

POETRY
inVOICE

lesVOIXde
laPOÉSIE

2021 Annual Report



visit
poetryinvoice.ca
lesvoixdelapoesie.ca

POETRY
inVOICE

lesVOIXde
laPOÉSIE



POETRY
inVOICE

lesVOIXde
laPOÉSIE

2021 Annual Report

Students at Prince of Wales Secondary School in Vancouver, British Columbia, react to poet Benjamin Hertwig.

“Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful.”

— RITA DOVE, AMERICAN POET & ESSAYIST

Poetry In Voice / Les voix de la poésie

Youth, our communities, and our society need poetry, now more than ever. Poetry has the power to inspire, unite, and provoke.

Yet in classrooms across Canada, arts education is diminishing. Many teachers tell us they don't feel trained to teach poetry well and that poetry is a tough sell to their students.

Teachers need resources and support to integrate poetry into their classes. Students deserve to experience the ways in which poetry can enrich their lives.

Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie (PIV/LVP) speaks to today's youth by bringing poetry — and poets — into schools in a meaningful and impactful way.



Larissa Dushime (St. Joseph's Catholic High School, Windsor, ON) recites at the 2019 National Finals.

“Poetry is hardly taught in high school. But PIV/LVP makes it so easy to bring it into the classroom.”

— MARIE-ANDRÉE ARSENAULT, MONTRÉAL TEACHER & AUTHOR

“Poetry In Voice is a shining tribute to the creativity of youth, to the power of poetry, to the tremendous visceral experience audiences encounter at spoken word events in both French and English.”

— CHRISTINA BRAID, WRITER & EDUCATOR

Vision

Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie aims to ensure all Canadians speak the language of poetry. We strive to be the essential resource for teaching and learning poetry in Canada — and beyond.

Mission

We provide educators with engaging content and experiences in English and French, to inspire students to read, recite, and write poetry. Our programs and projects are written and delivered by renowned Canadian poets who connect contemporary poetry directly with students.



Actor Alex Ivanovici coaches students at École internationale de Montréal.

“I discovered poetry [with PIV/LVP]. Reading poems used to be boring.”

— MARIANNE VERVILLE, ACTOR & FORMER STUDENT AT CÉGEP DU VIEUX MONTRÉAL, QC

“Students are accosting me in the hallways, at lunch, and after school to ask how to pronounce a certain word, how to accentuate a certain phrase, and [to ask] ‘what other deeper meanings are there besides the six interpretations we have unearthed?’ Poetry lives!”

— ANNE YEO, TEACHER AT RICHMOND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, BC

Values

Youth

The next generation will be more curious, creative, culturally sensitive, and empowered if given the opportunity to read, write, and discuss poetry.

Compassion & Care

We believe that the beauty and power of poetry can inspire and galvanize people, communities, and society. Learning a poet's words by heart builds empathy and connection.

Community

We support arts-based community building and aim to unify students, teachers, and poets across the country through a love of poetry.

Equity

Poets must be respected for the value they bring to society and must be paid well for their work.

Diversity

We are committed to reflecting the rich multiplicity of experiences and perspectives of students across Canada and to amplifying marginalized voices. We create our best work when we braid diverse ideas and opinions together with guidance from our communities.

Bilingualism & Promotion of Indigenous Languages

We believe that Canada's two official languages are fundamental to Canadian identity and we aspire to promote Indigenous languages through our work.



The 2013 National Semifinalists share one last dance in Toronto before returning home.

“While many literary institutions seem to have woken up last week surprised to discover a need to support Black writers, PIV/LVP was already doing that work.”

— STEPHANIE ROBERTS, QUÉBEC POET & AUTHOR

“With [PIV/LVP], we are able to plant seeds and harvest results right away. From the moment the students get a taste of poetry, they don't want to stop.”

— SOPHIE GAMACHE, TEACHER AT COLLÈGE DE LÉVIS, QC

Message from our Founders

In 2000, *The Griffin Poetry Prize* was founded because poetry had slipped from the mainstream of our cultural lives (at least in Canada). Poetry speaks to the soul of a nation and for Canada, it was in danger of becoming merely a fringe activity. It was clear that poetry needed support and a certain profile to regain its proper place in Canada's artistic community. *The Griffin Poetry Prize* set out to raise the profile of Canadian poets within Canada and internationally; hence the establishment of two major poetry prizes.

Eleven years ago, with direction from poets Pierre Nepveu and Damian Rogers, a bilingual student recitation contest known as Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie was initiated to expose students to the beauty of language through poetry. We believed that if students memorized poems, not only would these poems remain with them for life, but they would have a greater appreciation of poetry and form a future readership for poetry. In addition, students reciting poetry in front of judges and an audience without notes and only a microphone on stage would give them confidence in their public speaking skills.

PIV/LVP has grown with the help of donors and grants into a national bilingual program with local, provincial, and national recitation contests, poets' visits to classrooms, journals of students' original poetry, and poetry lesson plans for teachers. We feel confident to say that PIV/LVP has fostered a sizeable next generation of poetry lovers and this future readership continues to grow well beyond expectations.

— Krystyne & Scott Griffin



Krystyne & Scott Griffin congratulate 2018 English Stream Champion Hamish Marissen-Clark.

“PIV/LVP has become
a cultural force in
Canada.”

