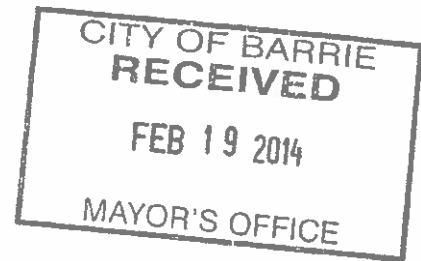


January 31, 2014



**Dear Mayor,**

**RE: Mayor's Poetry City Challenge: A Celebration of Poetry, Writing and Publishing**

Your community, like Regina, is known for its support of culture and the arts. In 2013, I issued the Mayor's Poetry City Challenge to many of my fellow Mayors across Canada. The challenge is for communities to have a local poet read a poem at the start of their Council meeting in March or April. Over thirty large and small communities from Victoria to St. John's took part, with a combined population of over ten million. I hope even more communities will join us in the third year of this growing event.

As Mayor of Regina, I invite you to participate in the 2014 Mayor's Poetry City Challenge. The purpose is to recognize UNESCO's World Poetry Day on March 21 and National Poetry Month, which is celebrated in both Canada and the United States, in April. In addition to the reading, some mayors and councils will also declare March 21 as World Poetry Day, and April as National Poetry Month. I hope you will consider this as well.

This initiative is a celebration of poetry, writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and all writers to the identity and quality of life of our communities. It also celebrates libraries and the work of so many of municipal leaders to promote literacy, reading, the Arts, and culture. The Mayor's Challenge is a partnership between the City of Regina, the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG), and the League of Canadian Poets (LCP). Please confirm your intent to participate by completing the attached contact information page to assist the Guild and the League of in the management of the project, and to have your community recognized.

Guidelines and a factsheet are attached. The administration has been kept to a minimum. Participating "Poetry City" communities will be promoted in the national and local media as part of National Poetry Month, and writing networks in Canada and the United States.

Other cities are certainly welcome to join, but yours is one of those identified as a strong supporter of culture in your region. If you have participated before, I would like to thank you for your support and leadership. If this is a new undertaking, we are excited to have your community added to this positive initiative that touches all parts of Canada, and especially residents and artists at the local level.

I wish you, your Council, and your residents the very best in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Michael Fougere  
Mayor