

COVID-19

Toronto is in Step Three of the Province's Roadmap to Reopen. Get health updates and information about COVID-19 vaccines at [toronto.ca/covid19](https://www.toronto.ca/covid19) (<https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19>).

Poet Laureate



Al Moritz (A.F. Moritz) is Toronto's sixth Poet Laureate.

March 11 marks the one year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a global pandemic. Poet Laureate, Al Moritz shares a new poem (<https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/awards-tributes/tributes/covid-19-commemoration/?accordion=poet-laureate-poem-exactly-here-the-marvel-spoke>).

An advocate for poetry, language and the arts, Toronto's Poet Laureate attends events across the city to promote and attract people to the literary world. The position, which was inaugurated in 2001, honours a Toronto poet whose work displays excellence and who has written on themes relevant to Torontonians. The Poet Laureate's mandate also includes the creation of a legacy project that will be unique to the individual.

Al Moritz, Toronto's Sixth Poet Laureate

Al Moritz (A.F. Moritz) is Toronto's sixth Poet Laureate. Described as a "master of metaphor," Al Moritz has published 20 books of poetry and was the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize winner for *The Sentinel*. His book *The New Measures* received the League of Canadian Poets' 2013 Raymond Souster Award and was a finalist for the Governor General's Award. His most recent work is the 2018 retrospective collection *The Sparrow*. He lives in Toronto and is the Blake C. Goldring Professor of the Arts and Society at Victoria College, University of Toronto.

He will hold the position for three years and will receive an annual honorarium of \$10,000 to serve as Toronto's champion for local literary arts and wordsmiths. Moritz was nominated by a selection committee in consultation with the literary community. More information about Moritz and his works can be accessed on his [website](https://www.afmoritz.com/) (https://www.afmoritz.com/).

Expand All

Collapse All

Toronto's Fifth Poet Laureate, Anne Michaels 2016-2019

Toronto's Fourth Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke 2012-2015

Toronto's Third Poet Laureate, Dionne Brand 2009 - 2012

Toronto's Second Poet Laureate, Pier Giorgio Di Cicco, 2004 - 2009

Toronto's First Poet Laureate, Dennis Lee, 2001-2004

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Related Information

[Griffin Poetry Prize](http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/)  (<http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/>)

[International Festival of Authors](http://ifoa.org/)  (<http://ifoa.org/>)

[League of Canadian Poets](http://poets.ca/)  (<http://poets.ca/>)

[Parliamentary Poet Laureate](https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Poet/index-e.html)  (<https://lop.parl.ca/About/Parliament/Poet/index-e.html>)