Office of the Commissioner of Yukon

Call for Applications – Story Laureate of Yukon

As a champion of literacy and the written and spoken arts, the Commissioner of Yukon is a patron of the Story Laureate of Yukon. The laureate serves as an ambassador for the literary arts, oral history and literacy in the context of Yukon's past, present and future. As an ambassador, the laureate participates in the life of the Territory and is invited to attend Yukon events to publicly share works. The laureate creates work and focuses on cultural, historical, and heritage themes that are relevant to the people who live in Yukon.

Roles and responsibilities of the Story Laureate of Yukon:

- to serve as an ambassador for Yukon literary arts, oral history, and literacy;
- Produce 4 original works for specific occasions or with specific themes as identified by the Commissioner each year;
- create written or oral artistic work that reflects Yukon places, sites, identity, and/or the life of the territory;
- appear and present original works at 2 public events as supported or identified by the Office of the Commissioner; and
- appear and present original works at 2 official events organized by the Office of the Commissioner.

The Commissioner of Yukon provides the Story Laureate of Yukon with:

- the laureate title to champion Yukon literacy and the written and spoken word with their word-art;
- a stipend of $5000 per year for a two-year term; and
- annual travel* expenses of up to $3000 to Yukon communities to support public presentations as identified by the Commissioner and, towards travel expenses to attend one national literary festival per year.

Eligible applicants must be at least 19 years old, proficient in English, and have lived in Yukon for 2 continuous years prior to applying. The Story Laureate of Yukon will retain the copyright to all written works created during and deriving from this position. The Commissioner reserves the right of first refusal to exclusively license, publish, and promote said works for the sole purpose of championing literacy, literary arts, or spoken word arts within the auspices of the Commissioner's Office.

The successful candidate will sign an agreement outlining the rights and responsibilities while holding this title. The successful applicant will not be able to re-apply for the position for 6 years after the end of their term.

*Subject to recommendations of the federal and Yukon Chief Medical Officer during COVID-19

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Application Process

To apply:

Complete the application form and submit together with all accompanying materials by August 15, 2020, 4:30pm, PDST.

Candidates may apply in either English or French. (The successful candidate may produce works relating to the subject of culture and language but the predominant presentation language shall be English.)

The application should include:

a. Cover Letter, addressed to the Selection Committee
b. Completed and signed application form.
c. The two short essay answers. (*See application form.*)
d. A résumé, curriculum vitae, or biography which details just your literary or spoken word experience. Include as much detail as possible.
e. Two letters of reference which speak to your relevant experience or public literary/spoken works.
f. Examples of your published or performed writing (from the past). (Maximum: 5 books, 5 articles or short stories; 10 minutes of recordings).
g. A 5 to 10-minute recent video which shows a sample of you reading or performing your work.

See Page 3 – How to Prepare Materials

Assessment:

An independent panel will assess applications. The Commissioner of Yukon will not be part of the selection process. The panel will shortlist applicants and request an interview in person or by video conference.

Applications will be assessed on:

- Experience or body of work in literary arts or spoken word/storytelling;
- Presence/Presentation/Performance;
- Written Application;
- Interview; and,
- References.

How to prepare materials:

- Use 12pt font.
- Begin each item (a to e from page 2) on a new page but all in one document.
- Ensure that every page has your name and a page number in the bottom right.
- Omit an index, title page or separator pages.
- If hyperlinks are in the text, show the whole link text. Do not use hyperlinks or embed links in text like "my **resume**."
- If producing PDF documents, ensure they are not encrypted.
- Past Work:
    - Books: Do not submit entire books. Provide images of the front and back of the cover and all Front Matter in the book including title page, copyright and publisher information, index, and acknowledgements.
    - Do not submit hard copies of published materials. Submit up to 25 pages from any previously published works including books, articles, short stories, poems.
    - Recordings: Can be performances, orations, speeches, stories, interviews about your word craft, etc. Acceptable media file formats:
      Audio: MP3, WAV, AIFF; Video: MOV, MP4, WMV

  For all Past Work, include a summary page which lists the materials, places, dates, lengths, and context of why you are supplying these pieces.

Decide to submit by mail or electronically by email. Do not send the same materials by both methods. Do not send parts of the application with the two methods.

Mail:

- Print all documents. Arrange in order (a to e from page 2), affix with a paperclip. Do not staple or affix in any other way.
- Supply media on a USB flash drive. Use your last name in the filename of all media files.
- Label the physical USB drive with your last name.
- Send an email indicating that you have mailed the application. In this email, also list all hyperlinks which appear in the application, with the page # on which they appear.

Email:

- Produce 1 text document which includes items a to e, in order, from page 2, *above*.
- The filename must contain your last name.
- *Attach* this file to the submission email. Send it in.
- Upon the on time receipt of this portion of your application, you will be provided with instructions about how to electronically submit portfolio materials (items f and g). This confirmation and subsequent transfer of files will occur shortly after the intake deadline. The complete text submission must come by the deadline.

Send complete applications to:

1. By email: nominations@gov.yk.ca, with the subject line
   Story Laureate of Yukon – yourfirstname_lastname
   Emailed applications must be received by our server, by August 15, 2020, 4:30pm, PDST.

2. By mail: Story Laureate of Yukon
   Office of the Commissioner of Yukon
   412 Main St
   Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2B7

Mailed applications must be postmarked by August 15, 2020, 4:30pm PDST.

Late applications will not be considered.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Laureate position or process, contact
Kerri Scholz
Private Secretary to the Commissioner of Yukon
867 667-5121
Kerri.Scholz@gov.yk.ca

Office of the Commissioner of Yukon
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Application Form

Please PRINT clearly.

Full Name:

_____

Physical Address:

_____

Mail Address:

_____

Email:

_____

Phone: _____ Years lived in Yukon: _____

On separate pages, provide short essays to the following two questions.

1) Please describe why you would like to be the Story Laureate of Yukon. (500 words max).

2) What do you think is the role of language arts in society? (500 words max).

Declaration of applicant:
I am a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada and I have lived in the Yukon for at least two continuous years as of the date below. I am submitting this application for the purpose of applying to be considered for the position of Story Laureate of Yukon. The statements herein and in all further submissions in regard to this application are, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I understand that all or part of this application may be made available to the public in accordance with the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I declare that I owe no debts to the Government of Yukon.

_____

Applicant's Signature Date