dealer focusing on Canadian folk, Inuit, and idiosyncratic artworks of historic importance. I have always been passionate about poetry, so I am thrilled to be immersed in the Canadian poetry landscape in my position at the League.

Since taking on my role, I have been focusing on posting regular content on Instagram, Facebook, and our monthly Between the Lines newsletter to inform our followers and members about the events we host, the programs we offer, and the various awards and contests we run. I have also been engaging with related poetry organizations, presses, and literary magazines by reposting calls for submissions, grants, scholarships, and events on our Instagram stories, Facebook, and on Between the Lines. Additionally, I have partnered with the Capilano Review, CBC Books, Writers' Guild of Alberta, SubTerrain Magazine, and the Literary Press Group of Canada for social media and print/online advertisement trades. I also try to make sure I'm posting congratulatory announcements when I see one of our members has won an award or prize, or published poetry. Our social media platform has developed into a rich information resource and supportive online community for our members and followers!

In 2023-2024, the League completed a full website review and renovation after several years of planning. Although the transition to the new website was not as smooth as we would have hoped, we are excited about the navigability and depth of the new Poets.ca as it is now. In addition to being visually modernized, our website now forefronts the work we do in service of poets and readers, and imagines the myriad reasons users may land on our home page. With nearly 60 years of programming and archives to house, Poets.ca has always been a wide-ranging resource for poets, educators, organizers, and readers, and we are delighted to say that now our archives, our active programs, and our history can all be easily located in a new streamlined design.

Communications report

Social media and newsletters

Poetry Neighbourhood Facebook Group

- Members: 459
- Posts: 556
- Comments: 338
- Reactions: 2,806
- Top towns/cities: Toronto, ON: 112;
Vancouver, BC: 30; Ottawa, ON: 27; Montreal,
QC: 24; Victoria, BC: 16

Facebook

- Followers as of April 2024 5.8K
- May 2023 – April 2024 gained 1,038 followers

Instagram

- Followers as of April 2024: 5,443
- May 2023 – April 2024 gained 1.1K followers

Between the Lines monthly newsletter

- Subscribers: 2,209
- Overall open rate: 50%
- Overall click rate: 7.2%
- Best Emails:
 - BTL February 2024
 - Recipients 2,182
 - Click rate 11%
 - Open rate 44%
 - BTL January 2024
 - Recipients 2,186
 - Click rate 11%
 - Open rate 44%
 - BTL November 2023
 - Recipients 2,135
 - Click rate 11%
 - Open rate 44%

Appendix D

Committee reports

Parenting Poets Committee

The Parenting Poets Committee continues to maintain a small but active space on the social media platform Slack, where members support each other, ask for advice, share wins and rejections, and sometimes workshop each other's work. Ideas for future events and a chapbook collaboration are under discussion.

Feminist Caucus

Since the previous AGM, the Feminist Caucus has steadily increased its membership, including poets with diverse ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, and poetics from across the country. It has also successfully organized three cross-Canada readings on Zoom that have drawn large audiences. Each of them was partially supported by the LCP with Canada Council for the Arts grants, for which the FC expresses its gratitude.

1. In October 2023, the FC organized the inaugural Book Launches free event. Four members of the group, Diana Manole, Jennifer Wenn, Lindsay Soberano-Wilson, and Sonja Greckol, celebrated their newly released collections with an enthusiastic virtual audience.

2. In March 2024, the FC organized the third consecutive annual reading, “Feminist Poetry on International Women's Day,” which showcased the work of the group members and their guests. This year’s edition had 15 readers from different regions in Canada, who shared their desire to change the world through poetry, while reflecting on and embodying diversity.

3. In April 2024, the FC celebrated Poetry Month with “Emerging Feminist Voices,” a free fully subscribed group reading (100 out of 100 possible Zoom guests). Each of the FC members reached out to her local community or network and invited one or two guest readers, gathering twelve amazingly talented authors at the outset of their poetic careers.

The Feminist Caucus is actively seeking new members. If you are a poet who identifies as a woman and/or a feminist and is prepared to commit to regularly attend our monthly meetings on Zoom and help organize feminist events, please sign up on the LCP website.