— MARGARET ATWOOD

Our decade in numbers

1.8 million+

Canadians have visited poetryinvoice.ca and lesvoixdelapoesie.ca

7,717

teachers are active PIV/LVP members

209

Canadian poets have worked with us

989

poems have been published in our anthology

Our poems have been read

25 million+

times

50,000+

students have met a poet in-person in their class

300,000+

students have learned a poem by heart

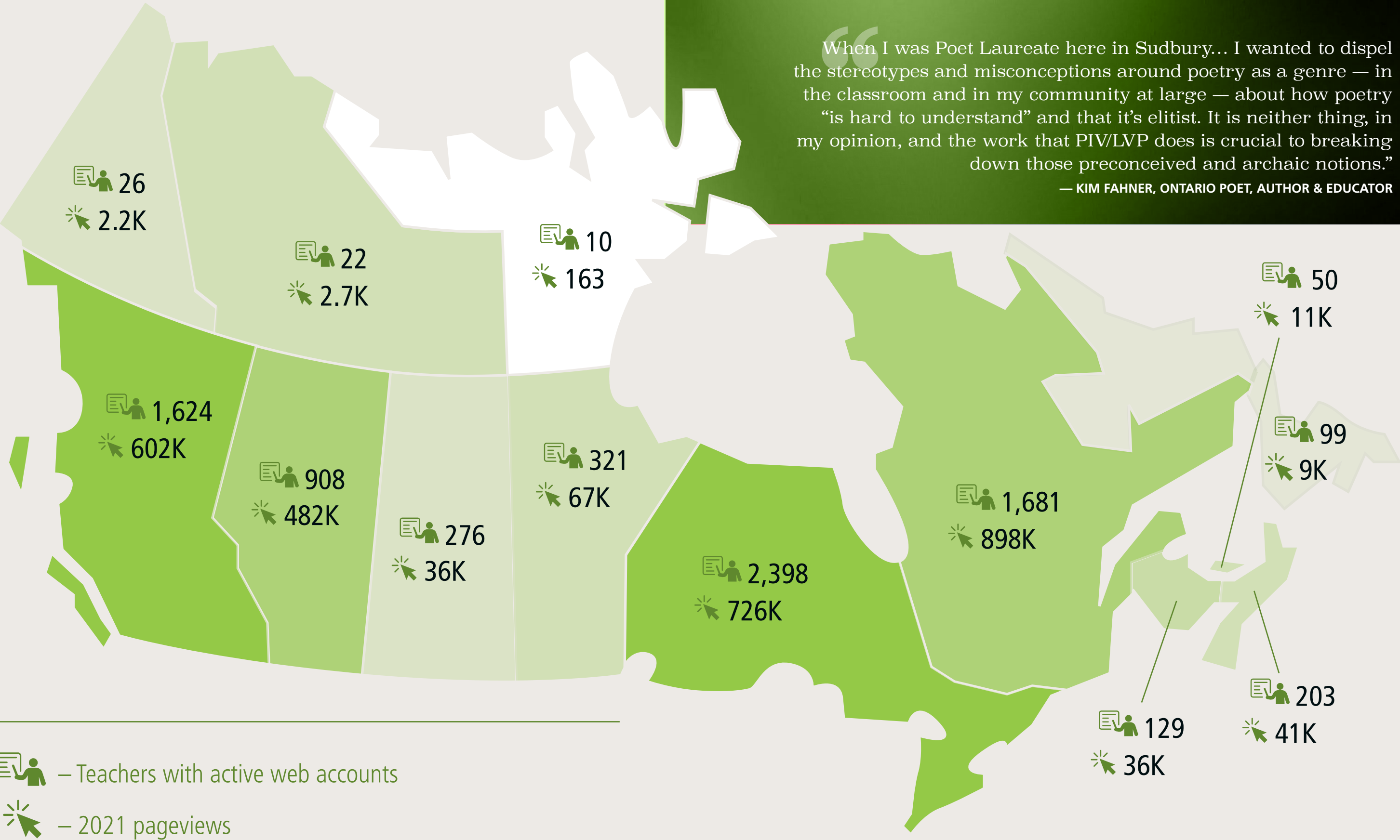


The 2015 National Finalists share the stage in Montreal.

“Many students told me they didn’t know they could have a future in poetry but are [now] confident they can if they want to.”

— KAYLA GEITZLER, POET

Where we work



“ [PIV/LVP] provides a crucial link between poets and schools.”
— JEAN-CHRISTOPHE RÉHEL, QUEBEC POET & NOVELIST

“ When I was Poet Laureate here in Sudbury... I wanted to dispel the stereotypes and misconceptions around poetry as a genre — in the classroom and in my community at large — about how poetry “is hard to understand” and that it’s elitist. It is neither thing, in my opinion, and the work that PIV/LVP does is crucial to breaking down those preconceived and archaic notions.”
— KIM FAHNER, ONTARIO POET, AUTHOR & EDUCATOR

Programs

Read

Our online anthology now includes 875 poems in English and in French. Poems are curated by two annually rotating editorial boards of Canada's top poets.

Recite

We enable thousands of recitation contests at classroom, school, regional, and national levels in three streams: English, French, and Bilingual. We engage poets as judges, and we award over \$35,000 in prizes to students and their school libraries.

Write

We publish an annual student poetry journal, *VOICES/VOIX*, edited by two renowned poets. All submitted poems are inspired by poet classroom visits, poems in our anthology, or poet-authored writing prompts on our website.

Teach

We send poets to hundreds of classrooms across Canada to work directly with students. We offer an assortment of engaging online resources, including poet-authored lesson plans and guided questions. All resources and visits are offered at no cost.

