

POETRY IN VOICE / LES VOIX DE LA POÉSIE

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



POETRY
in VOICE

les VOIX de
la POÉSIE

Poetry Matters

In his poem “From a Book of Weaknesses,” Durs Grünbein, winner of the 2025 Griffin Poetry Prize, considers the “improvisation” and “unboundedness” of the “gigantic agenda” of our lives. Grünbein (trans. Karen Leeder) writes:

And this unboundedness means we're dying
imperceptibly, and suddenly we are glad
to live as if we were immortal,
while writing stems the flow, and
every single word is crucial.

At Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie (PIV/LVP), we know just how crucial words and writing are for individuals, communities, and societies. We know that poetry deals with the matters of our lives, big and small, and that poetry—its power to mirror, provoke, attend to, and inspire—matters in our lives.

We also know that arts education is shrinking across Canada and the globe. At a time when young people need art and artists more than ever to make sense of themselves and the gigantic world around them, there is less funding and support for teachers who want to engage their students in the arts. We believe that young people need poetry, that poetry needs young people, and that teachers are integral to the work of poetic education.

PIV/LVP exists to support young people, their teachers, and all Canadians in building a lifelong relationship with poetry. Whether we're providing resources for teachers, meaningful experiences for students, or a wide array of poems to the general public—we are poetry people, people who love what poetry can do, and we hope to be part of your journey with poetry too.

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Vision

PIV/LVP wants all Canadians to speak 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 directly with students across the country.

Values

Youth

We hold youth at the centre of our work. When given the opportunity to read, write, and discuss poetry, young people become more curious, creative, culturally competent, and empowered.

Compassion & Care

We believe poetry's beauty and power can inspire and galvanize individuals, communities, and society to be more compassionate and caring. Learning a poet's words by heart builds empathy and connection.

“Do you want to step outside your comfort zone, push your limits, or have a good story to tell at dinner? If so, then Poetry in Voice is for you!”

**— FARÈS BENMANSOUR, STUDENT,
CÉGEP CHAMPLAIN - ST. LAWRENCE, QUEBEC CITY, QC**



2025 FutureVersers Eva Dhar, Madeleine Semple, Teresa Wu, and Harmony Chen.



POETRY
in VOICE

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“Each time PIV comes to our school I am reminded about how powerful a poetry writing workshop is. I am committed to running more on my own, using the skills shared by the visiting poet.”

**— GILLIAN BOHNET, TEACHER,
MCNALLY SCHOOL,
EDMONTON, AB**

Victor Dubé-Marcus, 2025 National Finalist in the French stream. Top right: Proud family members congratulating their kin after the 2026 National Finals in Vancouver. Bottom right: National Finalist Omar Elbatouty being inspired at the Vancouver Museum of Anthropology.





Community

We support arts-based community building and bring together students, teachers, and poets nationwide to share poetry aloud in community and have conversations about, through, and with poetry.

Equity

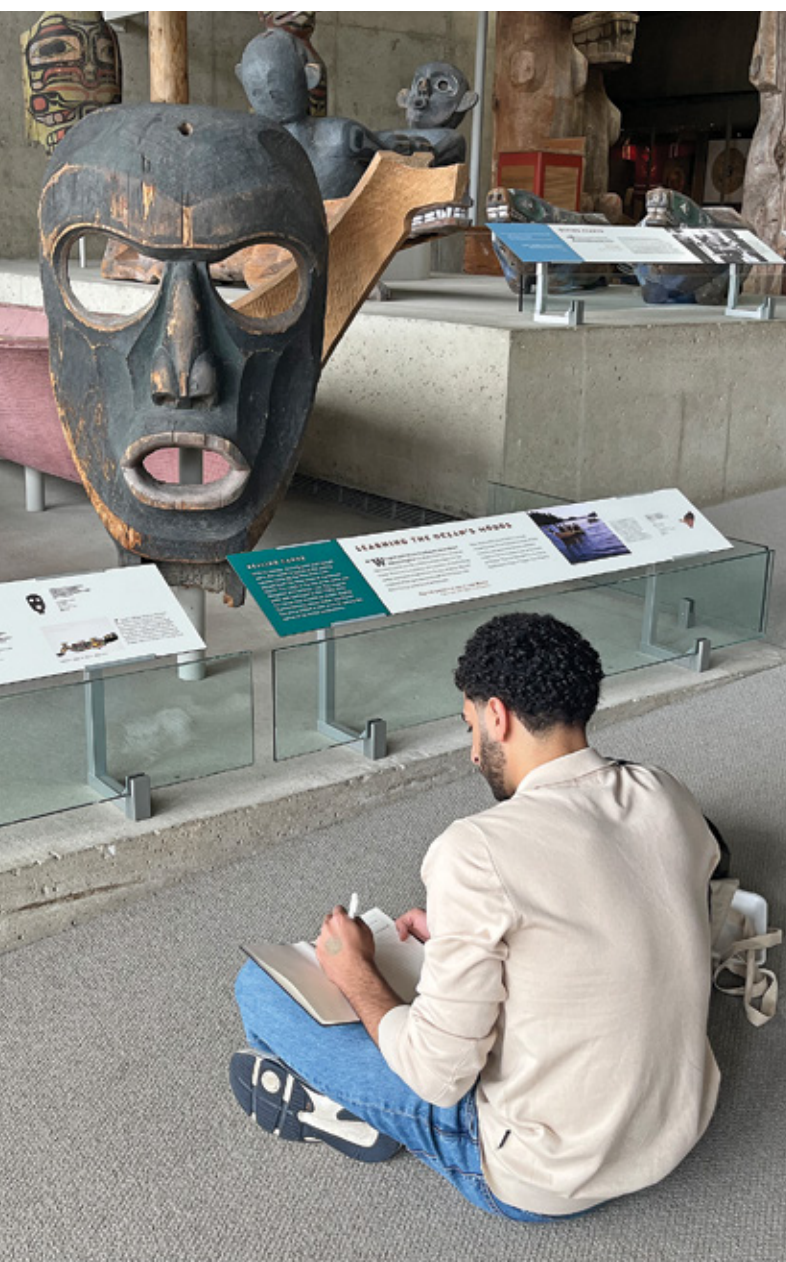
We address historical and ongoing inequities in poetry and education, including whose voices are celebrated, how poets are compensated, and who has access to poetry. Poetry is for everyone, and we work to bring poetry education to students and teachers across a wide range of demographics. We honour poets' value in our society and we believe all students deserve to speak poetry.

