

**Sixty-eighth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4002
(Senators Mathern, Estenson, Weston)
(Representatives Davis, D. Johnson, Vetter)**

A concurrent resolution designating Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere as Poet Laureate of North Dakota.

WHEREAS, Larry Woiwode was designated as Poet Laureate of the State of North Dakota by the Fifty-fourth Legislative Assembly and served with honor and distinction in that capacity until his death in April 2022; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere was born in 1951 on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation where she lived until her family relocated to Oregon, began writing poetry at the age of 10 having her first poem published, and continued writing throughout high school, having poems published in Franklin High School's anthology "The Conceited Scribbler"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere returned to North Dakota in 1972 to complete her teaching degree at the University of North Dakota and later completed her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of North Dakota; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere has been decreed Associate Poet Laureate by North Dakota Poet Laureate, Larry Woiwode; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe, Belcourt, North Dakota, where she organized and led the Turtle Mountain Writers and Artist workshops for middle and high school students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere is the editor of the Turtle Mountain Teen Writers book of poetry titled "Heart of the Turtle"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere has published four books of poetry, "Dragonfly Dance", "His Feathers Were Chains", "Bitter Tears", and "Thunderbird"; a children's book, "Josie Dances"; and an academic book, "Stringing Rosaries: The History, The Unforgivable, and the Healing of Northern Plains American Indian Boarding School Survivors"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere's poetry has been published in journals, magazines, and anthologies, including "Humanities North Dakota Magazine", "Yellow Medicine Review", "Original Local", "Storytelling Time", "The Beautiful", "St. Peter's B-List", "North Dakota is Everywhere: An Anthology of Contemporary North Dakota Poets", "The Polaris Trilogy", and "Drunken Boat"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere's books have received the North Dakota State Library Association Notable Documents Award, Independent Book Publishers Benjamin Franklin Award, Independent Press Awards, and Midwest Book Awards, and have been nominated for the Minnesota Youth Reading Star of the North Award and the prestigious Stubbendieck Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere has been a Poetry Fellow at Vermont Studio Center in Vermont, Anderson Center and Mallard Island in Minnesota, and Soul Mountain in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere is a member of the North Dakota State University Press Editorial Board; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere's poem, "Tawkwaymenahnah", has been adopted by Carnegie Learning's language arts basal textbook for grades 6 through 12; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere was the invited poet with Joy Harjo, National Poet Laureate, at the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest, at the Plains Museum in Fargo and was the featured poet author at the South Dakota Festival of Books; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere is considered a national expert on American Indian boarding schools and has given over 50 television, radio, and podcast interviews and has been the invited speaker at numerous conferences, including the Concordia Social Justice Advocates Conference, Guest Lecture at Verizon, National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, National Native American Boarding School Healing Conference, Northern Great Plains History Conference, and the Midwest Law Enforcement Administrative Support Conference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

That Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere, a resident of Belcourt, North Dakota, is designated and shall serve as Poet Laureate of North Dakota until a successor is named; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State forward a copy of this resolution to Dr. Denise K. Lajimodiere.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House