Reach

The cultivation of our social media community has led to millions of visitors to our websites and views of our recitation videos. We earn national media coverage each year for our National Finals, and our strongest student reciters perform at major literary events and festivals across the country. Partnerships with other organizations expand our reach.

POETRY
in VOICE

les VOIX de
la POÉSIE



Margaret Atwood signs autographs after a private Q&A session with our 2013 National Semifinalists and their teachers.

“With their creative use of Internet, the addition of programs to allow poets to visit schools and to allow students to write poetry, a supply of relevant educational tools, the expansion of the contest to include younger grades — the artisans behind this program have shown great dynamism and a true passion for poetry, and have initiated youth to the poetic world.”

— PIERRE NEPVEU, POET, NOVELIST & PROFESSOR EMERITUS
AT UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

Message from our team



Liana Cusmano
COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR



Caroline Fournier
FRENCH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



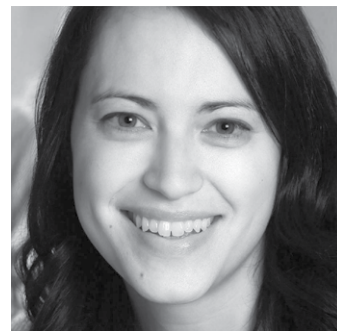
Tessa Griffin
ENGLISH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



June Park
DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER



David J. Smith
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sarah Tsiang
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

“Programs like Poetry In Voice are vital to create space and opportunities for poetry, poets, and poetry lovers to meet. For the last decade, PIV/LVP has facilitated bringing poetry to youth in over 1,000 schools - not only to be read, but to be performed, shared, and embodied by young people.”

— DOUGLAS WALBOURNE-GOUGH, QALIPU MI'KMAQ FIRST NATION POET, CURRENTLY LIVING ON THE UNSURRENDERED AND UNCEDED TRADITIONAL LANDS OF WOLASTOQIYIK (MALISEET)

As we headed into 2021, we were hopeful that newly-approved vaccinations would quickly turn the tide against COVID-19, and that we would be able to gather for live poetry events once more. However, it became clear that National Finals would come too soon to be held in person. Hosting Nationals and Team Regionals online did allow for some exciting programming additions, such as a record number of semifinalists and an inaugural People's Choice Award. Our student reciters were as passionate, committed and impressive as ever.

Classroom visits were, of course, largely virtual, but there was no lack of demand. Whereas virtual visits had been a tough sell in previous years, we can now look forward to placing more poets in rural and northern classrooms. Quebec French poets can virtually appear in classrooms in all corners of Canada, and English poets from anywhere in the country can give workshops in Quebec classrooms. We are thrilled that Canadian Heritage is now helping us with this initiative, funding 100 classroom visits as well as our pilot sister classroom project, which pairs French and English students and teachers across the country.

During the summer, we expanded our board to include more regional and cultural

diversity, as well as professional expertise, with Evan Siddall (AB), Chimwemwe Undi (MB), Anne Michaels (ON), Carol-Ann Hoyte (QC) and Hector Ruiz (QC) joining us as board directors. We also welcomed new team members; 2012 Poetry In Voice finalist Liana Cusmano becomes our Director of Communications, and Caroline Fournier joins us from the Festival de la poésie de Montréal as our French Program Coordinator.

In September, we welcomed our teachers and students back to school with Mixtapes: poet-curated collections of poems that delve more deeply into a theme or affinity. They have been hugely popular and added essential perspectives and poems to our anthology, exploring ethnic and racial identity, communication, and disability, among other themes.

Poetry continues to comfort, challenge and inspire us, especially in times of discord and uncertainty. We are in awe of educators who have persevered in the face of great challenges and risks, and we admire students for their resilience and determination. We hope to speak poetry with you, in person, once again very soon.

Read: The anthology

Our online poetry anthology is the essence of our work and underpins all of our programs. In 2021, poems on poetryinvoice.ca and lesvoixdelapoesie.ca were read 2.6 million times.

Each year, our poet editors select poems in English and in French. Acclaimed poets Lorna Crozier, Dane Swan, Sarah Tsiang and Phoebe Wang comprised our 2021 English editorial board, and Serge Agnessan, Catherine Cormier-Larose, Denise Desautels and Veronique Grenier formed our 2021 French editorial board.

Our mandate is to develop our junior (grades 6-8) and senior (grades 9-12) anthologies by identifying the work of diverse contemporary Canadian and international poets. This year, 105 poems

were added to our anthology, which is our largest total in a given year. These include “Other” by Dorothy Livesay, “Nocturne for a Moving Train” by Valzhyna Mort, “A Hundred and Fifty Pounds” by Michael Prior, and “My sister cries the sea” by Pamela Mordecai. In French, new poems include «L’homme polyphonique» by Alejandro Saravia, «Stucs naturels» by Symon Henry, «Ce qui nous lie» by Diane Régimbald, and «Saint-Denys Garneau - Anne Hébert» by Carole David.

We also launched poetic Mixtapes. Each Mixtape provides a playlist of poems centred on a single subject, idea, or theme, including intersectional feminism, mental health, disability, community, and ethnic and racial identity.



“I do feel teen angst, and knowing that 400 years ago, 600 years ago, people also felt teen angst is wonderful.”

