



## National Poetry Month Events in Victoria to Focus on the Environment

Date: Friday, March 23, 2018

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Protecting the environment is the focus of National Poetry Month events in Victoria this April, hosted by the City of Victoria. All events are free. Registration is not required.

### **#YYJPoetry Book Spine Poems National Poetry Month**

Victoria Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer and Youth Poet Laureate Agartu Ali invite you to get creative and reacquainted with your book collections during April. Create an environmentally-themed 'Book Spine Poem' by stacking three book spines, and share a photo of your poem by tweeting @CityofVictoria with the hashtag #yyjpoetry. Family-appropriate book spine poems will be retweeted and posted online at [victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

### **Poets Laureate Night**

**Friday, April 6, 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., Victoria City Hall**

Join us for *Poets Laureate Night*, an evening of poetry readings by Vancouver Island Poets Laureate. Victoria Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer will be accompanied by former Parliamentary Poet Laureate George Elliott Clarke, the City's new Youth Poet Laureate Agartu Ali, City of Nanaimo Poet Laureate Tina Biello, and Comox Valley Poet Laureate Natalie Nickerson. Complimentary refreshments will be served. The event is a partnership between the City of Victoria and Planet Earth Poetry, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts.

### **Visions: Poetic Inspirations Panel, Starfields Festival**

**Saturday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. – Noon, Metro Theatre, 1411 Quadra Street**

During the Starfields Festival's three-day cultural extravaganza, participate in *Visions: Poetic Inspirations*, a free panel discussion featuring Victoria Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer who will read poems with the theme of "visions" with Barbara Pelman, Dan MacIsaac, Philip Kevin Paul and musician Cara Luft.

### **Poems for the Planet**

**Sunday, April 22, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m., Centennial Square**

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with free poetry readings from Yvonne Blomer and guest poets who will express their climate change concerns and passion through poetry for Southern Vancouver Island and the Pacific Ocean. Featured poets will include Marilyn Bowering, Stephen Collis, Marlene Grand Maitre, Heidi Greco, Anne Hopkinson, Tim Lilburn, Garth Martens, Wendy Morton, Kyeren Regher, Chris Smart and Christine Walde. Dancers Nikko Snow and Dyana Sonik-Henderson will perform in response to Bruce Cockburn's "False River," a poem commissioned by Yvonne Blomer.

## **Annual Mayors' Poetry Challenge**

**Thursdays, April 12 and 26 at 6:30 p.m., Victoria City Hall**

The City of Victoria will once again participate in the *Annual Mayors' Poetry Challenge*, which invites municipalities across Canada to bring poetry into politics. City Council meetings in April will feature original poems read by Victoria Poet Laureate Yvonne Blomer, Youth Poet Laureate Agartu Ali and special guests John Barton, a poet and past editor of *The Malahat Review*, and local youth slam poet Neko Smart.

Established in Canada in April 1999 by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month celebrates poetry and its vital place in Canada's culture. Learn more at [victoria.ca/poetlaureate](http://victoria.ca/poetlaureate).

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### **For More Information:**

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