
News Release Communiqué

The Government of Canada Supports 9th Montréal High Lights Festival

MONTREAL, February 21, 2008 – On behalf of the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, the Honourable Michael M Fortier, Minister of Public Works and Government Services and Minister Responsible for the Region of Montréal, today announced funding for the Montréal High Lights Festival.

Funding of \$120,000 will enable the Festival to promote the Montréal All-Nighter and Celebration of Light, two components of its 2008 programming. This amount will also provide guaranteed fees to artists and artisans and will cover expenses for program facilities and logistics.

“The Government of Canada is pleased to announce funding for Montréal High Lights through the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program,” said Minister Verner. “We are proud to join Canadian communities in supporting activities that celebrate local history and heritage.”

“Montreal is, without a doubt, the city of festivals, and the Montréal High Lights Festival is one more example of that,” said Minister Fortier. “The festival industry attracts national attention to the city and puts the spotlight on the dynamic nature of Montrealers. Our Government is proud to contribute to a cultural event that will gather people of all ages and walks of life.”

“As a prestigious event that occupies a unique niche, the Montréal High Lights Festival brings a number of important benefits for the cultural and tourist sectors and plays an important part in Montréal’s economic development. The Festival has won the hearts of Montréalers and helps raise the city’s profile as an international tourist destination,” said the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec.

The 9th Montréal High Lights Festival takes place from February 21 to March 2, 2008. Artistic, visual, culinary, and recreational experiences will take place over 11 days and allow participants to discover lesser-known highlights of the Montréal winter. More than 250 volunteers are involved in this festival.

The new Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program, announced in September 2007, provides Canadians with more opportunities to take part in local activities that present arts and culture and celebrate local history and heritage. This program will benefit many community events and celebrations in Canada throughout the coming year.

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The Government of Canada is committed to building stronger communities and providing all Canadians with opportunities to get involved in their communities and in celebrating Canadian arts and heritage.

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