

DAWSON CITY MUSIC Festival

SONGWRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



RESIDENCY DATES: All of January 2025

LOCATION: Dawson City, Yukon - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Territory

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 18, 2024 (11:59pm Mountain Time)

NOTIFICATION OF SELECTION: No later than November 1, 2024

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 2006, the Dawson City Music Festival has proudly operated an annual Songwriter in Residence program in partnership with the Klondike Institute of Art & Culture (KIAC), North Klondyke Highway Music Society, and Parks Canada. Each January, the program brings a songwriter to Dawson City for a month-long stay. The artist receives studio and living space at the centrally located and historic Macaulay House. Like [KIAC's Artist in Residence Program](#), DCMF's Songwriter in Residence Program aims to present an inspirational environment for creation, research, and community engagement.

[Past DCMF residents](#) have been shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize, received Juno Awards, and performed at some of Canada's premier venues such as Massey Hall and the National Arts Centre.

DAWSON CITY

Dawson City is a unique, small, and isolated northern town located within the traditional and contemporary territory of the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#), a self-governing First Nation who have lived along the Yukon River since time immemorial. Situated at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers, Dawson City is 230 km south of the Arctic Circle. It is 536km northwest of Whitehorse – approximately 6 hours driving, or one hour by air.

Dawson is a diverse and active community with many opportunities for program participants. In January, temperatures can range from -10 to -50 Celsius, and daylight averages approximately five hours each day. Because Dawson City is located in a valley, direct sunlight is rare. Skiing, snowmobiling, curling, hockey, and taking in the northern lights are popular wintertime activities. The [City of Dawson](#) is a great resource for info on recreational programs, and the [Klondike Visitors Association](#) keeps tabs on local events and other activities.

Tombstone Territorial Park, a 2,200 km² area of unique wilderness, is a ninety minute drive from Dawson up the Dempster Highway. It is stunning year-round, filled with rugged peaks, permafrost landforms, and wildlife. The area's Hän name, Ddhäl Ch'èl Cha Nän, means "ragged mountain land." The park is a legacy of the [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in](#) Land Claim Agreement.

Dawson City is known for its vibrant arts and cultural scene, including [Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre](#), [Yukon School of Visual Arts](#), [ODD Gallery](#), and the [Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture](#) (KIAC), in addition to the Dawson City Music Festival. KIAC provides extensive arts education and programming, hosting workshops, concerts, performances, classes, and festivals throughout the year. In addition, local bars host live music, open mic, and karaoke nights.

Residents should be aware of the location and isolation of Dawson City. The cost of living is higher than in many parts of Canada. Some products, supplies, and services are unavailable or challenging to find. Dawson City has various shops, including two grocery stores, a hardware store, a well-stocked gas station/convenience store, a bookstore, a pharmacy, a Canada Post outlet, and more. One bank is available, CIBC, with 24 hour bank machine access. The remote location of Dawson City means that at times, the community may occasionally be without internet service - this is not a regular, anticipated occurrence but service has been interrupted for up to 16 hours in the recent past. The loss of cellphone and landline phone services is less likely but can occur. These services require restoration outside of Dawson if outages do occur, so unfortunately a loss of service for several hours is normal. Power outages do occur but are usually resolved very quickly by local technicians and services. Expect the unexpected.

Do not let January in the north scare you – previous residents have immersed themselves in the

community and have found it an enriching, once-in-a-lifetime experience! In addition to valuable, unrestricted time to create, artists have also found their outreach activities to be unique and rewarding. Outreach has included mentoring aspiring songwriters, collaborating with local musicians, hosting experimental noise sessions, leading workshops at the Robert Service School, and working closely with elders in the community. Dawson City is a welcoming town where it's easy to get involved - artists have enjoyed learning the ropes at the CFYT community radio station, volunteering for local events, and exploring this scenic area of the North we call home.