Diversity

We reflect the rich diversity of experiences and perspectives of students across Canada and amplify marginalized voices. We create our best work when we braid diverse ideas and opinions with guidance from our communities.

Bilingualism & Promotion of Indigenous Languages

We celebrate both English and French as Canada's official languages and value bilingualism as fundamental to Canadian identity. We aspire to promote Indigenous languages through our work, including our newly-launched Indigenous Kinship in Verse program.



Message from Our Founders

In 2000, the Griffin Poetry Prize was founded to raise and enhance the profile and permanence of poetry in the mainstream of our cultural lives. Poetry mirrors the soul of a nation, and in Canada, it was in danger of becoming a fringe activity. With a few exceptions, poetry was no longer taught as part of the school curriculum.

The Griffin Poetry Prize has raised the profile of poetry within Canada and internationally; however, even with the introduction of the prize, we still noticed that few people purchased poetry, fewer people read poetry, and virtually no one recited it.

In 2011, the trustees of the Griffin Poetry Prize, Krystyne and I, initiated a nationwide bilingual student recitation contest, Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie (PIV/LVP), to introduce students to the beauty of language through poetry. The poems students memorize will remain with them for life, fostering a lifelong interest in and appreciation of poetry and laying a strong foundation for a readership of poetry. In addition, participating students have gained immeasurable confidence and public speaking skills after reciting in front of their peers, an audience, and judges.

In the last ten years, PIV/LVP has grown—with the help of donors and grants—into a

national bilingual program involving over 2,000 schools across every province and territory in Canada. The program has been extended to include poet classroom visits, a student poetry journal, lesson materials for teachers, a poetry intensive, and a mini-site for elementary students. PIV/LVP has fostered a strong foundation for the future of poetry readership in Canada, exceeding all expectations.

“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

It is with gratitude and pleasure that PIV/LVP has accepted support from the McCall MacBain Foundation for the popular FutureVerse program and from The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation for PIV/LVP’s recitation contests, notably the National Finals held each year in a different Canadian city. This support is very much appreciated.

— Krystyne & Scott Griffin

Scott and Krystyne Griffin present first place in the French stream to Yasmine Aouchiche.



