

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





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## L0G0 2024 BY JONATO DALAYOAN

SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SISLER'S CREATE PROGRAM





## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Festival du Voyageur gathers by the Red River, on the ancestral land of the Cree, Oji-Cree, Ojibwe, Dene and Dakota, the National homeland of the Red River Métis, and Treaty 1 territory.

Festival du Voyageur recognizes that the stories we share about the fur trade and voyageurs are directly linked to the colonization of these lands. We are committed to sharing this truth by providing an inclusive and honest account of our shared history.

As a signatory of the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, we are committed to continuing our efforts towards reconciliation with Indigenous communities and supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Festival du Voyageur is proud to honour Indigenous cultures and histories in its programming and community initiatives.



## **ABOUT US**

Festival du Voyageur inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 that offers artistic and educational experiences inspired by the era of the Voyageurs of 1815. This 10-day event offered in Saint-Boniface every February has grown to become Western Canada's largest Francophone event, welcoming over 75,000 festivalgoers annually.

## **OUR MISSION**

Promote joie de vivre and extend the reach of the French language and culture throughout the year throught artistic, educational, historical and cultural experiences inspired by the voyageur era.

## **OUR VISION**

Promote discovery of the rich history of the voyageur era and the vitality of French language and culture in Manitoba.

## **OUR VALUES**

- Social responsability
- Heritage
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Integrity



## MESSAGE OF RECOGNITION

This year marked the 55th edition of Festival du Voyageur. From February 16-25, 2024, we welcomed 74,975 festivalgoers to experience the rich cultural diversity of Manitoba's Francophone and Indigenous communities. Despite a lack of snow, there was an abundance of joie de vivre that was brought to life by over 170 artists who shared their gifts and talents with us throughout the festival.

The warm weather this year did present some challenges. However, through the creativity and innovative spirit of our artistic community, the lack of snow became an opportunity for artistic exploration. This also provided an opportunity fo Festival du Voyageur to reflect on its values and ecological responsibilities. By using recycled and natural materials, our artists inspired us to work with the weather rather than against it, offering many important lessons on how to live in a good relationship with the land and water around us. As an organisation, we are grateful to be on this learning journey with the community.

While we learn together, we reinforce the importance of celebrating together. There is great value in celebrating with others from different backgrounds and cultures, as it reminds us that despite our differences, we are all connected through food, music, dance and laughter. Festival du Voyageur is proud and honoured to foster this inclusive vision of *joie de vivre*, and we are eager to see everyone again at Parc du Voyageur in February 2025.

Breanne Lavallée-Heckert Executive Director Eric Plamondon
President of the Board of Directors



## MESSAGE FROM THE HUTLET FAMILY OFFICIAL VOYAGEURS

It was a great honour for our family to be chosen as Official Voyageurs. Unveiled on February 14, our two-year mandate began two days before the 55th edition of the Festival du Voyageur. This year, the weather was much warmer than normal, which created several challenges for the winter Festival, including a lack of snow and plenty of mud! We would like to congratulate the entire Festival team and the sculptors who adapted by finding new ways to enhance the park.

Our schedule during the Festival was very busy. We were able to visit several schools, care homes for the elderly, daycare centers, and several pancake breakfasts in the community. During these visits, we played some twenty shows and ate a lot of pancakes and sausages! We also spent many unforgettable moments at Parc du Voyageur and the various official sites, meeting new and old friends.

We were encouraged to see and hear so many young fiddlers who love to play traditional music, which is so important in our Franco-Manitoban history. Congratulations to everyone who took part in the fiddling, jigging, beard growing, and pea soup competitions, as well as the Voyageurs Games.

We would like to thank all the volunteers and artists who made this edition of the Festival unforgettable. We were overwhelmed by the warm welcome we felt in the community. A big thank you to our wonderful chauffeur, Raymond Garand, to the Ordre des Voyageurs officiels for continuing to support us during our mandate, to Pit and Julie Turenne for easing the transition to the role of ambassador, to Claire Sparling for the beautiful costumes, to Chantal Vielfaure and the entire Festival team, and to the Board of Directors for their support and advice.

We look forward to representing Festival du Voyageur at many events this year, and most of all, we hope to see many of you at Festival 2025!

