



## Carla Funk Named as Victoria's First Poet Laureate

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Capital Region resident, Carla Funk, will serve as the City of Victoria's first poet laureate.

Funk will take on the role of literary and cultural ambassador for a 2.5 year term starting June 30<sup>th</sup>. The main goal of the poet laureate is to raise awareness of literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on the community. The poet laureate will produce three new poems each year and recite poems at seven City events annually; including the Mayor's Annual Address, the Butler Book Prize Gala and at least one City Council meeting.

"I hope to promote poetry as an inviting, accessible and important form of art that makes the everyday a little more extraordinary," noted Funk at this morning's Committee of the Whole meeting. "I want to inspire a love for Victoria's wonderful poets and writers, for the arts, for the community and of course, for poetry."

Appointed as poet laureate by Council at Thursday's Committee of the Whole meeting, Funk recited a poem she had written about her mother titled "Sewing Room."

Born and raised in the village of Vanderhoof, British Columbia, Funk grew up in a rural community with commonplace logging trucks, Mennonites, and storytellers. She turned to poetry as a way of recording the images of her upbringing. Since studying writing and English literature at the University of Victoria, her work has been featured in the anthologies *Breathing Fire: Canada's Young Poets* (Harbour, 1995), *Hammer & Tongs* (Smoking Lung, 1999), *Introductions: Poets Present Poets* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2001), in various literary journals, and as part of the *Poetry in Transit* series.

Funk's first collection of poems, *Blessing the Bones into Light* was released in 1999 as was followed by *Head Full of Sun* in 2002. Another poetry collection is due to be published by Turnstone Press in 2006, and her work is forthcoming in *Half in the Sun*, an anthology of West Coast Mennonite writing.

Carla Funk lives in View Royal with her husband and daughter, and teaches in the University of Victoria's Department of Writing.

The poet laureate position was created in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library. Funk was appointed to the position by unanimous decision.

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### For More Information:

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