



Press release  
For immediate release

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## The FEQ Travels to New Heights in its 50th Year

**Québec City, July 17, 2017** – The landmark **50<sup>th</sup> Festival d'été de Québec** was quite simply outstanding! This anniversary year was celebrated in style on the stages and in the streets of Québec. Enthusiastic festivalgoers caught the vibe, dancing and singing along with the artists who, more than ever before, raved about the Festival, now one of the best of the best!

"We wanted our 50<sup>th</sup> Festival to be memorable and we did it! We thought it through, we looked for and put together content that would capture the imagination and we took risks. The results speak for themselves. Our festival fans, local and tourists alike, turned out in great numbers, everywhere and all the time," remarked general manager Daniel Gélinas with satisfaction.

As the FEQ chair of the board, Alain-Jacques Simard, said, "We gave festivalgoers what was truly a musical journey, a long voyage from one festival to another and to different cities, transported by a wide variety of genres. Québec City was on a musical trip for a full 11 days, of which we are extremely proud."

The **Backstreet Boys** took festival fans to Las Vegas, **Lady Antebellum** and **Kelsea Ballerini** to Nashville, **DakhaBrakha** to the Ukraine and the **ElectroFEQ** gave a sneak peek of Tomorrowland. **Les Trois Accords**, **Lisa LeBlanc** and **Les Cowboys Fringants** had everyone laughing and dancing, **Chocolat**, **Melissa Ethridge**, **The Who** and **Metallica** really rocked the crowds, while **P!NK**, **DNCE** and **The Strumbellas** had fans singing along at the top of their lungs. **Bobby Bazini** and **Fred Fortin** touched our hearts, as still others opened their worlds to us, from the brilliance of **Amadou et Mariam** to the virtual dreamscape of **Gorillaz**.

"We have to salute the curiosity of our festival fans. They're open-minded, ready to discover new sounds and above all, I think they love the extreme diversity of our Festival," added Louis Bellavance, director of programming.

The retrospective on the **50 summers of the FEQ** was truly a sentimental journey, and the wacky performances by **L'orchestre d'hommes-orchestres**, along with the captivating shows put on by the French troupes **Les Plasticiens Volants** and **Transe-Express** took the imagination to new heights.

"All of these extraordinary side events during the Festival helped make our 50th anniversary celebrations even more special. We put on an amazing event, offering original experiences that took festivalgoers in new and exciting directions," added Daniel Gélinas, general manager. "We're seeing results from the application of the initial elements of Vision 2025, published last October."

Artists' crews raved more than ever, with tour managers once again praising the quality reception by the FEQ team and the professionalism of the crews.

"It was a pleasure working with you and your team at your amazing festival !!!" - Joel Stanley, production manager, Gorillaz

"We had a great Day...a top notch festival...well done!" - John « Lug » Zajonc, production manager, Metallica

"I can't remember ever having such a hard time saying goodbye to a festival team. I've never been given such a continuously warm reception," - Fabien Chamakoff, artistic director, Les Plasticiens Volants

"This was, hands down, the BEST festival I have ever done. You were all amazingly helpful and courteous in everything you did and I just wanted to say THANK YOU TO EVERYONE one more time. It was an honor to work with you all" - Jim Mustapha, lighting designer, The Who

"We truly hope we get to work with you again, because you're the best!" - Bob Mehalick, tour manager, Fetty Wap

"Thanks again to your whole team for an amazing evening.....Quebec City will be one of those shows we all remember as a career highlight" - Bill Buntain, Bonus Management, P!NK

The foreign media, present in greater numbers to cover this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival, highlighted the diversity and quality of programming and the festive, urban and affordable experience offered by an event that puts Québec in the international spotlight.

More than once between July 6 and 16, the FEQ was ranked one of the top three most popular stories across all media.

Finally, sales of passes soared Québec-wide and in foreign markets. And for the second consecutive year, the FEQ was sold out.

***The Festival d'été de Québec is presented by Bell in collaboration with Coors Light.***

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