



For Immediate Release
March 6th 2016

**Horizons /Eskonahkwahk / Poésie à L'Horizon
April 16 to April 23 2017**

The 2017 Edmonton Poetry Festival launches their website & announces their lineup!

With 50+ poets and over 40 diverse events, including two opening days of Bring Your Own Venue events, and a twelve-hour final day of open mic readings by local poets, it's our biggest festival yet.

This year PoFest celebrates the gift of poetry by searching out where we come from and where we're going. We showcase events that ask us to seek work by poets writing with a different view to the horizon, by poets pushing the boundaries of the form, and by those challenging the status quo. In 2016, we were called to witness--In 2017 we are called to respond.

We return with festival favorites, **Wine and Wild Women Wordsmiths** (fierce female poets and the wine that matches their poetry!), **The Slam Finals** (with Breath in Poetry Collective), and our **Saturday Night Poetry Party**, (this year a tribute to Leonard Cohen).

And we offer up a slate of new additions like **Late Night Literati** (strong words for the late-night crowd), **Eskonahkwahk** (a celebration of indigenous artists), **Clouds on the Horizon** (Queer poets are called to witness), and **Lunch with the Griffins** (a VIP luncheon with past and present Griffin Poetry Prize winners).

Our headliners join us from across the country, for eight days of language that delights, challenges, and educates.

- **Liz Howard** – Her debut collection won the 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize – A first in Griffin history. She's currently working in neurocognitive research
- **Lillian Allen** – Internationally renowned legend of Dub Poetry, Juno Award winning artist, community activist, teacher.
- **Gregory Scofield** – Gregory's work has been called urgent and emotional and is inspired by calls to reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
- **Jane Munro** – Winner of the 2015 Griffin Poetry Prize and author of six books of poetry. She holds a doctorate in adult education.
- **Rebecca Thomas** – A M'ikmaw Woman and Halifax Poet Laureate, Rebecca Thomas delivers melodic, witty and damning truths.
- **Ben Ladouceur** – Ben Ladouceur's first collection of poems, *Otter* (Coach House Books) was awarded the 2016 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for best debut poetry collection in Canada.
- **Richard Harrison** – Richard Harrison is a multiple award winning poet, essayist and Editor.
- **Pierrette Requier** – Poet Laureate of Edmonton, bilingual poet, playwright, performer, producer, mentor and arts activist.
- **Nasra Adem** - #YEG Youth Poet Laureate, Kick Ass Activist, Black Arts Matters curator.

More than half of our events are free. Tickets are available at the door or online at Tix on The Square. For the full schedule of events and ticket prices go to <http://www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com/schedule/>

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