

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vaudreuil-Dorion Circus Festival: A Resounding Success!

**Vaudreuil-Dorion, June 27, 2018** – The 14th edition of the Festival de cirque Vaudreuil-Dorion (FCVD) went out with a bang on Sunday with a show by Les Cowboys Fringants drawing a crowd of over 10,000.

The immensely popular band played their biggest hits as well as songs from their latest CD, *Octobre*. Well known for creating a party atmosphere wherever they perform, Les Cowboys Fringants offered up a delightful celebration of Quebec's Fête nationale. "Everyone who was there will always remember it as a magical and festive evening," said Mayor Guy Pilon. The first act was the five-piece band *Le vent du nord*, who delivered a rousing set from Harden Stage following their performance at the Grand spectacle de la fête nationale in Montréal the day before.

Besides the 10,000 spectators at the Fête nationale show, the celebrations attracted huge crowds, with more than 40,000 festival-goers attending free activities offered from Friday through Sunday. Rue Jeannotte has never been as lively as it was last weekend, despite the uncertain weather.

### A GIGANTIC FESTIVAL

The Festival de cirque Vaudreuil-Dorion kicked off with Kalabanté Productions, an African troupe of acrobats and musicians who won spectators' hearts with their strength, agility and joie de vivre, setting the tone for the entire festival. June 23 was reserved for Fête nationale events, starting with the bedazzling Mozaïk Parade. Despite the rain, hundreds of citizens proudly paraded down the streets of Vaudreuil-Dorion, presenting the results of more than six months of work. This year's theme was "Dreaming", and participants had worked with artists Lucie Bisson, Monica Brinkman, John McRae, Tina Struthers, Fabienne Legrand and Céline Poirier to design and make the costumes and accessories. The festivities continued with the traditional fireworks and a show by the Porn Flakes featuring guest artists Travis Cormier, Martin Fontaine, Rick Hughes, Anik Jean, Marie-Pierre Leduc and Stefie Shock. There was even a surprise appearance—well-known actor and comedian Patrick Huard—during the last song.

"I'm especially proud of this year's festival," said Mayor Pilon. "The street was chockablock, and the program provided a lot of diversity. It was a joy to see the smiles on the children's faces. We have more surprises planned for next year, which will be the festival's 15th year and the 25th anniversary of the City of Vaudreuil-Dorion."

The program featured many artists from the region, including the Day Dreamers and the talented Salaberry-de-Valleyfield native Marie-Pierre Leduc. Circus acts were everywhere on the site, and audiences were wowed by performers such as Les Dudes and Carpe Diem. A number of workshops were also offered on an ongoing basis. In short, there was something



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for everyone in this jam-packed program.

Also on the site was a food area, where 14 local restaurants served up a wide variety of inexpensive meals. Some of the owners had never operated at the FCVD before, and they loved the experience!

In his closing remarks, FCVD Board Chairman Michel Vallée said, “The FCVD extends sincere thanks to everyone who contributed, directly or indirectly, to the success of this year’s festival: Municipal Council, sponsors, festival-goers, artists, volunteers and organizers. It’s thanks to you that we’re able to offer such a large-scale festival, free of charge, year after year. See you in 2019!”

## **AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR**

An unexpected attendee of this year’s FCVD was Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, along with his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, their children, and the Liberal MP for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Peter Schiefke. The Prime Minister made his appearance around 3 p.m. on Rue Jeannotte, where he passed through the festival arch and was welcomed by a throng of people waiting eagerly to shake his hand. While his wife and children enjoyed the festivities, Mr. Trudeau exchanged friendly greetings with the people who had come to see him. “It’s a great honour for us to have the Canadian Prime Minister here in Vaudreuil-Dorion, and we’re very grateful to him for making the trip to attend our festival,” said Mayor Pilon.