



## Youth Poet Laureate

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The Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) is the City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body. TYC was established in 1998 by Toronto City Council with the mandate of advocating on behalf of Toronto's over 623,000 youth.

The Toronto Youth Cabinet has proposed the creation of an inaugural Youth Poet Laureate for the City of Toronto. In 2013, the City of Victoria, through the Victoria Youth Council, became the first municipality in Canada to create the position of Youth Poet Laureate. Many other Cities across Canada from Mississauga, Windsor, Edmonton, Halifax and many others have since created such a position to honour a youth poet who writes excellent poetry or spoken word and has written on themes that are relevant to their residents.

### Description of Youth Poet Laureate:

The honorary Youth Poet Laureate position will serve to recognize a youth poet (16 to 27 years), who writes excellent poetry or spoken word and has written on themes that are relevant to residents in the City of Toronto.

The role of the Youth Poet Laureate is to serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the City of Toronto. They will act as an advocate and elevate the status of poetry, language, arts and young writers by inspiring and engaging youth to share their stories through written and spoken word.

The Youth Poet Laureate will enjoy a collaborative relationship with the Toronto Youth Cabinet, City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body as well as be invited to attend municipal events to share works and increase engagement of youth with the arts. The Youth Poet Laureate's mandate also includes the creation of a legacy project to engage Toronto youth.

### Duties

1. To serve as an advocate & ambassador for youth, poetry, literary arts & elevate the voices of young writers;
2. Create artistic work that reflects the values and identity of Toronto's young people;
3. Working with the Toronto Youth Cabinet and City staff, develop a legacy project to engage Toronto youth;
4. Perform poetry readings in person during at least one City Council meeting, at least one Toronto Youth Cabinet event and at least one official City of Toronto function;
5. Attend a variety of civic events across the City to promote and attract young people to the literary world;
6. Collaborate with Toronto Public Library to support and enhance their youth literary arts programs;
7. Participate in the literary life of the City to raise the visibility of youth, literacy, poetry and spoken word: and
8. Be willing to be mentored by the Poet Laureate during their shared term length.

### Term

The Youth Poet Laureate will serve a term of 2 years ending in December 2026.



## **Selection Committee**

1. Current City of Toronto Poet Laureate
2. Representatives from the Toronto Youth Cabinet

The selected candidate will be recommended to City Council for final approval.

## **Selection Criteria**

Candidates Must:

1. Be 16 to 27 years old at the time of the application launch
2. Be a current City of Toronto resident
3. Be nominated, OR self-nominate to serve in the role
4. Be willing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the position as outlined

## **Remuneration**

The Youth Poet Laureate will receive a \$5,000 honorarium per annum paid in 2 installments per year throughout the term. Additional project funding is available to support the execution of a Youth Poet Laureate event or project.

## **Administrative Support**

Administrative support includes a mailing address and support for routine office tasks and correspondence. It does not include secretarial assistance for preparing drafts or manuscripts for publication.

## **Intellectual Property**

All writing, notes and original materials produced during the tenure of the Youth Poet Laureate remain the property of the individual, who shall retain all right thereto.

## **Publicity and Promotion**

The Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC) and City of Toronto undertakes to use its communication resources to promote the post of Youth Poet Laureate, TYC as well as City web pages and social media channels will be leveraged.

## **Contact**

For more information, email Stephen Mensah, Executive Director, Toronto Youth Cabinet [stephen@thetyc.ca](mailto:stephen@thetyc.ca)