— OLIVIA DZIWAK, GRADUATE STUDENT & FORMER STUDENT
AT CAWTHRA PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL IN MISSISSAUGA, ON

“There is an array of stimulating and relevant contemporary and 20th century poems selected for students to read that goes way beyond the usual high school textbooks to include poems on profoundly relevant themes, such as violence against women, the mistreatment of immigrants, bullying, racism, and more.”

— FIONA TINWEI LAM, VANCOUVER POET & AUTHOR



WE WILL BE ADDING MIXTAPES THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR, SO VISIT US OFTEN, AND FOLLOW US @PIVLVP!

Mixtapes

EXPLORE OUR POETIC PLAYLISTS

COME TOGETHER

Humans are totally amazing,
and also terrible.

MALADIE MENTALE

FÉMINISME INTERSECTIONNEL

MY BODY, MY HOUSE: DISABILITY POETICS

I learned from early on that
my body was not like other bodies.

ISLANDS OF INFLUENCE

Caribbean poetry, remembers.
Caribbean poetry, re-members,
pulls me back together.

OH ! CANADA : UNE COMPILATION SUR LA TRADUCTION

MALADIE MENTALE

Marcher à côté de soi devient un accompagnement
de soi dans les recoins les plus difficiles,
mais aussi souvent vers la guérison.

COME TOGETHER



DE NOUVELLES COMPILATIONS APPARAÎTRONT AU COURS DE L'ANNÉE ! VISITEZ NOTRE SITE ET SUIVEZ-NOUS SUR LES RÉSEAUX SOCIAUX (@PIVLVP) POUR LES DÉCOUVRIR.

Compilations

EXPLOREZ NOS LISTES POÉTIQUES !

OH ! CANADA : UNE COMPILATION SUR LA TRADUCTION

À la découverte d'un Canada diversifié et intime,
tellement près de soi qu'on en oublie la
traversée géographique et langagière.

ISLANDS OF INFLUENCE

FÉMINISME INTERSECTIONNEL

Nous sommes, certes, tous et toutes dans la
même tempête, mais certainement
pas dans le même bateau.

MY BODY, MY HOUSE: DISABILITY POETICS

READ poems in our junior and senior anthologies	WRITE a poem for our student journal VOICES/VOIX	LISEZ des poèmes de nos anthologies en ligne	ÉCRIVEZ un poème dans notre journal étudiant de poésie VOICES/VOIX
RECITE at one of our contests and win hundreds or thousands of dollars	VISIT poetryinvoice.com for details ou en français : lesvoixdelapoesie.com	RÉCITEZ lors d'un de nos concours pour gagner des centaines, voire des milliers de dollars	VISITEZ lesvoixdelapoesie.com et découvrez le contenu en anglais sur poetryinvoice.com

Recite: Our recitation contests

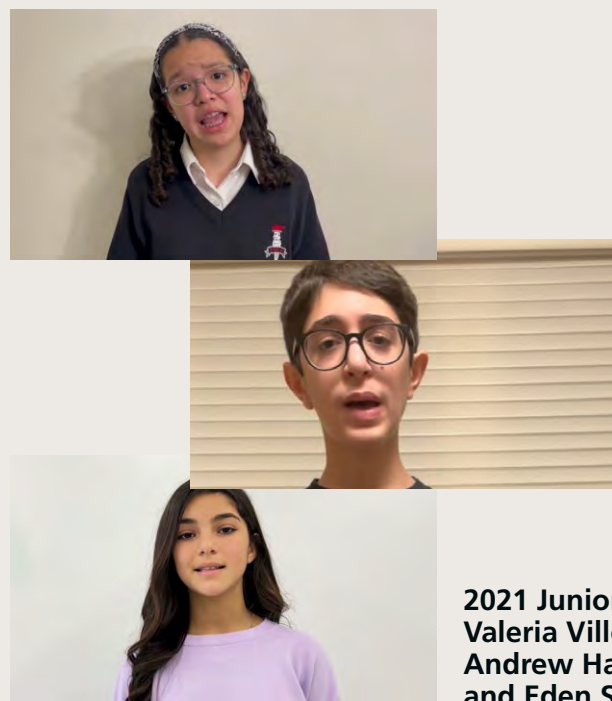
We are the only Canadian organization that runs regional and national poetry recitation competitions for middle school and high school students. The poems that students find in our anthology, learn by heart, and convey to their audience will be with them for life.

This year, we estimate 20,000 students learned and recited at least one poem for our contests. Contests are held yearly in thousands of classrooms across the country between September and February. Students in grades 6-8 compete

in the Junior Online Finals in December. Student teams compete in our Team Regional contests held in February and March. In March, top-scoring students in grades 9-12 compete in the Senior Online Qualifiers, and the highest-ranking students are invited to the Senior National Semifinals & Finals in April.

The National Finals is our signature event and has been held in theatres in Toronto, Montréal, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. Cultural luminaries such as Rosanna Deerchild, Guy Marchamps, and Gill Deacon have hosted, and an array of Canadian poets, including Dennis Lee, Katherena Vermette and Marie-Célie Agnant have judged the contest and facilitated workshops for our Semifinalists.

2021 Junior Online Finalists (top to bottom):
Valeria Villeda (English Champion),
Andrew Hamzo (2nd place in the French Stream),
and Eden Simhon (2nd place in the Bilingual Stream).



The team from Canterbury High School placed 1st at the 2020 Ottawa Team Regional.

“It’s been an amazing transition for Tiffany. From ‘I don’t want to do it, Mr. Ross’ to placing in the top 6 in the country. It’s been life-altering for her and for her teacher.”