Appendix E

Detailed program reports

Awards, contests, and publications

Poetry Pause

Poetry Pause was on a short-term hiatus throughout December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024, during which time the League delivered one weekly poem to our dedicated readership. The hiatus was launched November 28, 2023 as a result of limited staff resources to sustain the program; with the hiatus, the League launched a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds to continue Poetry Pause for another year, and our community responded generously. We were pleased to re-launch the daily dispatches on March 21, 2024, and look forward to continuing to grow this beloved program throughout 2024-2025.

- Subscribers: 1,635
- Overall open rate: 51%
- Overall click rate: 1.6%
- Best Emails:
 - June 23 Kate Rogers 58% open rate
 - October 31 Marvyne Jenoff 56% open rate
 - April 30 Kate Siklosi 57% open rate

Fresh Voices

Fresh Voices, a publication program built by Associate members for Associate members, has flourished under the volunteer leadership of Joan Conway, but we are sad to note that the upcoming Fresh Voices 32 will be Joan's last issue at the helm. In May 2024, we transitioned Fresh Voices from a tri-annual publication to a weekly poem dispatch featured in Poetry Pause each Friday. We are grateful for Joan's years of work on this program, and look forward to seeing it grow in 2024-2025.

Detailed program reports

Promotion statistics: Facebook

Post	Date	Reach	Engagement	Summary
Book awards				
Longlist announcement	April 10, 2024	2,867	338	49 likes, 1 comment, 31 shares
Lampert shortlist	April 17, 2024	747	217	11 likes, 0 comments, 5 shares
Lowther shortlist	April 17, 2024	242	34	5 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares
Souster shortlist	April 17, 2024	689	20	5 likes, 0 comments, 2 shares
Winners (all)	May 1, 2024	825	89	42 likes, 3 comments, 7 shares
Lampert winner	May 1, 2024	488	23	13 likes, 1 comment, 0 shares
Lowther winner	May 1, 2024	2,344	134	37 likes, 4 comments, 8 shares
Souster winner	May 1, 2024	241	2	1 likes, 0 comment, 0 shares
Other prizes and awards				
Cold Moon winners (both)	March 21, 2024	1,917	325	27 likes, 6 comments, 6 shares
Broadsheet winner	March 21, 2024	489	21	5 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares
VSV winner	March 21, 2024	333	17	8 likes, 0 comments, 0 shares
Spoken Word shortlist	January 24, 2024	5,195	634	34 likes, 2 comments, 16 shares
Spoken Word winners	January 31, 2024	1,476	34	20 likes, 2 comments, 0 shares
Spoken Word - Ian	January 31, 2024	499	19	11 likes, 1 comment, 1 share
Spoken Word - Adeena	January 31, 2024	548	18	8 likes, 1 comment, 1 share
News and calls for submissions				
Chapbook call: trans, nonbinary, and two spirit poets	February 13, 2024	929	22	4 likes, 0 comments, 4 shares
PAIR Announcement	November 21, 2023	1,318	149	36 likes, 1 comments, 5 shares
Cold Moon call	November 15, 2023	1,064	67	11 likes, 0 comments, 10 shares
Spoken Word call	November 12, 2023	537	5	2 likes, 0 comment, 0 shares
Summer Lovin' call	June 6, 2023	711	49	6 likes, 0 comments, 4 shares