Numbers



2.7M

**CANADIANS HAVE VISITED
POETRYINVOICE.CA
AND LESVOIXDELAPOESIE.CA**

10,845

**TEACHERS ARE
ACTIVE PIV/LVP
MEMBERS**

307

**CANADIAN
POETS IN OUR
NETWORK**



1,245

**POEMS
PUBLISHED**

30M+

**POEMS
READ**



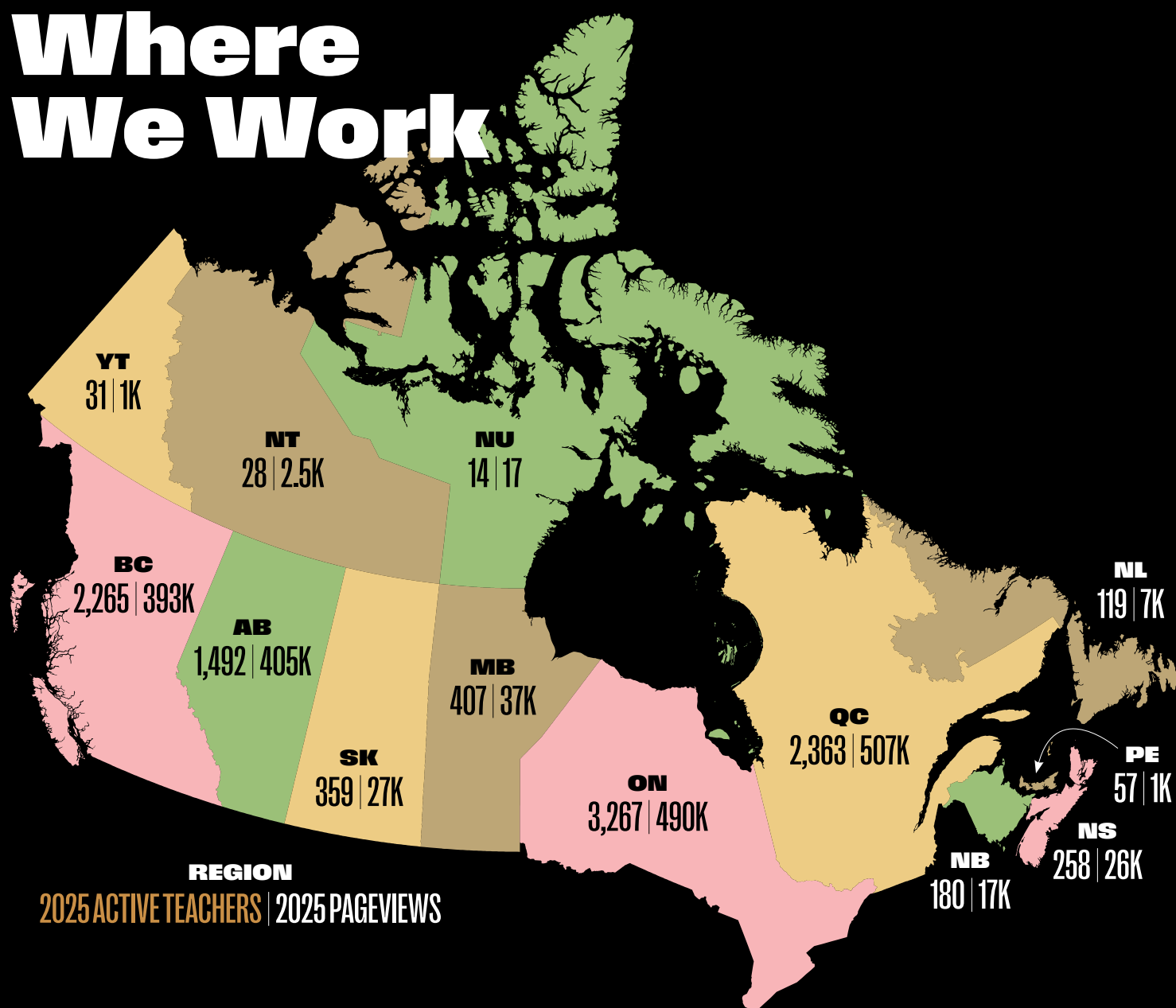
85,000+

**STUDENTS HAVE
MET A POET IN
THEIR CLASS**

380,000+

**HAVE LEARNED
A POEM
BY HEART**

Where We Work



“I think that may well be one of poetry’s greatest gifts, to let students experience the freedom to write that artists understand as a necessity, and so we fight for it. I’ve always found this as well: both teachers and students in small towns are very grateful when I come to visit them, too. It’s one of the great benefits of Poetry in Voice’s program. It makes the intimate connection that poetry makes with its—let’s call us all “participants”—possible across long distances and urban/rural divides.” — RICHARD HARRISON, POET

Message from Our Team

“we proclaim the sacred language as
forever spoken by the people”
—Tomaž Šalamun,
“Hymn of Worldwide Responsibility”

At PIV/LVP, we are proud to proclaim 2025 an exceptional year for poetry in Canadian classrooms.

With generous support from The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry, The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation, and the McCall MacBain Foundation, we reached new heights in connecting students with poetry that resonates deeply and personally.

This year, poems were read nearly 2 million times across our platforms. More than 20,000 students recited at least one poem, poets visited 15,000 students in classrooms nationwide, and 1,200 original student poems were submitted for consideration in our student poetry journal, *VOICES/VOIX*.

Over 1,400 students attended our National Finals live at The Centre in Vancouver, celebrating the artistry and courage of young reciters from coast to coast to coast. Meanwhile, the third cohort of FutureVersers is already demonstrating that the next generation of poets in Canada is vibrant, thoughtful, and fearless.

We are not resting on our laurels. This summer, we welcomed Amanda Merpaw as our new English Program Director. Amanda is leading a comprehensive renewal of our Teach resources, aligning them with current pedagogical approaches while reaffirming a core principle of our work: the enduring power of reading poetry aloud. The primacy of the spoken poem remains at the heart of our evolving curriculum.

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

— MARGARET ATWOOD

This fall, we deepened our commitment to Indigenous literary excellence and appreciation through a new partnership with the Indigenous Voices Awards (IVAs). Together, we co-hired Indigenous Kinship in Verse Coordinator Dutch Dion-Glowa, who is overseeing an initiative funded by the Canada Council for the Arts that places IVAs finalists in their home communities to mentor youth through our expanding programs. We are increasing rural and remote classroom visits and developing a dedicated online hub for our new program, Indigenous Kinship in Verse (IKIV).



DAVID J. SMITH,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ARIANE TAPP,
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS AND
FRENCH PROGRAMMING



AMANDA MERPAW,
ENGLISH PROGRAM
DIRECTOR



DUTCH DION-GLOWA,
INDIGENOUS KINSHIP IN
VERSE COORDINATOR



BARBARA LEPELTIER,
FRENCH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



CAPRICE STRGAR,
ENGLISH PROGRAM
COORDINATOR

We are especially delighted to welcome our first alumni staff member: 2024 FutureVerser Caprice Strgar has joined us as English Program Coordinator, bringing invaluable insight from the student perspective and as our first-ever team member based in Atlantic Canada. We are also pleased to announce that former team members Tessa Griffin and Sarah Tsiang have joined our Board of Directors, contributing deep institutional knowledge and guidance. Finally, we extend our sincere thanks to Marie-Andrée Arsenault, Andrew Heintzman, Cooper Skjeie, and Evan Solomon for their dedicated service.

2025 Board of Directors at year's end: Johanne Blais, Scott Griffin, Tessa Griffin, Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, Anne Michaels, Pierre Nepveu, Hector Ruiz, David Smith, and Sarah Tsiang.

2025 has affirmed what we have long believed: when young people are invited to speak poems aloud, they claim language as their own—and carry it forward.



Programs

Read

Our online anthology now includes 1,245 poems in English and French. New poems are curated annually by an editorial board.

Recite

We organize and support thousands of classroom, school, regional, and national recitation contests in three streams: English, French, and Bilingual. We hire poets as judges and award students over \$40,000 in prizes.

Write

We publish an annual student poetry journal, *VOICES/VOIX*, edited by two renowned poets. Student poems are inspired by poet classroom visits, poems in our anthology, poet-authored writing prompts, and their lived experiences.

Teach

We send poets to hundreds of classrooms across Canada to work directly with students. We also offer engaging online resources,



FutureVersers Rizwan Moonbow and Caden Baghbani deeply engaged in a workshop facilitated by Vancouver poet Kevin Spenst.

including lesson plans and guided questions written by poets and educators. All resources and visits are free.

