

Office of the Commissioner of Yukon

Call for applications – Story Laureate of Yukon

As a champion of literacy, musical 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, musical 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.

Term

The upcoming term will run for 3 years, from January 1, 2027, to December 31, 2029.

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 the life of the territory.
- Appear and present original works at 2 public events as supported or identified by the Office of the Commissioner.
- Appear and present original works at 2 official events organized by the Office of the Commissioner.
- The Story Laureate of Yukon may work in either English, French or Indigenous languages but the predominant presentation language shall be English.

Note: The Story Laureate is not restricted from receiving compensation from other parties for work provided while in the role of Yukon's Story Laureate.

What the Commissioner of Yukon provides

- The Story Laureate of Yukon title to champion Yukon literacy and the written and spoken word with their own word-art.
- A stipend of \$5,000 per year for a 3-year term.
- Annual expenses of up to \$3,000 for travel to Yukon communities to support public presentations as identified by the Commissioner and towards travel expenses to attend 1 national festival/conference per year.

Eligibility, copyright and requirements

Eligible applicants must be at least 19 years old, proficient in English and have lived in Yukon for 5 continuous years prior to applying.

The Story Laureate of Yukon will retain the copyright to all written works and oral recordings created during and deriving from this position. The Commissioner reserves the right of first refusal to exclusively licence, publish and promote said works for the sole purpose of championing literacy, literary arts, musical 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. You are only eligible to be Story Laureate one term.

The Story Laureate will be able to participate in/be a member of National bodies for educational networking and performance opportunities.

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Call for applications – Story Laureate of Yukon application process

To apply Complete the application form at the end of this document and submit it together with all accompanying materials by October 2, 2026, 4:30 pm, 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.)

Your application should include:

- a.** A cover letter addressed to the Selection Committee.
- b.** A completed and signed application form.
- c.** The 2 short essay/poem/lyric answers (See the application form.)
- d.** A résumé, curriculum vitae or biography that details only your relevant experience. Include as much detail as possible.
- e.** 2 letters of reference that speak to your relevant experience.
- f.** Examples of writing or oral work that you've published or performed in the past. (Submit a maximum of 5 books, 5 poems, 5 songs, 5 articles, 5 short stories or a combination totalling 5 items or 10 minutes of recordings.)
- g.** A 5- to 10-minute recent video that shows a sample of you reading or performing your work.

How your application is assessed

An independent panel will assess the 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.

The panel will assess applicants on their:

- experience or body of work;
- presence, presentation and performance;
- written application;
- interview; and
- references.

How to prepare your materials

- ☐ Use a 12 point font.
- ☐ Begin each item (using the a to e list on page 3) on a new page but contain all the items in 1 document.
- ☐ Ensure that every page has your name and a page number in the bottom right.
- ☐ Do not include an index, title page or separator pages.
- ☐ If you include hyperlinks, write the whole link text. Do not use link shorteners or embed links in text like “my resume.”
- ☐ If you submit PDF documents, ensure they are not encrypted.

☐ Past work:

- o Books: Do not submit entire books. Provide images of the front and back cover and all front matter in the book including title page, copyright and publisher information, index and acknowledgements.
- o Do not submit hard copies of published materials. Submit up to 25 pages from any previously published works including books, articles, short stories or poems.
- o Recordings: You can include recordings such as your performances, orations, speeches, stories and interviews about your word craft. Acceptable media file formats are:

☐ Audio – MP3, WAV, AIFF

☐ Video – MOV, MP4, WMV

For all past work, include a summary page that lists the materials, places, dates, lengths and the context of why you’re supplying these pieces.

How to submit your materials

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

If you submit by mail:

- ☐ Print all your documents. Arrange them in order (following the a to e format from page 3) and fix them together with a paperclip. Do not staple or affix them in any other way.
- ☐ Supply media on a USB flash drive. Use your family name in the filename of all media files.
- ☐ Label the physical USB drive with your family name.
- ☐ Mail the printed documents as well as the USB drive to the address below.

❓ Send an email to **nominations@yukon.ca** to say you've mailed the application. In this email, also list all the hyperlinks that are in your application, with the page number on which they appear.

If you submit by email:

- Produce 1 text document which includes the items from a to e, in order, from page 3. (We'll ask you to send items f and g separately after you've emailed us your a to e items.)
- The filename must contain your family name.
- *Attach* this single file to your submission email and send it.
- When we receive your email we'll provide you instructions about how to electronically submit your portfolio materials (items f and g). This confirmation and subsequent transfer of files will occur shortly after the intake deadline. You must, though, email us your text document containing a to e by the deadline.

Where to send your completed application

1. By email: nominations@yukon.ca, with the subject line *Story Laureate of Yukon – yourgivenname_familyname*

Emailed applications must be received by our server by October 2, 2026, 4:30 pm, PDST.

2. **By mail:** Story Laureate of Yukon

Office of the Commissioner of Yukon 412 Main Street Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2B7

Mailed applications must be postmarked by October 2, 2026, 4:30 pm PDST.

We will not consider late applications.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the Story Laureate of Yukon position or process, please contact the Office of the Commissioner of Yukon:

867-667-5121

commissionersoffice@yukon.ca

Office of the Commissioner of Yukon

Call for applications – Story Laureate of Yukon

Application form

Please PRINT clearly.

Full name:

Physical address:

Mail address:

Email:

Phone: Years lived in Yukon:

On separate pages, provide short essays in response to the following 2 questions.

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

2) What do you think is the role of language arts/ story telling/music in society? (500 words maximum.)

Declaration of applicant:

I am a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada and I have lived in Yukon for at least 5 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