



202, 10621 – 100 AVE
FINANCIAL BUILDING
EDMONTON, AB T5J 0B3

PH: 780.448.0159
FX: 780.482.1744
www.taxpayer.com

June 15, 2010

RE: POET LAUREATE

To Whom It May Concern:

A proposal for a City of Calgary Poet Laureate was recently shared with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF). Generally, the CTF believes municipalities should stick to providing core services and leave extras, like arts promotion, to the private, non-profit and charitable realms.

This is precisely why the proposal for a Calgary Poet Laureate was so impressive, it relies almost entirely on a partnership between the charitable and private sector to fill and fund the position. It appears the support from the City of Calgary would be minimal and would cost taxpayers virtually nothing.

Provided that those key aspects remain within the proposal, we are pleased to encourage its support.

Moreover, we would encourage civic leaders, politicians and, importantly, those who have ideas they want to put into action to look to this model in the future. Rather than simply provide tax dollars to “worthwhile” projects, civic politicians should encourage those with ideas to find support within the private, non-profit and charitable sectors to fund their projects. If support cannot be found, perhaps that’s an indication of whether taxpayers would want their tax dollars supporting the project as well.

Clearly, this has been done in this case for the Poet Laureate and similar results should be expected from others in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Hennig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Scott Hennig
Alberta Director
Canadian Taxpayers Federation