— ELAINE BARRETT, TEACHER AT MARSHALL MCLUHAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN TORONTO, ON

“I actually got to know my students a lot better because they got to choose poems [to recite] that really reflected their interests and really spoke to them.”

— AYANNA TONEY-WEST, TEACHER AT THE WOODLANDS SCHOOL IN MISSISSAUGA, ON

Recite: Our recitation contests

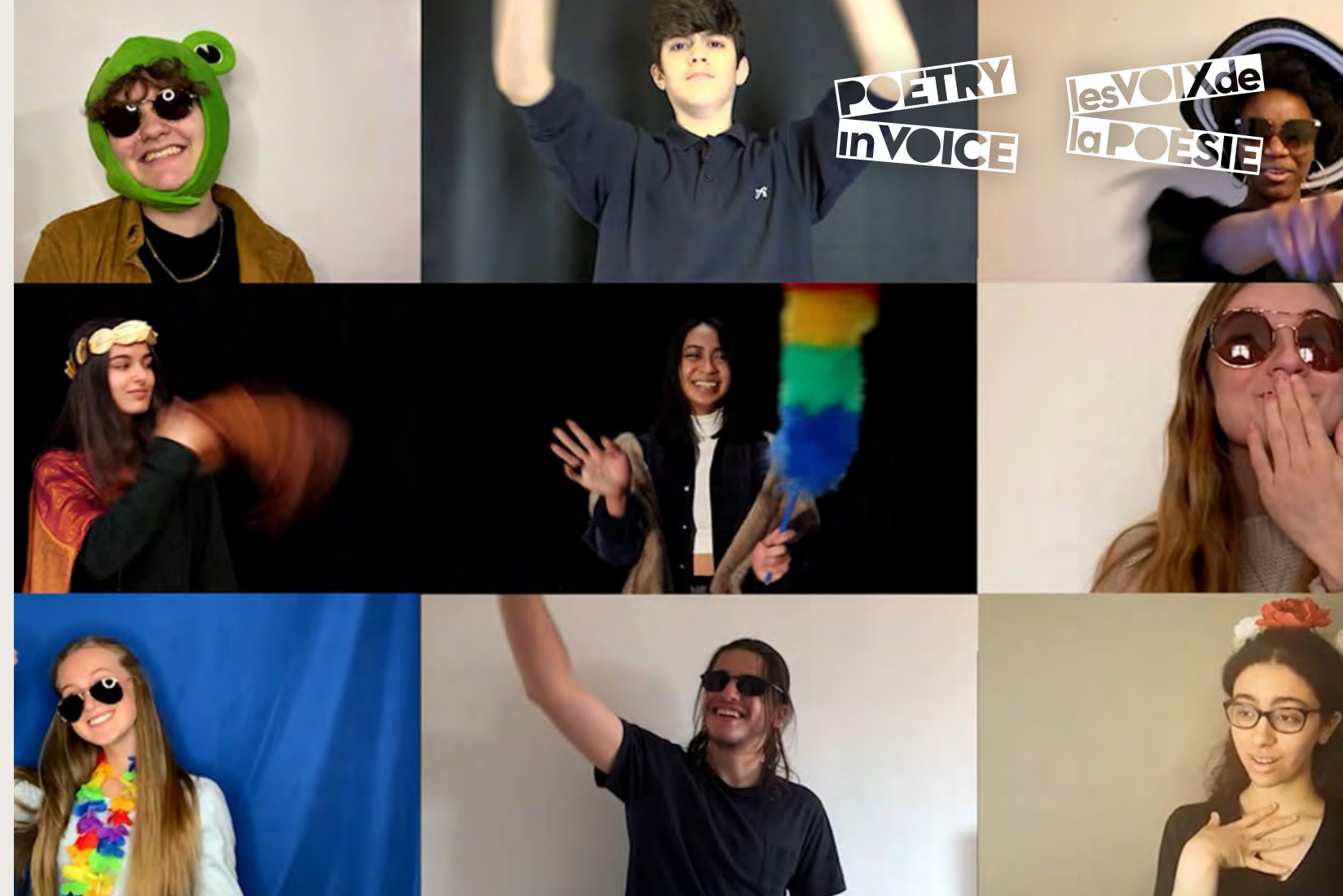
In January, we announced the winners of the 2021 Junior Online Finals. Our young champions hailed from Vancouver, Surrey, Port Coquitlam, Winnipeg, Mississauga, Montréal, and La Motte, Québec. Since premiering on YouTube on April 22, the 2021 National Finals and recitation videos from the semifinals and finals have been watched over 42,000 times. The 2022 Team Regionals and the National Finals were held online.

For Nationals, the savings from our travel and accommodations budgets allowed us to award more prizes, to the highest number of semifinalists ever. Forty-two semifinalists each received a \$250 prize. We also held a “People’s Choice” award, and over 10,000 votes were cast for the best semifinalist poem recitation. Our 2021 Online Nationals stretched over two days, with a meet & greet for

the finalists and their teachers as well as poetry workshops for all 42 semifinalists. After the finals were broadcast, the poet judges, finalists and their teachers met in breakout rooms for feedback, and the evening ended with the 9 finalists hanging out on Zoom into the wee hours. We felt we had brought at least a fraction of the magic of a live Nationals to the 2021 format.

