

Edmonton announces first youth Poet Laureate

Charlotte Cranston has been named as the City of Edmonton's first youth Poet Laureate.

Cranston, 21, is a student at the University of Alberta. Cranston is a two-time member of the Edmonton Poetry Slam team, representing the region nationally at the 2015 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word.

"As Edmonton's first youth Poet Laureate, I hope to create a safe space for the city's youth to learn, share and celebrate their art," says Cranston. "The opportunity to work with Edmonton's young poets is an honour and I can't wait to begin the journey."

Cranston says her writing comes from her passion for social issues, which will be reflected in the work she does during her term as youth poet laureate. She hopes other emerging artists will be inspired to share their stories, connect, and advocate for local young artists to help build a city-wide youth arts culture.

Edmonton is the second Canadian city to name a youth Poet Laureate.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council and Mary Pinkoski, Edmonton's current Poet Laureate, worked together to create the youth Poet Laureate position. Pinkoski will mentor Cranston and support her in participating in performances and workshops.

Cranston was chosen from more than 20 applicants for Edmonton's inaugural position. Her one-year term began on June 1, 2015.

For more information:

Visit [City of Edmonton Youth Council](#)

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