



## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **High-flying Festivities to mark the FEQ's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**Québec City, February 27, 2017** - The Festival d'été de Québec is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary with a dazzling array of spectacular and original activities to captivate the crowds. A monumental exhibition and three original street performance shows planned for early and late evening are truly over the top!

"We want to welcome fans to the Festival and at the same time, we hope to send them off with lasting new memories of the FEQ. Made possible with support from the governments of Canada, of Québec and from the City of Québec, these shows will greatly enhance the Festival experience and are clearly in line with Vision 2025, announced last fall," explained the chair of the board, Alain-Jacques Simard, as he thanked the major partners.

"Our government is proud to support this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Festival, which bolsters Québec's outstanding reputation for organizing international-calibre cultural events. I commend the work of the FEQ organizers of this major event, one that generates significant economic benefits. We can be proud of our Festival d'été," said François Blais, Minister of Employment and Social Solidarity and Minister responsible for the Capitale-Nationale region.

#### **50 Summers for the FEQ: an extraordinary exhibition to mark a milestone**

The Festival d'été de Québec has chosen the Parc de l'Amérique-Française as the site for this exciting exhibition. Produced in collaboration with a museologist, the Festival has combed through its archives for highlights from the past 49 Festivals. Visitors can see the influence the FEQ has had on many of today's festivals and relive the event from the very beginning through photos, newspaper articles, posters and many other mementos.

This free outdoor exhibition will be open to the public from late June through the end of July; a trip back in time covering 49 years of music, festivities and memorable moments.

"For us, it went without saying that we would offer our public this exhibition and give them the chance to relive these memories. At the 50-year mark, isn't it time to look back at all that we've accomplished so we can better turn to the future? We wanted to share all this with the people of Québec City, who have been our loyal fans from day one," said general manager Daniel Gélinas.

### **Street performances, always at the heart of the FEQ**

#### **L'orchestre d'hommes-orchestres**

Also happening at the Parc de l'Amérique-Française in the early evening from July 7 to 16, the masters at converting everyday objects into musical instruments who make up this original collective will have the public grooving along with the more than forty performers playing their offbeat hodgepodge of recycled materials.

Presented during the Canada 150 celebrations, with the working title Ensemble\_Together.ca, the show will be filled with allusions to the values and history of our country. Truly a work in progress, each original performance is meant to be produced one time only.

"This year, the Festival d'été de Québec celebrates Canada 150 at the same time as its own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This exciting program will include shows that call upon our collective imagination, presented thanks to the Ensemble\_Together.ca project. The festivities marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary give us the opportunity to look back at all that we have accomplished so far. The capital city will be celebrating this summer. You won't want to miss it!" added the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and Member of Parliament for Québec

The FEQ warmly thanks the Commission de la capitale nationale for its invaluable collaboration in these two events.

*<http://www.lodho.com/>*

## **Plasticiens Volants**

The first weekend of the FEQ, all eyes will be on the French street theatre troupe, the Plasticiens Volants, and their amazing giant puppets (floating, stable or inflatable costumes). Part puppet, part kite, they'll be floating above heads and mingling with the crowd. Created specially for the Festival's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the show stars the most imposing and impressive characters created by this group of dedicated artists, whose dream was to one day perform on the most beautiful stage of all: the sky above. The original dramatic and musical production kicks off on Grande-Allée and culminates in a grandiose finale at the Cœur du FEQ. This one-of-a-kind mobile street performance is a must, July 7, 8 and 9 around 11 p.m.

*<http://www.plasticiensvolants.com/en/compagnie.htm>*

## **Transe Express**

Transe Express was created by a troupe of imaginative inventors and celestial architects who delight in bringing their monumental street performances to the public. The project involves scores of actors, acrobats, carillonneurs, dancers, percussionists, singers, violinists and other participants. In a spectacular show that defies the imagination, violin players, trapeze artists and an opera singer give a stunning performance while dramatically suspended from a giant mobile. The soundtrack for "*Lâcher de Violons*" is a torrent of nostalgic flashbacks from the most memorable musical moments of the FEQ over the past 49 years. The living mobile combines theatre, acrobatics and music to captivate crowds from Grande-Allée to the Cœur du FEQ during the second weekend of festivities, on July 13, 14 and 15, starting around 11 p.m.

*<http://www.transe-express.com/en/>*

"Colourful street performances have always brought their unique touch of magic to the Festival. How many generations of festivalgoers have been happily drawn into the wacky world of these artists over the years? These are more of the memories that we wanted to evoke with the presentation of these three extraordinary shows," Daniel Gélinas explained.

As the official FEQ presenter, Bell brings these projects to life and, through its technology, helps immortalize them.

"Bell is pleased to be associated with these spectacular activities. We have long-lasting ties to the FEQ and we want to make a significant contribution to this 50<sup>th</sup>

anniversary," said Martine Turcotte, Bell Vice Chair, Québec. "Last June, we announced an historic 10-year partnership with the FEQ, thereby reiterating our solid commitment to the Festival and to the City of Québec. We wish the Festival a happy 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary! "

There's no doubt that Québec will be a destination of choice this summer!

"Since its creation 50 years ago, the Festival d'été de Québec has made its mark on the cultural and tourism scene both in Québec and in Canada," added the mayor of Québec, Régis Labeaume. "The special program announced in honour of this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary is magnificent. I'm certain that Québec citizens and tourists will turn out in great numbers and help make these celebrations a resounding success."

Musical programming for the 50<sup>th</sup> Festival d'été de Québec will be released on March 8.

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To view images from the press conference: <http://bit.ly/2kREb96>

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**The 50<sup>th</sup> Festival d'été de Québec will be held from July 6 to 16, 2017.**

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



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**Information and requests for interviews:**

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