Detailed program reports

Promotion statistics: Instagram

Post	Date	Reach	Engagement	Summary
Book awards				
Longlist announcement	April 10, 2024	1,049	239	210 likes, 8 comments, 76 shares, 18 saves
Lampert shortlist	April 17, 2024	478	77	74 likes, 2 comments, 9 shares, 2 saves
Lowther shortlist	April 17, 2024	583	92	85 likes, 3 comments, 12 shares, 5 saves
Souster shortlist	April 17, 2024	534	87	83 likes, 0 comments, 9 shares, 2 saves
Winners (all)	May 1, 2024	770	134	131 likes, 5 comments, 14 shares, 0 saves
Lampert winner	May 1, 2024	446	69	65 likes, 1 comment, 3 shares, 3 saves
Lowther winner	May 1, 2024	391	69	65 likes, 7 comments, 4 shares, 2 saves
Souster winner	May 1, 2024	387	54	51 likes, 1 comment, 2 shares, 3 saves
Other prizes and awards				
Cold Moon winners (both)	March 21, 2024	632	56	56 likes, 5 comments, 6 shares, 1 save
Broadsheet winner	March 21, 2024	379	41	40 likes, 5 comments, 5 shares, 1 save
VSV winner	March 21, 2024	438	48	46 likes, 4 comments, 3 shares, 0 saves
Spoken Word shortlist	January 24, 2024	1,029	191	179 likes, 12 comments, 37 shares, 14 saves
Spoken Word winners	January 31, 2024	810	103	101 likes, 11 comments, 7 shares, 2 saves
Spoken Word - Ian	January 31, 2024	441	71	67 likes, 0 comments, 30 shares, 4 saves
Spoken Word - Adeena	January 31, 2024	317	30	30 likes, 0 comments, 3 shares, 1 save
News and calls for submissions				
Chapbook call: trans, nonbinary, and two spirit poets	February 13, 2024	1,117	121	93 likes, 0 comments, 43 shares, 24 saves
PAIR Announcement	November 21, 2023	1,258	146	143 likes, 13 comments, 5 shares, 5 saves
Cold Moon call	November 15, 2023	1,026	92	60 likes, 0 comments, 16 shares, 32 saves
Spoken Word call	November 12, 2023	672	57	40 likes, 1 comment, 14 shares, 18 saves
Summer Lovin' call	June 6, 2023	703	37	28 likes, 0 comments, 6 shares, 9 saves

Detailed program reports

Awards, contests, and publications: submissions

SUBMISSIONS DATA		
BOOK AWARDS	2023-2024	2022-2023
Pat Lowther Memorial Award	99	110
Gerald Lampert Memorial Award	57	71
Raymond Souster Award	113	117
CONTESTS	2023-2024	2022-2023
LCP Spoken Word Award	67 (inaugural)	N/A
Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize), junior	95	69
Jessamy Stursberg Poetry Prize, senior	190	191
Poem in Your Pocket Day	197	220
Very Small Verse Contest	198	129
Broadsheet Contest	99	95
Lesley Strutt Poetry Prize	181	106
Toronto Arts & Letters Club Poetry Prize	89	77 (inaugural)
PUBLICATIONS	2023-2024	2022-2023
LCP Chapbook Series	315	362

A total of 164 titles were submitted to our 2023-2024 book awards, from 68 publishers (2022-2023: 191 titles, 71 publishers).

The League earned a total of \$5,895 in revenue from submission fees to the 2023-2024 book awards (2022-2023: \$6,900), and \$5,125 from submission fees to 2023-2024 contests (2022-2023: \$3,872).

Unfortunately for the year 2023-2024, our equity data is lacking due to a difficult staff and system transition. In 2024-2025, we have already been diligently recording the proportion of equity-deserving groups who are engaging with our programs, and we look forward to reporting on this data in our 2025 Annual Report.

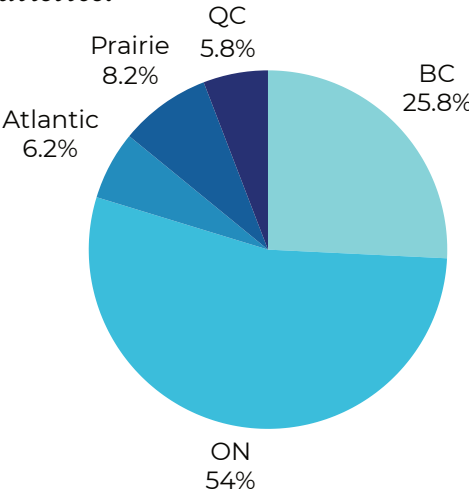
Detailed program reports

Microgrants: event funding

The League receives funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council to support several streams of event funding.

