

City Names Writer-at-Work

The City of Edmonton and the [Writers' Guild of Alberta](#) have teamed up to launch the city's first Writer-at-Work project. Shirley Serviss has been selected for the six-month pilot project beginning January 1, 2014.

Serviss will write for the City's [Transforming Edmonton](#) blog. The stories will focus on City employees and the work they do to deliver civic services to Edmontonians. Serviss will also provide writing workshops and one-on-one sessions for City staff.



"I'm excited about the opportunity to learn more about the City and the people who might not make the headlines," said Serviss. "I always enjoy mentoring those who want to express themselves through writing."

Serviss is a founding member of the Writers' Guild of Alberta and Edmonton Poetry Festival. Her poetry, essays and articles have appeared in numerous anthologies, magazines and textbooks.

She currently teaches in Communications for MacEwan University, works part-time as the staff literary artist for the Friends of University Hospitals' Artists on the Walls program and is president of Artists Urban Village.

Although she's originally from Saskatchewan, Serviss has lived in Edmonton since 1978 and considers it her "true home". "I'm passionate about this city and its great arts community," she said. "Edmonton is a place where you can start things and make things happen."

The Writers' Guild partnered with the City on the pilot as a way of encouraging writing in the workplace. The Guild may expand the program once the City of Edmonton pilot has ended and been evaluated.

Serviss's first post will appear on [Transforming Edmonton](#) in January. City of Edmonton employees contribute to the blog.

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