Reach

The cultivation of our social media community has led millions of visitors to our website. Our recitation videos have also been viewed 3.8 million times. Our National Finals earn nationwide media coverage yearly, and our strongest student reciters perform at major literary events and festivals nationwide.

“I very much appreciate Poetry in Voice making these opportunities available to schools, and more importantly to students, at no cost. Doing so gives many students access to writers and the craft of writing in a truly meaningful way.”

**— LISA DENNIS, TEACHER,
ELGIN PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL, SURREY, BC**

Read: The Anthology

Our online poetry anthology is the essence of our work and the foundation of all our programs. In 2025, students read poems on poetryinvoice.ca and lesvoixdelapoesie.ca 1.7 million times.

Our mandate is to develop our junior (Grades 7–9) and senior (Grades 10–12) anthologies by identifying the work of diverse contemporary Canadian and international poets. This year, we added a total of 42 poems to our anthology. English poems added include “True Value” by Liz Howard, “From a Book of Weaknesses” by Durs Grünbein, and an excerpt from *The Dyzgraphxst* by Canisia Lubrin.

Our Mixtapes continue to be a popular resource in their own right as well as a conduit to our anthologies. Each Mixtape provides a playlist of poems centred on a single subject, idea, or theme, including queerness, disability, community, and ethnic and racial identity. In 2025, we published Joshua Whitehead’s incredible English Mixtape, “What Beautiful Metaphors We’ve Become,” which features a substantial list of recommended reading and resources.

“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**

Original illustrations from Canadian artists for the Poetry Mixtapes published on our website.



“Bringing the recitation contest to life gives our teenagers the opportunity to encounter numerous poems and allow those poems to resonate within them. This exercise brings out unexpected strengths and sensibilities in our students.”

**—MÉLANIE BOULIANNE, TEACHER, ÉCOLE
DES TIMONIER, SAINTE-CATHERINE, QC**



Recite

We are the only Canadian organization running regional and national poetry recitation competitions. Students read through our anthology, selecting the poem(s) they will learn by heart and deliver

to an audience. They carry these poems—the words, rhythms, pauses, emotions—with them for life. When students use their voices to speak someone else's work and the emotions therein, they also develop empathy and a capacity to understand the perspectives of others. Poetry recitation is also an excellent, multilayered public speaking experience. It is a proven pedagogical practice for

improving additional language skills, and our bilingual contest is just as popular as our French and English contests. Reciting poetry builds confidence, community, compassion, and a lifetime of poetic memory.

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 nationwide in January and February. Student triads compete in our Team Regional contests held in March and April. In 2025, Team Regional contests were held in Calgary, Edmonton, Etobicoke,



2025 National Finalists in the Bilingual stream Zak Tucker (1st place), Nour Shani (2nd place), and Margot Cadrin (3rd place).

2025 Junior National Champions



ENGLISH STREAM

Daniel Tiwana

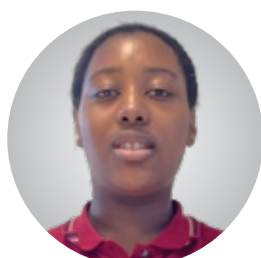
St. George's School,
Vancouver, BC



FRENCH STREAM

Andréa Cunha Maréchal

Collège St-Alexandre de la
Gatineau, Gatineau, QC



BILINGUAL STREAM

Aïta Diop

Collège de Lévis, Lévis, QC



Left: Winners of the 1st prize in the Montreal Team Regionals.



Right: Winning team at the Vancouver Team Regionals.

Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Toronto, Vancouver, and Winnipeg. We awarded \$600 in prizes at each event! We also covered the host's expenses and paid for poets from our Poet Network to judge each contest.

Also in March, school champions in Grades 7-9 competed in the Junior Online Finals, and school champions in Grades 10-12 competed in the Senior Online Qualifiers. Junior competitors won up to \$500 in prizes, and the top 24 senior students—the Semifinalists—each won \$250, with the top 9 advancing to the National Finals. These 9 students were invited to Vancouver for a week-long, all-expenses-paid trip that included not only the National Finals recitation competition but also several activities, including visits to local schools and joint workshops with participants from the third FutureVerse cohort.

The National Finals, held at The Centre in Vancouver on May 15, were an incredible success, drawing an audience of over 1,400 people. The 9 finalists in the French, English, and Bilingual contest language streams received \$18,000 in prizes, bringing the total prize money awarded to Junior, Senior, and Team Regional competitors to over \$40,000! Our Poet Networkers were also paid over \$30,000 to judge these events!

Since premiering on YouTube on May 15, the 2025 National Finals and recitation videos from the Semifinals and Finals have been watched over 19,000 times.

“This experience brought us so much joy that [our school] plans to participate in this competition, which has given us indescribable memories, for the third consecutive year. I invite everyone to jump into this adventure without hesitation. Poetry in Voice is waiting for you!”

**— ANN LÉGARÉ, TEACHER,
ÉCOLE SECONDAIRE DE
ROCHEBELLE,
QUEBEC CITY, QC**



Omar Elbatouty, 2025 National Finalist in the French stream.

Write: **VOICES/VOIX**



Each year, we encourage students in Grades 7–12 to write and submit original poems inspired by:

- a poem in our anthology
- one of our writing prompts or poetry workshops
- a poet who visited their school from our Poets in Class program
- their life

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 their school libraries, and a digital version lives on our website.

This year, poets Rhea Tregebov and Valérie Forgues worked with 40 students whose work was selected for inclusion. In September, we proudly published the journal's seventh issue, and in October, we had our first-ever in-person journal launch! Held at the Maison de la littérature in Quebec City, this bilingual

launch event brought together seven student writers from the area to read their published work to an enthusiastic audience.