Total honorarium and travel reimbursement disbursement statistics:

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Total honoraria amounts	\$96,525	\$130,225
Total travel reimbursement	\$20,246	\$15,432
Total number of honoraria paid	528	652
Online events	126	213
Total poets	300	336
Full members	245	257
Associate members	16	28
Non-members	39	51
Regional poet demographics		
ON (outside Toronto)	94	103
BC	75	71
MB	3	8
AB	18	12
NS	12	18
NL	4	4
QC	17	26
SK	3	6
NB	1	5
YT	2	4
PE	1	2
Toronto	63	74



Host and venue summary:

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Total number of hosts and venues	195	207
AB	12	8
BC	36	34
SK	3	4
MB	6	4
QC	10	13
ON (outside of Toronto)	67	80
Toronto	49	42
NS	7	15
NL	1	1
NB	2	4
PE	1	1
YT	1	1

Detailed program reports

Microgrants: event funding
Stream-specific summaries

Canada Council for the Arts: This program supports events taking place anywhere in Canada. Most of this program is reserved for Full League members, with a small percentage set aside to support Associate and non-member readings celebrating National Poetry Month. In 2022-2023 we received a supplemental \$33,000 to support a special in-person funding stream to support the re-opening of communities in the wake of pandemic lockdowns and gathering restrictions; we did not receive this again in 2023-2024, so our fees disbursed are slightly lowered from the previous year.

Toronto Arts Council: This program funds events organized by Toronto hosts, taking place in Toronto, and featuring Toronto poets. In 2023-2024, the League received a supplementary \$5,000 grant from the Toronto Arts Foundation to support this program, as part of their Resiliency Fund.

Ontario Arts Council - Poets in the Schools: This program funds class visits to Ontario schools at a rate of \$250 for a half-day visit, or \$500 for a full-day visit. In 2023-2024, the League received a slight reduction in funding for this program.

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Canada Council for the Arts (general)*		
Honoraria	\$64,025	\$79,975 (Supplement: \$25,250)
Travel	\$20,426	\$13,316 (Supplement: \$1,947)
Poets	210	245 (Supplement: 79)
Canada Council for the Arts (National Poetry Month)		
Honoraria	\$5,250	\$3,250 (26)
Poets	51	26
Toronto Arts Council**		
Honoraria	\$9,500 (Supplement: \$5,000)	\$4,625
Poets	44	22
Ontario Arts Council (Poets in the Schools)		
Honoraria	\$17,750	\$18,750
Visits (poets)	41 (17)	50 (20)
Schools (cities)***	26 (14)	31 (19)

Detailed program reports

Microgrants: event funding

Stream-specific summaries

***Reading series and festivals:** More than \$20,000 of the League's event funding support was disbursed through a stream specifically for established reading series and festivals. In 2023-2024, we were proud to support:

- 5 Poets Breaking Into Song (Toronto, ON)
- Antler River Poetry (London, ON)
- Art Bar (Toronto, ON)
- The Biannual International Writers and Artists Festival (Val-David, QC)
- Under the Rooftops of Vancouver (Vancouver, BC)
- Delta's Unbound Poetry Festival (BC)
- Eve of Poetry Reading Series (NS)
- Famous Last Words (BC)
- Journey 2 Manhood (Toronto, ON)
- LA3 Raza (Toronto, ON)
- milk magazine reading series (Toronto, ON)
- Planet Earth Poetry (BC)
- Poets Corner (BC)
- Riverbed Reading Series (ON)
- Salt Spring Island Library (BC)
- Single Onion Poetry Series (AB)
- Small Gods Storyteller Series (BC)
- The Tartan Turban Secret Readings (Toronto, ON)
- Speak Your Truth (Barrie, ON)
- Versefest (Ottawa, ON)

****Toronto organizers:**

- The Long Dash
- Secret Handshake Gallery
- milk magazine reading series
- Speakeasy Reading Series
- Minstrels & Bards
- The Tartan Turban Secret Readings
- Glad Day Bookshop
- Shab-e She'r (Poetry Night)
- Poetry Open Mic at Buddies In Bad Times Theatre
- Type Books
- Another Story Bookshop
- Victoria College, University of Toronto
- Consulate General of Romania in Toronto
- Poems in the Garden
- Theatre Direct
- Caversham Booksellers

*****Cities visited through Poets in the Schools:**

- Toronto
- Maple
- Ottawa
- Kemble
- Owen Sound
- Hamiton
- Chatsworth
- Brantford
- Durham
- Brampton
- Unionville
- Brant
- Richmond Hill
- Peterborough



poets.ca

League of Canadian Poets