



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

National Aboriginal Day: Bringing Peoples Together! Mëmëgwashi Gala: Celebrating academic achievement of our students!

Val-d'Or, May 11, 2015 _ Next June 21 at 7:00 pm, the annual show of the National Aboriginal Day (NAD) will be presented on the outdoor stage, in the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre's parking area!

Florent Vollant will be presenting for the first time to a large audience a live performance of his new album *Puamuna*, launched last April 28. He will be sharing the stage with his long-time partner Guy **Bélanger**, a bluesman and harmonica virtuoso. And for the first time in NAD celebrations in Val-d'Or, rapper **Samian**, accompanied by DJ Horg, will be part of this great summer solstice gathering!

The NAD show will kick off at 7:30 pm to the rhythm of the sacred drum of the Screaming Eagles from the community of Lac Simon. Inuit throat singing, traditional dances, Aboriginal arts and crafts and typical food tasting will complete the program and provide the public with a unique experience of cultural sharing and exchange.

According to Oscar Kistabish, the Friendship Centre's president, "Since its foundation in 1974, the Native Friendship Centre has been building bridges between peoples. National Aboriginal Day is a unique opportunity for sharing between Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. It has become one of the major gatherings not to be missed in Val-d'Or!"

For the 13th consecutive year, the Mëmëgwashi Gala will be rewarding 180 laureates and their family on June 4th at the Telebec Concert Hall of Val-d'Or. This annual event underlines perseverance and academic success of Aboriginal students from pre-kindergarten to University and has become a celebration of pride for the Val-d'Or Native community!

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 the community.

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