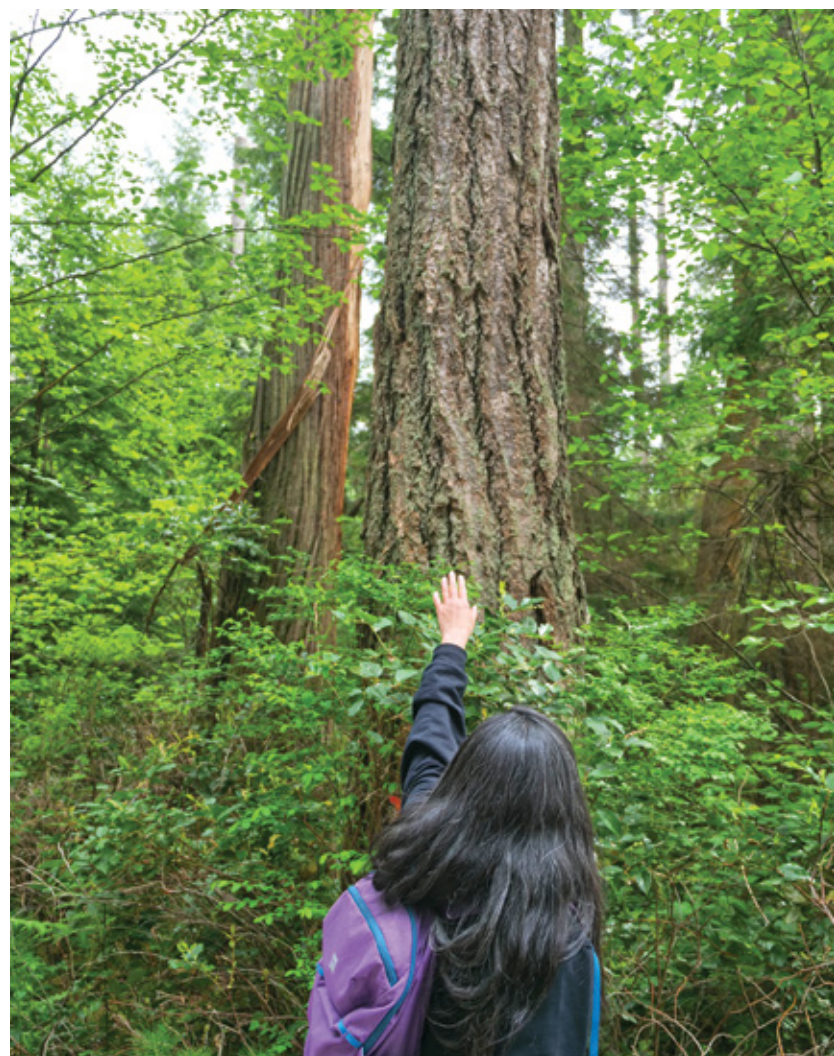
Every month, we award a Monthly Poetry Prize in both French and English to a student in Grades 7–12. The winner receives \$100 and their poem is published in *VOICES/VOIX*. The prize continued to be successful in 2025, with over 1,200 submissions across English and French. We also awarded three Bonus Prizes with the hope of encouraging submissions from a wide range of student poets, such as those living in Northern or Eastern Canada.

“Students are now more inspired than ever to write and share spoken poetry as a means to voice their thoughts, ideas and feelings about the world around them. Students experienced first hand the incredible power of poetry to transform and connect the human spirit.”

**— SHELLI FISICO, TEACHER,
W.H. MORDEN SCHOOL, OAKVILLE, ON**

Xavier D'Aquila, from Quebec City, signing copies of his poem published in *VOICES/VOIX* at the launch event at the Maison de la littérature.





Write: FutureVerse

Following our partnership with the McCall MacBain Foundation, PIV/LVP launched FutureVerse in 2023. This all-expenses-paid, four-day poetry intensive workshop enables young poets of exceptional potential to learn from and create alongside renowned authors, editors, and activists.

Presented once again in conjunction with our National Finals held in Vancouver in 2025, FutureVerse is a national arts leadership experience designed to immerse a small group of young poets in the power of the literary arts. 16 students were selected from all those who submitted poems to our bilingual poetry journal *VOICES/VOIX*. Together, they participated in a range of activities that celebrate and strengthen poetic knowledge and community, including an ecopoetic walk in Stanley Park, an art-inspired writing experience at the Museum of Anthropology, a panel on publication, and workshops about Indigenous poetry, translation, and “writing what matters.” Participants worked under the mentorship of esteemed poets such as Dominique Bernier-Cormier, Louise Dupré, Nadine Ltaif, Annie Ross, Kevin Spenst, Brandon Wint, Isabella Wang, and Rita Wong.

In addition, after the four-day FutureVerse workshop ended, participants continued to learn together and develop community throughout the following year, via online workshops where the PIV/LVP team guided them through writing exercises, community writing projects, and the publication process in Canada.

“The opportunity to spend a week with other young poets from across the country who were so dedicated to our collective and individual futures was fantastic. I think FutureVerse is valuable because it offers young people a place to be with others like them—I met poets from so many different backgrounds, but we all had a love for the written word in common. It truly inspired me and strengthened my love for the arts.”

**— MADELEINE SEMPLE, 2025
FUTUREVERSE PARTICIPANT**

Students from all over Canada took part in a variety of activities in Vancouver during the 2025 FutureVerse program.

Teach: Poets in Class

While artist-in-class programs exist across Canada, a school's arts funds are rarely prioritized for a local poet's visit. In 2017, in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts, PIV/LVP launched the Poets in Class program. The program is provided free of charge to schools, and we compensate poets fairly for their time and expertise.

This year, thanks to funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, we continued to offer Poets in Class visits—to the delight and benefit of teachers, students, and poets alike. New funding from the Canada Council for the Arts in support of our Poetry is Elementary program also enabled us to expand our Poets in Class offerings for K-6 students.

