



For Immediate Release

## News Release

### St. John's International Airport Authority Celebrates Canada 150 with a Youth-based Art Installation

*Canada's Youth Share 150+ Reasons We Love Canada with Hand-Painted Murals*

**St. John's, Newfoundland, Friday, June 30, 2017** - St John's International Airport is celebrating Canada's 150th birthday with the installation of 16 hand-painted murals created by youth from every Province and Territory across Canada. In St John's, the art was created by youth from For the Love of Learning, an arts-based charitable organization serving youth between the ages of 15-30 who are working to successfully overcome social and/or economic obstacles. The art is being displayed just outside the Arrivals area, on the first floor of the Airport Terminal Building.

"This initiative commemorates Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation and celebrates the cultural diversity we enjoy nationwide" says Marie Manning, Director of Marketing and Business Development with the St John's International Airport Authority. "We want to celebrate with our community by creating a memorable art display passengers and residents can enjoy."

The national 150+ Reasons We Love Canada project was created by VIBE Arts, a Toronto-based charitable organization that engages youth from marginalized communities through free arts education programs. The artists, aged 9+ come from thirty community organizations across the country including homeless shelters, under-resourced schools and youth agencies. The breathtaking murals express the spirit of Canada from their many unique perspectives honouring the diversity, culture, character and strength of our nation.

"Our 150+ murals represent the creative ability and leadership of 500 young Canadians, brought together to transform public space and inspire a nation through their collective art making", says Julie Frost, Executive and Artistic Director of VIBE Arts.

The original hand-painted murals (4' x 6') will be exhibited underground in Toronto's subway stations with digital displays in 20 Canadian airports, on 300 PATTISON Outdoor billboards and in 4 Canadian embassies around the world. After the exhibit, the original murals will return to the local community where they were created.

The project was made possible thanks to the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. The murals will be on display for the remainder of the summer season.

*St. John's International Airport Authority Celebrates Canada 150 with a Youth-based Art Installation cont'd*

**Media Contacts:**

**St. John's International Airport Authority:**

Erika Kelland

Marketing and Communications Advisor

709-758-8756, 709-631-8112

[ekelland@stjohnsairport.com](mailto:ekelland@stjohnsairport.com)

[www.stjohnsairport.com](http://www.stjohnsairport.com)

**For The Love of Learning:**

Gemma Hickey

709-722-8848

[gemma@ftlol.org](mailto:gemma@ftlol.org)

Artist leading the project:

Susan Parsons

<http://www.fiveisland.ca/artist/susan-parsons>

**VIBE ARTS:**

Julie Frost

Executive and Artistic director

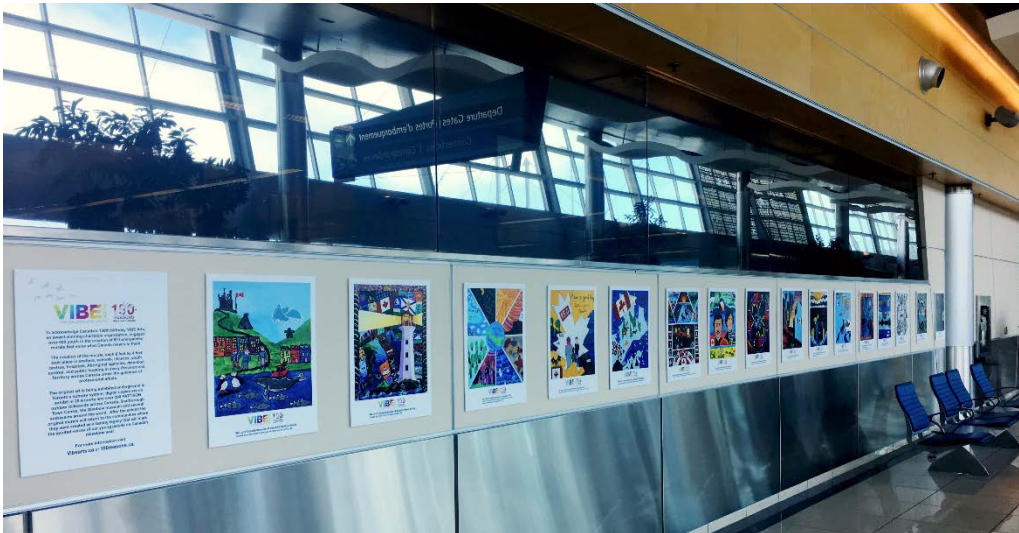
416-929-9314 # 102, 416-702-2849 9

**Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador:**

Ainsley Hawthorn

709-753-9899

[info@cfnl.ca](mailto:info@cfnl.ca)



**St. John's International Airport Authority** is a private, not-for-profit organization with the mandate to provide the region with a safe, cost-efficient transportation facility that is a catalyst for economic growth. Under the provisions of a long-term Ground Lease with the Federal Government of Canada, the Airport Authority is responsible for the airport's operations on behalf of the community it serves.

**About For the Love of Learning**

Founded by Robin Grant, For the Love of Learning is an arts-based charitable organization serving youth between the ages of 15-30, who are working to successfully overcome social and/or economic obstacles. FTLOL works at street level to engage youth and incorporate their needs. The training and experience of its staff allow an ambitious schedule of projects to be completed, while allowing enough flexibility to adapt to the interests of its youth clientele.

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**About VIBE Arts**

*VIBE Arts is an innovative and award-winning charitable organization committed to providing children and youth in under-resourced communities with high quality community and school based arts education. With a 20+ year trajectory VIBE Arts has become one of the most celebrated community arts organizations in Toronto. For more information, please visit: [www.VIBEArts.ca](http://www.VIBEArts.ca).*

**About Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador**

*The St. John's International Community Foundation is part of a network of over 191 Canadian community foundations who contribute time, leadership and financial support to initiatives that benefit their community most, based on an intimate understanding of local needs and opportunities. They do this by pooling the charitable gifts of donors to create endowment funds and using the investment income to make grants*