Online Team Regionals

We are also working toward an international recitation competition at the 2023 Griffin Poetry Prize in Toronto. The event will be co-hosted by our sister organizations Poetry Out Loud (U.S.) and Poetry By Heart (UK). We hope members of the PIV/LVP team and our 2022 champions will be able to participate in Poetry By Heart’s National Finals at the Globe Theatre in London, UK in June, 2022.



Nine finalists from all over Canada recorded themselves reciting at home for the 2021 Online National Finals.

“Reciting poetry in high school gave me the confidence to speak up — and that confidence is still with me.”

— KHALIL MAIR, GRADUATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD & FORMER STUDENT AT TORONTO FRENCH SCHOOL, ON

“The National Finals is a great show. These students dig really deep and add a unique texture and weight to each poem they recite. Their performances blew me away.”

— DAVID USHER, MUSICIAN & AUTHOR

Write: *VOICES/VOIX*

Each year, we encourage students in grades 9-12 to write and submit original poems inspired by:

- a poem in our anthology,
- one of our writing prompts or poetry workshops,
- or a poet who visited their school from our Poet In Class/ Poète à l'école program.

Under the skillful guidance of two poet editors, the strongest poems are published in *VOICES/VOIX*. Hard copies are mailed to the published writers and to their school libraries, and a digital version lives on our websites.

This year, poets Marie-Andrée Gill and Angelic Goldsky worked closely with the 26 students whose work was selected, and in June, we proudly published the journal's third issue.

Issue #4 of *VOICES/VOIX* was published in September 2022, and a journal of original poems by students in grades 6-8 will be published in 2023.

In September, 2021, we introduced a monthly Poetry Prompt Prize, open to all students in grades 9 - 12, in French and English. Each month's winner receives \$100 and their poem is published in *VOICES/VOIX*. The prize has been very successful with over 340 submissions in the first 4 months.



“These poems don’t just reflect the world — they try to imagine a better one.”

— JONATHAN ROY & CATRIONA WRIGHT, EDITORS OF *VOICES/VOIX*, ISSUE #2

Teach: Poet In Class / Poète à l'école

While artist-in-class programs are fairly common across Canada, rarely are a school's arts funds prioritized for a local poet's visit. In 2017, in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts, PIV/LVP launched the *Poet In Class/Poète à l'école* (PIC/PAL) program. The program is provided free of charge to schools and we pay poets fairly for their time and expertise.

Before COVID, almost all classroom visits were in-person whereas most visits in 2021 were virtual. To make sure poets felt prepared and supported going into the school year, orientation sessions were held with them in the fall. Funding from Heritage Canada has allowed us to offer 100 classroom visits in English and French minority and additional language settings, and we also initiated a pilot program that pairs French and English classrooms. The demand for poet visits greatly outweighs our budget for them. We continue to seek more funding channels to expand the program and reach as many students as possible, with the vision that every student should be visited by a poet at least once during their school years.



Baron Marc-André Lévesque runs a poetry workshop for students at École secondaire Casavant in St-Hyacinthe, QC.

“It’s typical of Poetry In Voice that they figured out a way to continue to get poetry into the classroom during this time of the pandemic, and it’s typical that they knew many poets would need assistance to make their online visits effective. I know of no other organization that so quickly and gracefully pivots, assesses the needs, and then offers performers and teachers the educational resources required to make the visits a success.”

— LORNA CROZIER, POET & PROFESSOR EMERITA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

“Thank you for providing this amazing opportunity. It was important for the students at my school to have a woman of colour come [so that they could] see that poets can be ethnically different and have a diverse life story.”

— BAL PANESAR, TEACHER AT ERIC HAMBER SECONDARY SCHOOL IN VANCOUVER, BC

Teach: Our website

In 2021, most of the 4.2 million pageviews to our websites were by Canadian teachers and students. Given our mission to provide exceptional content and experiences that foster an appreciation of and connection with poetry, we worked with scores of poets this year to craft:

- 54 “Dive Ins”: Guided questions that help students delve deeply into a poem.
- 17 writing prompts: Pithy challenges to encourage students to start a poem.
- 89 poet profiles and bios: Poets respond to our interview questions and tell us their stories.
- 15 lesson plans, including 6 that promote bilingualism as part of the Heritage Canada initiative.

We also write biographies of poets who are newly added to our anthology, and we commission lesson plans,

written by poets or teachers, that help teachers imagine and integrate new ways of connecting their provincial or territorial curricula to poetry.

For our K-6 program, now called Poetry is Elementary, we have planned 18 videos, 9 in English and 9 in French, wherein poets will read their work and then outline a classroom activity. We are also exploring animation to help create dynamic videos for our youngest students. Lesson plans will be developed around these poetry videos and printable poetry-based activities will also be provided on our website.

Each year, we also publish dozens of recitation videos from footage of our Junior Online Finals and the Senior National Finals. These serve as excellent pedagogical and promotional tools.

Dive In

WRITTEN BY BRITTA BADOUR FOR THE POEM
“SALMON COURAGE” BY M. NOURBESE PHILIP

1. M. NourbeSe Philip has used salmon as the central metaphor for this poem. What do you already know about salmon and their lifecycle? How does your understanding of salmon frame your understanding of the struggles and sacrifices of the speaker? Of the speaker’s parents?
2. How many years does it take before the speaker relives the journey of their salmon mother? Why do you think it took this long?
3. What is the salmon father proud of? What is his fate compared to the salmon mother? Compared to the speaker?
4. Take a moment to review the adjectives that describe human attributes. Why do you think the author has used this language?