Still, the demand for Poets in Class visits continues to exceed our current budget for them. Each year, we have a large list of students and teachers who are not able to access our program due to our funding constraints. As we move forward, we aspire to expand the program to allow for more visits in French and English. We also want to offer more visits in geographic areas that are generally underrepresented and underserved by arts programming across the country. We continue to seek additional sources of funding to meet our goal of providing every student in Canada with the opportunity to experience a poet visit at least once during their school years.

“[The visit] reminded me that we need poetry, that it enriches us, that it can take many forms.” – ALIN ZDRITE, TEACHER, COLLÈGE STE-ANNE, LACHINE, QC

Bilingual poet and teacher Dominique Bernier-Cormier led the 25 FutureVerse and National Finals students in a fun poetry translation workshop in Vancouver.





Teach: Our Website

Most of the website pageviews are from 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 and teachers this year to craft:

- **Dive Ins:** guided questions that help students delve deeply into a poem
- **Mixtapes:** mini-anthologies of poems centred on a single subject, idea, or theme
- **Writing Prompts:** pithy challenges to encourage students to start a poem
- **Poet Profiles and Bios:** poets respond to our interview questions and tell us their stories so that students can connect to them and understand that they, too, could choose to be a poet
- **Lesson Plans:** written by poets or teachers to help teachers imagine and integrate new ways of connecting their provincial or territorial curricula to poetry

We also publish dozens of recitation videos yearly based on footage from our Junior Online Finals and the National Finals. These serve as excellent pedagogical and promotional tools.

“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

11:14

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POETRY
inVOICE



RECITE A POEM

Why recite a poem? The benefits might surprise you, and you might surprise yourself too!



ENTER A CONTEST

Compete for cash and travel worth over \$75,000 and meet new friends from across Canada in our individual contest, or recite with schoolmates in our Team Regionals.

Indigenous Kinship in Verse

Launched in 2025, Indigenous Kinship in Verse (IKIV) is envisioned and led by our Indigenous staff and board members. To ensure cultural integrity, the program consults with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, Elders, and community members. It utilizes poetry's transformative power to celebrate kinship of all things: land, skies, waters, humans, animals, language, and beyond. Importantly, IKIV aims to focus on supporting traditionally underserved Indigenous students in rural and remote areas, and amplify the voices of Indigenous youth.

IKIV uses Indigenous methodologies to create educational opportunities emphasizing interconnectedness, cultural engagement, and experiential learning. While the program is in its early development stages, planned vital components include:

- **Bead Soup:** A tailored online poetry space focusing on themes of Indigenous kinship and connection. Think of each bead as a poet, and the thread between the beads as the poems that weave our stories together in kinship with one another.
- **Kiyokâtowin (visiting) Poets:** Virtual and in-person workshops that enable students to explore and express their personal and cultural narratives through poetry, and

in-depth residencies that deepen kinship between poets and students, poetry and community. While the working name is Kiyokâtowin Poets, our aim is to shift this name as it moves between communities, aligning it with the language of the Nation we are visiting, rooting it in connection to land and sovereignty.

- **Wîcêhtowin (connection, unity):** A poetry anthology that ties all Indigenous students and lands together in a collection that represents the kinship we all share. Other Indigenous words for connection and unity will be featured on the cover, to honour the Nations represented within the collection.

We are excited to have developed a partnership with the Indigenous Voices Awards (IVAs) beginning in 2025. This collaboration aims to expand our Indigenous Poet Network by including finalists of the awards. IVAs poetry finalists will have their work featured in our anthology, will create content for students and educators, and will visit their home communities to offer student workshops. This partnership will allow us to feature and celebrate more Indigenous poetry in our anthology, and encourage the recitation of Indigenous poetry in classrooms across the part of Turtle Island called Canada.



2025 FutureVerser Jonah Harris reads his poem on stage during our FutureVerse public reading in Vancouver.

Teach: Poetry is Elementary!



Our K-6 program, Poetry is Elementary, was officially launched in the fall of 2024. It has its own minisite accessible via our main website. It is aimed directly at students in Kindergarten through Grade 6, with a colourful and fun interface designed by Adam Waito. Poetry is Elementary is divided into four user-friendly sections: Watch, Read, Write, and Make. There

are also lesson plans specifically designed for teachers working with K-6 students.

This year, thanks to new funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, we continue to expand our K-6 programming by developing additional resources for the website and by offering more Poets in Class visits to elementary schools.

Watch

In 2025, we added one new French video to the Watch section, with additional videos in both English and French in development for 2026 publication. These videos feature a poet reading their poem aloud and presenting an accompanying age-appropriate writing activity.

Read

The Read section includes all poems featured in our animated videos, as well as additional poems from our anthology that are compelling for K-6 students. These include “Praise the Rain” by Joy Harjo, “Do Your Best Under the Circumstances” by Sheree Fitch, and “Oranges” by Gary Soto.

Write

All writing activities proposed by poets in the animated videos can be found here, along with prompts inspired by other K-6 poems, like “Poor Speaker” by Sonnet L’Abbé and “Good Day Villanelle” by Damian Rogers.

Make

This new section features how-to videos where poets and teachers show students how to create original crafts based on poems! This year, we added two Make videos: one each in English and French. The English video features teacher Sarah Nitert leading students through spider web craft inspired by the poem “a spider way of thinking” by Shannon Bramer.