The Hutlet family : Philippe, Danièle, Danika, Élise, Rémi and Mia













74.975
FESTIVALGOERS



11,596
MAPLE TAFFY ON A STICK





12,893

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** 

**275** 

HOURS OF PERFORMANCES

17

INDIGENOUS ART
INSTALLATIONS

17,957

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM

## **MUSICAL PROGRAMMING**

A diverse program enriched the festival experience for festivalgoers at this 55<sup>th</sup> celebration!

**6 STAGES** 

150 ARTISTS

**275 HOURS OF PERFORMANCES** 































## HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

Fort Gibraltar was once again opened to the public. Interpreters transported festivalgoers back to the year 1815, bringing the fort to life in the era of the voyageurs and the fur trade through stories, workshops and a kitchen party!

**52 INTERPRETERS** 

**8 INTERPRETATION STATIONS** 

1 HÉHO CANOE



























# PLAYGROUND + FORÊT DES NEIGES



PHOTO: SOPHIE MOQUIN

## **NEW IN 2024!**

## INDIGENOUS ART GALLERY LA MICHINN - MÉDICINE

This year, the Festival set up a brand-new Indigenous art gallery, providing space to art student Julia Lafrenière to present an exhibition of pieces created by local Indigenous artists.

















## **FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR**

## INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

## Commitment to RECONCILIATION

Festival du Voyageur promotes the celebration of Indigenous peoples and culture. We are focused on reconciliation and implementing Indigenous programming and educational activities throughout the year. Our programming includes Métis, First Nations and Inuit language representation, education, and art.

## **INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

- TOOT AASAAMB event (September 21, 2023)
- Offer of activities inspired by Indigenous peoples in the school program
- Creation of a "Minut Michif" podcast series on Envol91
- Installation of the Infinity Fire as a gathering place
- Organization of a beading circle and a Maarsh aek lii Michif
- Offer of crafts made by Indigenous artists in the Boutique du Festival
- Installation of an art gallery entitled La Michinn Médicine
- "Winter Stories" audio vignettes
- Louis Riel Day Market
- Indigenous art in Parc du Voyageur
- "FAYT A LA MIN" workshops
- Hide-tanning camp
- "Lii jeu michif" at the Terasse à chansons

#### **PODCAST MINUT MICHIF**

Creation of a 4-part podcast series as a follow-up to the video series <a href="https://linktr.ee/minutmichif">https://linktr.ee/minutmichif</a>





## FEU D'INFINITÉ

The Infinity Fire is a gathering place in the heart of Parc du Voyageur that pays tribute to the Métis of the Red River. Its unique infinity-symbol design represents the eternal resilience of Manitoba's Red River Métis.



## **TOOT AASAAMB**

An event celebrating Indigenous peoples, held on September 21, 2023 at Patio340, featuring Douzie, Gator Beaulieu, Brandi Vezina, Sons of the Drum and LiKeur opera singers.



















## FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR ORDER OF THE CAPOTE



#### ORDER OF THE CAPOTE

This year, two honorary capotes were presented to Ida and Roger St. Vincent, who have long been involved with the Festival du Voyageur.

## COMPETITIONS



### FIDDLING COMPETITION

7 & under: Mia Hutlet 8 to 10: Ellie Whetter 11 to 13: Élise Hutlet 14 to 17: Danika Hutlet 18 & over: Jérémie Talbot 55 & over: Phil Veldhuis

Championship: Nya Chapman

### **JIGGING COMPETITION**

10 & under: Levi Carlisle 11 to 13: Sammy Wylie

14 to 17: Peyton Habinski-Anderson

55 & over: Gerry Dale Open: James Anderson



Platinum Sponsor:

Gold Sponsor:

Silver Sponsor:

Bronze Sponsors:





Long & McQuade





## OTHER COMPETITIONS



#### **BEARD GROWING COMPETITION**

Clean Shaven: Albert Kirby

**Open: Tracy Lavallee** 

Voyageur Beard: Jeremy Groen

in support of:



#### **PEA SOUP COMPETITION**

Audience Award: Resto Gare Jury Award: Next Door















## CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY











For the first time ever, Festival du Voyageur had the great honour of hosting an official citizenship ceremony in the Tente Rivière Rouge. A total of 30 individuals received their Canadian citizenship in Parc du Voyageur in the middle of a Manitoban winter. Accompanied by their families and friends, these new Canadians immediately had the opportunity to discover the *joie de vivre* of our community in the heart of Saint-Boniface! HÉHO!