Writing Prompt

“WRITE YOUR PAIN” BY IAN WILLIAMS

This exercise is for a two-part poem about pain. In fact, your title could be “Pain.”

Part 1. Write a poem that bruises your mouth to read. Fill it with heavy words, awkward combinations, and tongue-twisting, cheek-biting virtuosity.

Part 2. Write a poem that makes your eyes burn. Arrange your words and letters as if you were sending a ransom note to e. e. cummings. Then edit that with an axe.

“Our staff agrees that PIV/LVP is an enriching program for our school. We have all benefited from this experience and the support materials.”

— LOIS LORIMER NUNN, POET & RETIRED TEACHER-LIBRARIAN AT
R. H. KING ACADEMY IN SCARBOROUGH, ON

“Through their creation of high quality web content, PIV/LVP positions itself as a vital link among the various initiatives for younger generations.”

— ANNE-MARIE DESMEULES, QUÉBEC POET

Reach

In service of our vision to ensure all Canadians speak the language of poetry, we leverage our work in schools to promote poetry to the wider national and global communities.

The National Finals are an excellent opportunity to attract media attention for our organization. In 2021, CBC, CTV, and numerous city media outlets covered us extensively.

Student recitation videos from the National Finals were watched 330 thousand times in 2021, and since 2010, our recitation videos have been viewed 2.3 million times, with 1.8 million of those by viewers outside of Canada.

Our recitation champions are commissioned each year to recite at literary festivals and celebrations such as the Frye Festival (Moncton), Blue Met Metropolis Bleu (Montréal),

the Quebec Writers' Federation Awards, Mois de la poésie (City of Québec), Festival de la poésie de Montréal, Edmonton Poetry Festival, Vancouver Writers Fest, Kingston Writers Fest, Thin Air Winnipeg International Writers Fest, the Saskatchewan Festival of Words, and the Governor General's Literary Awards Gala. A student reciter is also featured each year at The Griffin Poetry Prize (GPP) Awards, where our international recitation contest will be held.

We manage our bilingual social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram) daily and share stories that appeal not only to our students and teachers, but to all poetry lovers.



English Stream Champion Catrícia Hiebert (St. Mary's Catholic High School, Sexsmith, AB) recites at the 2019 Governor General's Literary Awards Gala in Ottawa, ON.

“Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie is one of the most vitally important literary programs in Canada — it is invaluable and has an astonishing reach.”

— ANNE MICHAELS, TORONTO POET & AUTHOR

“If [Scott] Griffin's hope was to nurture a new generation of poets across the country, it's working... The program has exploded.”

— THE VANCOUVER SUN

Support

In 2021, Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage and the Conseils des Arts de Montréal supported our Poets In Class program.

PIV/LVP has also partnered with several like-minded organizations to promote poetry:

- We are collaborating with The League of Canadian Poets on our Poet In Class programs by applying for funding to leverage both our poet communities to reach more schools across Canada.
- We have created a new partnership with the Toronto District School Board, Canada's largest school board, to ensure our websites and programs are promoted to teachers in their schools.
- We have partnered with the English Language Arts Network to place English poets in Anglophone public schools in official language minority communities across Québec.

In 2021, an anonymous donor contributed 1.9 million dollars to the trust Scott and Krystyne established in 2020, taking the amount in the trust to well over 4 million dollars. Our vision is to grow the trust to 10 million dollars to ensure our existence for decades to come.

However, even with this support, we have been able to reach only a fraction of students across Canada. PIV/LVP has plans to expand its programs, including the successful Poet In Class/Poète à l'école program, and to offer new ones, such as content and events for students and teachers in Kindergarten through Grade 6.



Mireille Proulx (Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf, Montréal, QC) recites for a captive audience during the 2017 National Finals.

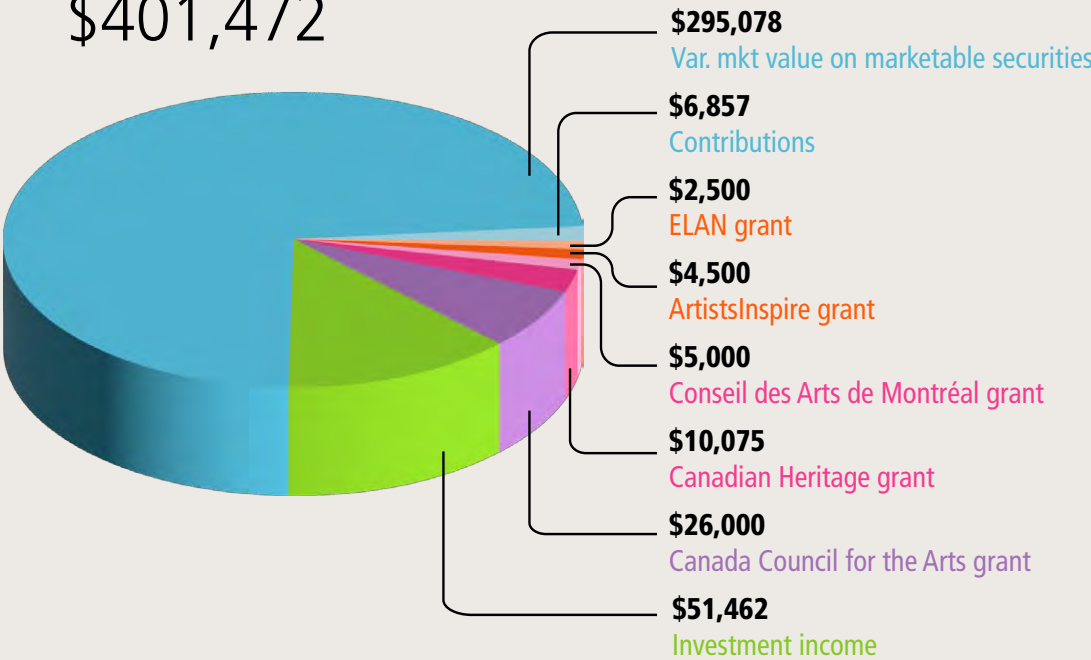
“Poetry In Voice is an astonishing tribute to poetry — one of the greatest ideas to emerge in the world of literature in Canada in recent years!”

— THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ADRIENNE CLARKSON

2021 Financial overview

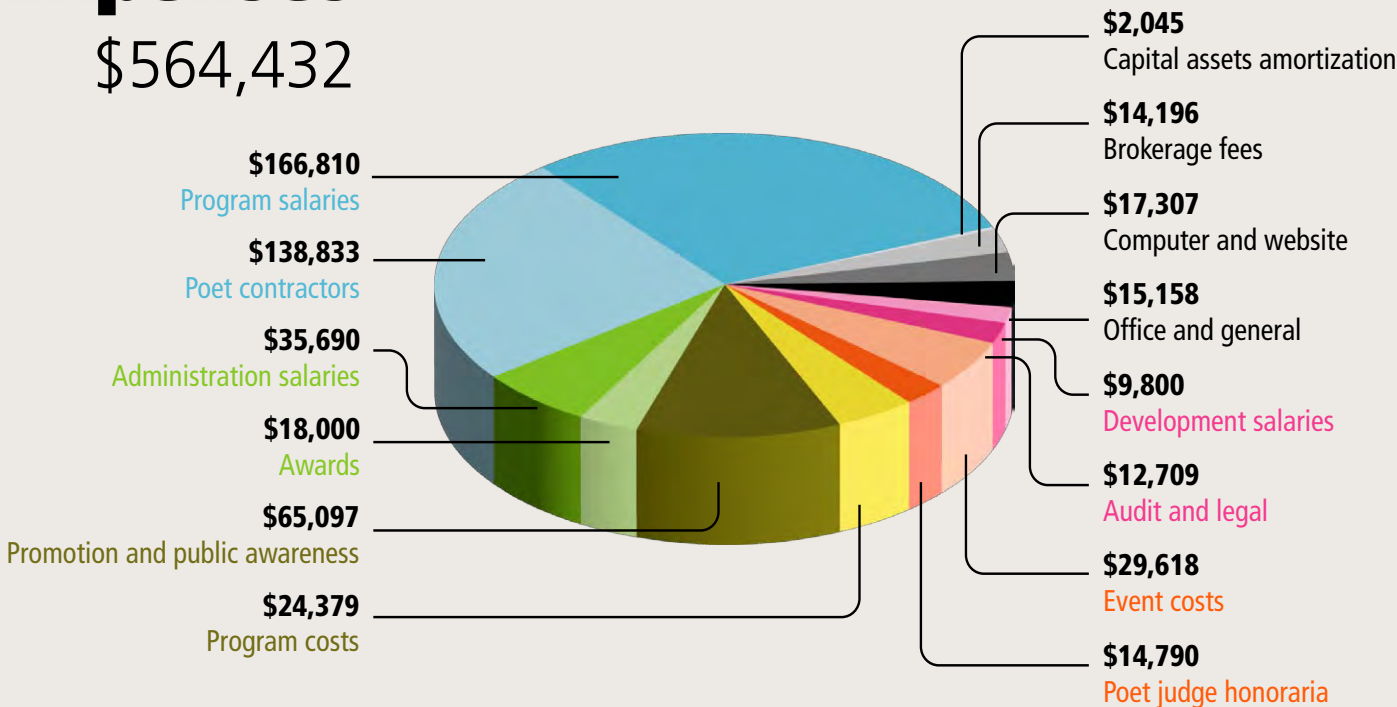
Revenues

\$401,472

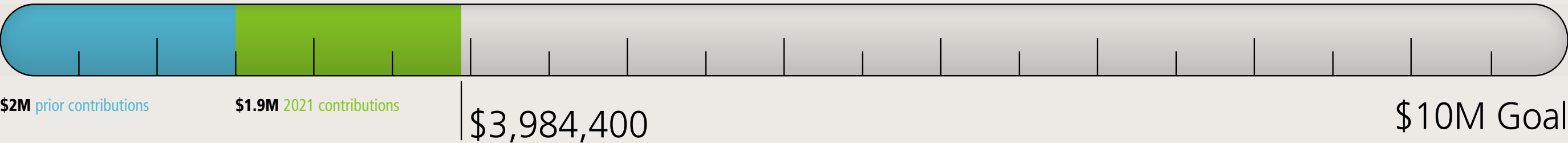


Expenses


\$564,432



Internally restricted contributions



Our complete financial statements are available here:
<https://www.poetryinvoice.ca/financial-statements/2021>



visit
poetryinvoice.ca
lesvoixdelapoesie.ca

**POETRY
inVOICE**

**lesVOIXde
laPOÉSIE**

“Participating in PIV/LVP allowed me to acknowledge my true identity and to discover my absolute love for words, stories, poems.”

— GHADA CHARKI, FORMER STUDENT AT CHAMPLAIN REGIONAL COLLEGE – SAINT-LAMBERT