



Media Advisory

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New Brunswick Participates in Canada's First National Youth Arts Week

NEW BRUNSWICK — Visitors to the InterAction School of Performing Arts in Saint John had their first taste of youth creativity on Friday with members of the Butterfly Project showcasing modern dance paired with text, while other students played guitar and sang in the lobby to launch New Brunswick's participation in the first ever National Youth Arts Week, taking place across Canada May 1-7, 2012.

"This display of creativity is just the beginning," said Vanessa Moeller, Deputy Director of **artsnb** and Community Coordinator for New Brunswick's National Youth Arts Week. "Young people are planning community arts projects across New Brunswick. We are delighted to be a part of this national initiative that shows how the arts empower youth to make a positive impact in their lives and communities."

In New Brunswick, Moeller and members of **artsnb**'s Youth Commission are coordinating to mobilize youth to get involved and plan arts-based community projects across the province.

"The goal of the week is to celebrate youth-led creative expression and community involvement," notes Moeller. "I encourage all our youth to participate and find new ways to express creativity in their communities and for all New Brunswickers to celebrate our young, creative minds."

"The Department of Culture, Tourism and Healthy Living, and indeed our government, believes in the value of arts and culture and we're pleased to support National Youth Arts Week as we all strive toward this common goal of enriching the lives of our children and youth now and into the future," said Trevor Holder, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Healthy Living.

National Youth Arts Week is being coordinated by the Arts Network for Children and Youth (ANCY), a national arts service organization based in Toronto, in partnership with Michaëlle Jean Foundation and the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage.

"Youth across Canada, whether they live in rural communities or in big cities, have so much creativity — and when given the opportunity, will use that creativity to make positive change in their communities," says Linda Albright, Executive Director of ANCY.

Interested groups can visit www.youthartsweek.ca to get ideas for arts projects they can plan in their communities, register their youth arts events, and get involved in local events being planned for National Youth Arts Week. An interactive map on the website shows where events are happening – click to get a listing of events for each community.