

The Indigenous Poets Society Launches Chapbook & Poetry Slam Series

For Immediate Release
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“I wanted to show them my pow wow dance.
It was traditional, but not their traditional.”

- Kevin Wesaquate

The Indigenous Poets Society is announcing the release of their first chapbook, which will be launched at a poetry slam at **The Two Twenty on Tuesday, Feb 7 at 7pm**, featuring performances by chapbook contributors Kevin Wesaquate, Tala Tootoosis (monarch metamorphosis), Shawn Joseph (Overflo'), and Janelle Pewapsconias (ecoaborijanelle). Also included in the book but unable to perform that evening is well-known local artist Lindsay Knight (eekwol). The event and chapbook was made possible through a partnership with Shift Development.

The Indigenous Poets Society was born on October 17th 2013, when a committed and talented group of artists came together in order to create a safe place for Indigenous writers to perform, workshop their art, and share a collective voice. SCYAP Art Gallery hosted early sessions and open mics and by January 2013 they hosted their first Poetry Slam Competition—the winner of which was Tala Tootoosis.

The Indigenous Poets Society filled a gap in Saskatoon's spoken-word scene and brought Indigenous voices, stories and perspectives to the forefront. By 2015 when the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word came to Saskatoon, the Society hosted a well-received performance of Indigenous artists at Village Guitar & Amp featuring ecoaborijanelle, Zoey Pricelys Roy, Lindsay Eekwol Knight, Tala Tootoosis and Kevin Wesaquate.

The Poetry Slam on February 7 will launch a regular series, on the first Tuesday of every month at The Two Twenty. The series is open to the broader spoken word community, and may be a source of future collaborations with *Tonight It's Poetry*. The regular series will help attract members, mentor youth, setup workshops and stimulate the scene—promoting literacy, empowerment and bridge-building between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

In the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, there are increasing events, initiatives and programs that seek to educate about the history of residential schools and Indigenous peoples. The Indigenous Poets Society is an important voice and opportunity for our community to listen and learn, while supporting talented artists.

EVENT DETAILS:

Indigenous Poets Society

Book Launch + Poetry Slam

Tues, Feb 7 at 7pm. All ages welcome.

The Two Twenty, 220 20th Street W

\$10 or free for performing poets

Tickets/signup at picatic.com/bloodmemoryslam

Featuring Kevin Wesaquate, Tala Tootoosis/monarch metamorphosis, Janelle Pewapsconias/ecoaborijanelle, Shawn Joseph/Overflo'

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