



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

A grand performance to celebrate 40 years of friendship!

Val-d'Or, May 22, 2014 – To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre, Florent Volland and his friends Biz, Bourbon Gauthier and Shavit will rendezvous on National Aboriginal Day next June 21st!

A variety of musical styles will rock the young and not so young under the theme of *Friendship among peoples* on the evening of the summer solstice. Folk, rap, country and reggae singers will harmoniously mingle on stage like the public invited to the celebration. Music unites people and diversity promotes dialogue.

"For the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre's 40th anniversary, we offer some of our friends as a present. Innus, Québécois, Atikamekw and Anishnabek will share their cultures and talents on the occasion of First Peoples' National Day" said Oscar Kistabish, the Centre's president.

National Aboriginal Day is the summer's first rendezvous in Abitibi-Témiscamingue. The show will kick off at 7:00 p.m. with the sacred drum's spellbinding rhythm of the Screaming Eagles from the community of Lac Simon. Hakim Ratt, an Anishnabe traditional dancer, will offer a colourful performance with his "fancy" style dances. Seen across the world in the Cirque du Soleil's "Totem" show, Hoop Dancing was revealed to a broad audience. The agility of Atikamekw hoop dancer Gilbert Niquay will make both the initiated and the first time attendees experience unforgettable moments.

"Since its foundation in 1974, the Native Friendship Centre has been building bridges between peoples. National Aboriginal Day offers a unique sharing opportunity for Aboriginals and non Aboriginals. It has become a must among all special events in Val-d'Or!" according to Édith Cloutier, the Centre's executive director.

On June 21st, Canadians from all walks of life are invited to participate in the many National Aboriginal Day events that will be taking place from coast to coast to coast. This is a special day to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. (Source: Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada)

The Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre is an urban service hub, a living environment and a cultural anchor for First Peoples dedicated to wellness, justice and social inclusion, it promotes harmonious cohabitation in its community.

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Source: Édith Cloutier, Executive director
Communication: Nadia Lagueux, Communication and Special Events Officer
819 825-8299, ext. 236