



The CANADIAN CANOE MUSEUM
Le MUSÉE CANADIEN *du* CANOT

PRESS RELEASE

Connected by Canoe project celebrates Canada 150 on-the-water; connecting Canadians, inspiring conversations and new understanding

16 paddlers will travel the Rideau Waterway together in a 36-foot canoe for a sesquicentennial project of The Canadian Canoe Museum and Community Foundations of Canada

April 18, 2017 – Peterborough, Ontario – On May 2nd, 2017, a diverse group of sixteen paddlers will be given a send-off at The Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario before heading to Kingston, Ontario where they will launch a 10-day, 2-part journey through the Rideau Waterway in a 36-foot Voyageur Canoe destined for Ottawa.

This journey, called Connected by Canoe, is a sesquicentennial project of The Canadian Canoe Museum and Community Foundations of Canada in partnership with the Ottawa Community Foundation, Parks Canada, and other community organizations along the Rideau Waterway.

The 16 paddlers will consist youth and other representatives from a variety of partner organizations including Parks Canada, Curve Lake First Nation, Nunavut Sivuniksavut, the Peterborough Kawartha Rotary Club, Fulford Preparatory School, Rideau Roundtable and Confederation of First Nation Cultural Learning Centres as well as photographers and videographers.

The first “Express Leg” of the journey will take place from May 3rd to May 10th when the group will paddle from Kingston to Ottawa via the Rideau Waterway, stopping each night in different communities to celebrate and engage in conversation with local people and organizations.

Topics of discussion along the route will revolve around the on-going importance and possibilities of canoes for community building, and ideas for building an equitable, sustainable and inclusive future for Canada. Each of the 16 paddlers will bring their own open-ended questions inspired by these topics for discussion.

The conversations and activities of the Express Leg will be captured in the form of videos, photos, songs and stories that will be shared daily through The Canadian Canoe Museum’s social media and other new media channels, allowing all Canadians to follow along with the journey and conversations, and engage with the project and participants.

The group will arrive in Ottawa on May 11th for the “Ceremonial Leg” of the project. There, they will be joined by 3 other large watercrafts that represent canoe building culture and traditions from across Canada including an Umiaq from the North Coast, a Haida-style Spirit Canoe from the West coast and a Voyageur Canoe.



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The four canoes will paddle together from Dow's Lake Pavilion to the Rideau Locks to celebrate and honour Canada's waterways and indigenous cultures. This ceremonial paddle will include traditional drumming, singing and a continuation of the conversations from the Express Leg of the project.

Quotes:

"The canoe got us to where we are but in this nation of rivers that nourishes a river of nations I think it also has important lessons that can take the country forward," says James Raffan, Director of External Relations for The Canadian Canoe Museum. "What we're planning here is a fun canoe trip on one of the nation's historic waterways but it is a bit of a cultural experiment too hoping to show that the canoe can remind us that 'pulling together' and being 'in the same boat' are ways to bring Canadians closer together in meaningful and productive ways."

"This journey of respect, reciprocity, and reconciliation culminating at the 2017 Community Foundations Conference is a powerful example of the kind of community building that can happen when we create space and experiences for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together," says Erin Kasungu, Lead Conference Organizer with Community Foundations of Canada.

To view the daily schedule of the Connected by Canoe journey, and for more information visit <http://www.canoemuseum.ca/connected-by-canoe/>

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Media are invited to the launch of the Connected by Canoe journey on May 2nd, 2017 at The Canadian Canoe Museum, 910 Monaghan Road, Peterborough. A separate invitation will follow.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact

The Canadian Canoe Museum

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