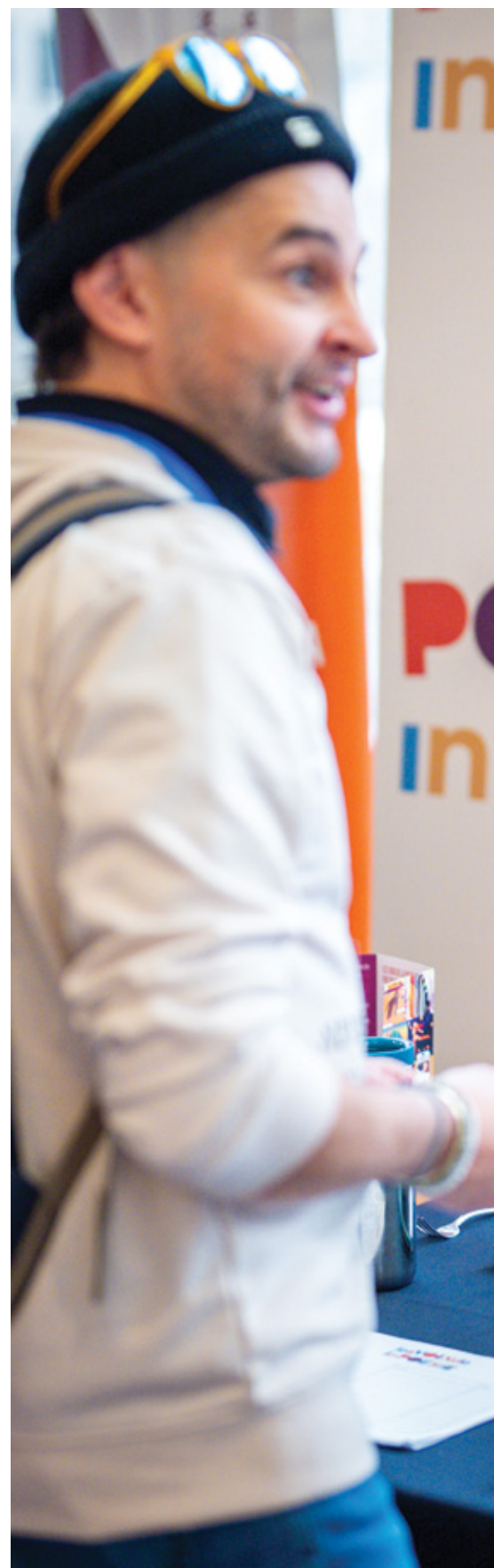
“Poetry in Voice has helped me bring poetry and joy into my classroom, into the homes and lives of my students, their families and our school. It is truly an incomparable treasure.”

**– RYAN RUDDICK, TEACHER
AND VICE-PRINCIPAL,
WESTMOUNT HIGH SCHOOL,
WESTMOUNT, QC**

Reach

In service of our vision to ensure all Canadians speak poetry, we leverage our work in schools to promote poetry to broader national and global communities. The National Finals are an excellent opportunity to attract media attention for our organization. In 2025, our programming was featured by diverse media outlets, including CBC, *The Winnipeg Sun*, *Vancouver Guardian*, in addition to many other local media. Videos of the National Finals recitations were viewed 411,000 times in 2025 and, since 2010, have been viewed nearly 3.5 million times. Every year, our Champions and Finalists receive invitations to recite poems at literary festivals and other celebrations, such as the Frye Festival (Moncton), Métropolis Bleu (Montreal), Mois de la poésie and Québec en toutes lettres (Quebec City), Festival de la poésie de Montréal, Edmonton Poetry Festival, Vancouver Writers Fest, Kingston Writers Fest, Thin Air Winnipeg International Writers Fest, Saskatchewan Festival of Words, as well as the Prix de poésie des collégiens (Terrebonne), and the Governor General's Literary Awards Gala. A student reciter also takes the stage annually at the Griffin Poetry Prize (GPP) Awards. We promote our resources and programs at numerous teachers conferences nationwide: in 2025, we showcased our work at conferences in Banff, Calgary, Halifax, Laval, Montreal, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Quebec City, Toronto, Trois-Rivières, and Vancouver. We maintain our bilingual social networks (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram) daily and share stories that engage students, educators, and anyone who loves poetry. We are especially proud of our YouTube channel, where viewers have watched 95,000 hours of poetry over a total of 3.8 million lifetime views and 18 million impressions.

Ariane Tapp, Director of Communications and French Programming, at the conference for l'Association québécoise des professeur·e·s de français.

