



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Poet Laureate Lauren Seal invites St. Albertans to create a community poem for National Poetry Month

ST. ALBERT – In celebration of National Poetry Month, St. Albert Poet Laureate Lauren Seal is inviting St. Albertans to contribute to the creation of a community poem focusing on joy. Mayor Cathy Heron formally proclaimed April as National Poetry Month at today's City Council meeting, followed by Seal performing an original poem and announcing the Community Poem project.

From April 4 to 30, St. Albert residents are invited to submit their answers to the question, "How do you create joy in your community?" The League of Canadian Poets has revealed that the theme of the national 2023 Poetry Month celebrations is "joy," and Seal has taken that theme as the inspiration for the Community Poem project. St. Albertans' responses will be collected through an online form at sapl.ca/poetlaureate.

"The aim of the Community Poem project is to engage the poetic hearts and minds of St. Albertans through the answering of a simple prompt – how do you create joy in your community?" Seal says. "During my term as Poet Laureate, my goal has been to make poetry as fun and accessible as possible, and what is more fun and accessible than a poem for the community written by the community?"

Through May, Seal will work through the responses, sorting them thematically and editing them to create an original poem written by the people of St. Albert. The final poem will be shared in a variety of ways, from upcoming performances at community events to a special video.

"As we celebrate National Poetry Month, I'm thrilled to have our Poet Laureate prepare a community poem that will showcase the creativity, spirit and heart of our city," says Mayor

Cathy Heron. “We all have the ability to find joy in the little things, spark joy with our friends, family and neighbours, and inspire others to do the same. St. Albertans are creative, caring and up for an artistic challenge and I can’t wait to hear the finished product!”

The Poet Laureate program is an ongoing partnership between St. Albert Public Library and The City of St. Albert. Each Poet Laureate fulfills a two-year term, with the mandate to act as a cultural and literary ambassador, and as a champion for poetry, language and the arts.

For more information and to participate in the Community Poem project, visit sapl.ca/poetlaureate.

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