

(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