

# **(You)th**

**By Samantha Badaoa, Windsor's Youth Poet Laureate**

we have always been here  
humming our songs  
shuffling our feet

moving through mud and mist  
searching for something  
or somewhere expanding  
anything that might fit comfortably  
in the palms of our hands  
or between our lips

we are training our tongues  
to speak words we have not  
yet built  
or even dreamt of  
there must be a million ways to say  
"I am"  
or  
"I think"  
and we will discover them all  
if you only  
let us

let us  
sweep the dust from these  
textbooks  
wipe their pages clean  
and instead fill them with  
everything we have

*Written for International Youth Day 2019*