

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PROCLAMATION

NORTH DAKOTA POETRY DAY

OCTOBER 16, 2026

WHEREAS, North Dakota has a rich literary tradition from the many groups of people, both native and immigrant, who have made it their home. Having a special time set aside to study North Dakota and regional poets in schools is an important supplement to national curriculums which may only study famous or commercially successful poets; and

WHEREAS, poetry is one of the most personal art forms, allowing people to find and express their unique voice and viewpoint. Poetry sparks imagination and creativity; it can help us understand and process complex feelings, both our own and those of others; and

WHEREAS, poetry is the development of emotional intelligence. The creation and study of poetry provides a powerful means of expressing and exploring emotions, both our own and those of others. It allows us to connect with our shared human experiences at a deeper, more empathetic level; and

WHEREAS, poetry demands close attention to the sounds, rhythms and structure of language; it encourages us to slow down and savor each component, fostering a heightened sense of presence which is the gateway to a more deeply experienced exploration of the world; and

WHEREAS, the poetry of a culture reflects its values, history and worldview. Studying poetry can provide insights into different cultures and perspectives, both native and immigrant. It can also help us understand our own cultural heritage and identity; this can lead to more meaningful and productive discussions even when dealing with sensitive topics.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim
OCTOBER 16, 2026, NORTH DAKOTA POETRY DAY in the State of North Dakota.





Kelly Armstrong
GOVERNOR

ATTEST: 

Michael Howe
SECRETARY OF STATE