



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Karen Rennie, Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Meeting Date: September 16, 2021

Subject: Report ACHAC21-025
Poet Laureate Update

Purpose

A report to advise the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee on an update from the Electric City Culture Council (EC3) with regard to the Poet Laureate pilot program for 2021.

Recommendation

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee endorse the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC21-025, dated September 16, 2021 of the Manager of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, as follows:

That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee (ACHAC), endorse the candidate chosen by the Selection Committee as Poet Laureate for the pilot year of the Program in 2021/2022.

Budget and Financial Implications

The honourarium is preapproved within the City budget.

Background

The goals of the program include:

- The Peterborough Poet Laureate Pilot Program supports outstanding professional literary artists in the creation and presentation of new work that speaks to our lives in this place called Peterborough/Nogojiwanong.
- The Poet Laureate acts as an advocate for poetry and spoken word art, as an ambassador for the arts in general, and for the literary arts and literacy in particular, and for the City of Peterborough and its residents.
- The Poet Laureate contributes to civic identity and place-making by exploring and reflecting the histories, interests, issues, and perspectives of the varied and multiple communities and individual residents of the municipality.
- Poets Laureate create markers of our history, reflect on our contemporary experience, and explore our future.

The Electric City Culture Council designed, developed, delivered and promoted the program and held two virtual application workshops, with the support of the ACHAC Poet Laureate subcommittee. EC3 received and processed seven eligible applications and an arm's – length, peer Selection Committee selected a candidate for the pilot year of the Poet Laureate program. This was a two-step process, the Committee met once by Zoom to assess the applications and determine a three-person short list of finalists, and again, to interview the finalists and select a winner. An official announcement of the Poet Laureate, the finalists, and the Selection Committee members will be made later in September. The Poet Laureate will receive an honourarium of \$2,000 provided by the City and an additional \$500.00 provided by an anonymous donor.

Submitted by,

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Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

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