

## **Verbs of the Fredericton Public Library**

*—for library staff past, present, and future, 2018*

By Ian LeTourneau, City of Fredericton Cultural Laureate 2016 – 2018

Translated by:

Borrow. Access to a million stories.  
Not just in the dog-eared pages of books,  
which sit poised on shelves, expectant, gentle  
as sleeping babies, while at the same time,  
holding back a spring freshet containing  
everything imaginable, so that we,  
in turn, can imagine everything.  
Civic hub to a million more stories.

Renew. Not just material, but a sense  
of purpose, of belonging. Spark  
of engagement, enriched by community.

Return: three weeks or less and sometimes more.  
We don't just drop stuff through the waiting slot  
or walk nonchalantly through the door again  
and again, but return is also a noun  
and its yield is infinite.