

City of St. John's Poet Laureate 2014-2017

Terms of Reference

Overview:

The Poet Laureate is an honour bestowed by the City as a way of acknowledging and celebrating poets, poetry and their value and contribution to civic life. Through the Poet Laureate the City recognizes poetry, and all art, as a fundamental and necessary component of society. The City of St. John's Poet Laureate will act as an ambassador for poetry and by doing so will integrate poetry into a range of official and unofficial civic events.

Term:

The Poet Laureate will serve for up to four years and their term will coincide with the term of Council.

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The duties of the Poet Laureate will be kept deliberately modest in order to leave incumbents free to concentrate on their own projects. The Poet Laureate will be responsible to shape the position according to priorities agreed upon in consultation with the City of St. John's. Their duties will not be limited to, nor necessarily include, all of the following:

- contribute high quality, imaginative, and insightful work to appropriate public functions by reading or reciting their own or others' work;
- invite other poets to read their work at public functions;
- represent the city at various arts and literary events;
- speak at specific civic events at the request of Council;
- attend public literacy, literary, or poetry events;
- raise the profile of the City's poetry community both locally and farther afield;
- provide advice to the Arts Advisory Committee on issues pertaining to poetry and the status of poets;
- recommend to the Arts Advisory Committee a legacy project before the end of their term if appropriate;
- write a limited number of poems within the widest possible scope about the City's history, culture, landscape, and life;
- periodically attend meetings of Council to present readings, including the annual proclamation of UNESCO World Poetry Day (March 21) and/or National Poetry Month (April);
- bring to the attention of Council in Chambers provincial, national, and international awards that have been bestowed on St. John's poets and other members of the writers' community, as approved by the Arts Advisory Committee.

The City offers an honorarium of \$5,000.00 annually and office/administrative support, (i.e. a mailing address and support for routine office tasks such as correspondence, booking meeting rooms etc.). The City will promote the Poet Laureate's work through its regular communication channels.

ST. JOHN'S