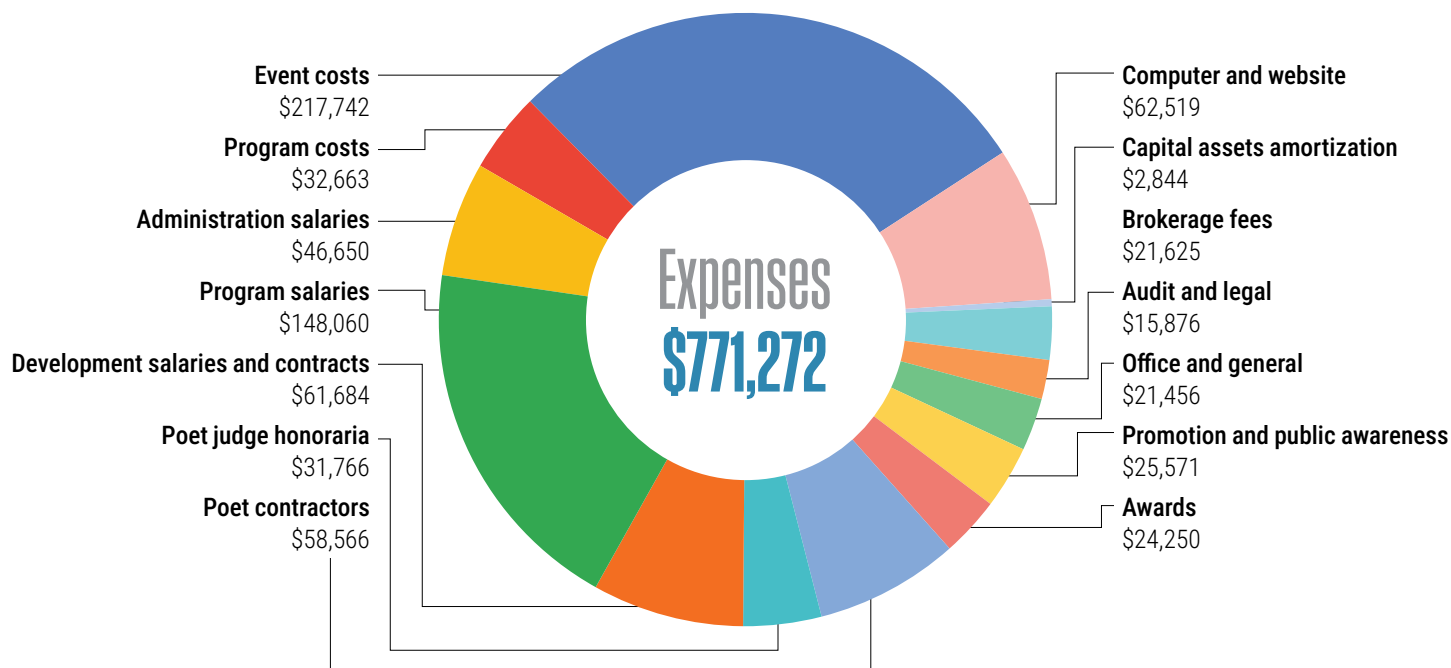
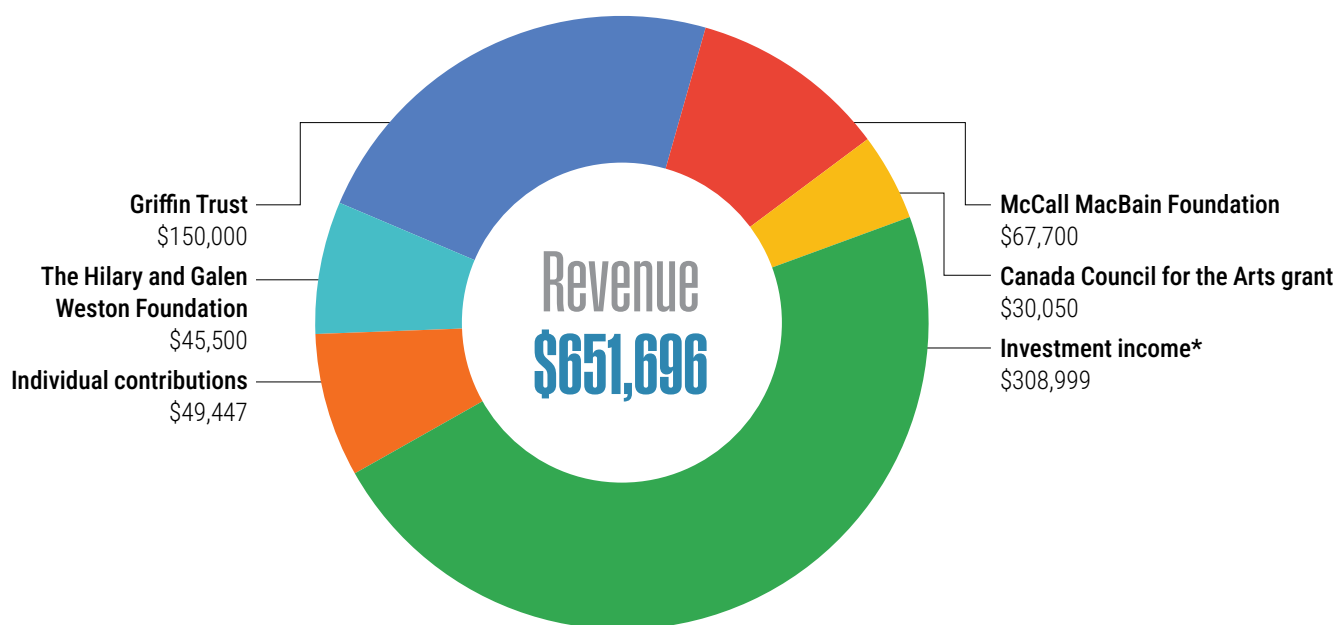




By the Numbers: Social Media Reach in 2025

PLATFORM	FOLLOWERS	VIEWS
YouTube	13,000	318,500
Facebook	5,545	238,100
Instagram	3,153	123,100

Financial Overview



INTERNALLY RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS: \$3,984,400

GOAL: \$10M

* Note: this is not revenue per se, but rather gains on our restricted funds contributed to fund programs.

For more information, please consult poetryinvoice.ca/about/PIVLVP_2025_Financial_Statement.

Support

We are grateful to the Canada Council for the Arts for their support. The McCall MacBain Foundation has enabled us to continue offering our FutureVerse program. The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation is the new presenting supporter of our National Finals, allowing us to expand the reach and scope of

our Recite program more broadly. The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry has been our main supporter since our inception. We would also like to thank the literary festivals, publishers, poets, teachers, schools and school boards, and educational advocacy groups that have supported us and our mission.



Winner of the 2025 National Finals in the English stream
Isabella Torres Rangel sharing the joy with National
Finalist in the Bilingual stream Margot Cadrin.

The 2025 National

POETRY in VOICE

La Grande finale

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National Finalists, FutureVersers and judges
celebrating after the 2025 National Finals show.

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e 2025



“Thank you for giving educators access to such an incredible experience. I have no funding to teach my online program which means that I rely on whatever I can find on the internet that is ‘free.’ Your resources are extremely valuable and I will continue to use them in my teaching.”

– MARGO FOSTER, TEACHER, REMOTE EDUCATION VIA NORTHLAKE WOODS PUBLIC SCHOOL, WATERLOO, ON



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