## SCULPTURES IN THE PARK

Despite the lack of snow during Festival 2024, the park was still decorated with impressive sculptures made of snow and various materials such as hay, dogwood, and willow, showcasing the talent and creativity of our artists. These unique creations captivated festivalgoers with their beauty and charm, offering an excellent alternative to the usual snow masterpieces.















## SCHOOL PROGRAM canada life



**IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS** 

9.005

4.334

TAKE-HOME CRAFT KITS

**VIRTUAL PARTICIPANTS** 

3,575

176

**DIFFERENT SCHOOLS** 

PROGRAMS OFFERED

25



12 ONTARIO 2
ALBERTA

2 NORTH DAKOTA

**TOTAL: 199** 

#### **TOP 10 | SCHOOL DIVISIONS**

- Winnipeg School Division
- Private schools/homeschool/others
- DSFM
- River East Transcona School Division
- Pembina Trails School Division

- Sunrise School Division
- Louis Riel School Division
- Brandon School Divison
- Red River Valley School Division

• Interlake School Division

**TOTAL SCHOOL DIVISIONS: 43** 

## 17,957 PARTICIPANTS

Festival du Voyageur 2024 Canada Life School Program





# RELATS AU CCFM 340, boul. Provencher Blvd VOYAGEUR



SOIRÉE OUESTERN avec

Jocelyne Baribeau La Légende de Calamity Jane

Vieux Farka Touré Harry Manx





SOIRÉE CAJUN avec Babineaux Sisters Band Andrina Turenne

SOIRÉE ROCK avec Hello Fiasco mountain.seed et Akiña





Willows Sala

Billets HEHO.CA

((SiriusXM))



# MERCI TO ALL THE OFFICIAL SITES

RELAIS DU VOYAGEUR (CCFM)
RELAIS DU VIEUX LOUP
RELAIS DES PIONNIERS
APRÈS FESTI (CCFM)
AUBERGE DU VIOLON

CLUB ST-B
NONSUCH
MARION HOTEL
THE RIVERSIDE: TAP & TABLE













## SUSTAINABLE FESTIVAL

For more than 10 years, sustainable development has been one of the Festival's top concerns. We actively participate in the implementation of our social, economic and environmental responsibilities.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS**

**ECO-MOBILITY** | Free shuttles (festivalgoers and volunteers)

**WASTE MANAGEMENT** | Team of Eco-Voyageurs to sort waste; water stations; reduction of printed matter; composting area; recycling of beer cans; reuse of signage; reuse of donated Christmas trees.



## SOCIAL ACTIONS AN ACCESSIBLE FESTIVAL

Free access to the Festival for children 5 & under Preferential pricing for seniors

**People with disabilities** | Dedicated volunteers and specific signage, reserved areas near the stages, accessible washrooms

Safe space | Safety zone installed in the park

**Community** | More than 500 tickets donated to charities and partnerships with community groups (supported by Réseau Compassion Network)

### **FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR**

## MERCI TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS









922 VOLUNTEERS

**MERCI TO OUR TEAM LEADERS** 

12893
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Erin T. Amir M. Geneviève M. Anastasia K. Giovanna R. Andrea C. Guillaume D. Brenda M. Joanne R. Brigitte L. Carol J. Jonas E. Christy D. Julleyne S. Clarissa A. Katie D. Daniel M. Kevin C. Linda V. Daniel L. Doris S. Lorinda M.

Louise H. Marcel F. Matthew S. Michelle J. Odette D. Sandra M. Stas Z. Terry B. Youssof M. Yvonne B.

## FESTIVAL 2024

**REVIVE FESTIVAL 2024 @HEHO.CA** 















































## **FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR**

## PERMANENT STAFF

- BREANNE LAVALLÉE-HECKERT | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- COLIN MACKIE | DIRECTOR OF HERITAGE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS
- JULIEN DESAULNIERS | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
- LUC GUÉNETTE | DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (INTERIM)
- MONIQUE OLIVIER | HERITAGE AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS MANAGER
- CHANTAL VIELFAURE | DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND SALES
- MARJORIE GRAINVILLE | FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
- LYNETTE BUCHANAN | FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR
- BARNEY MORIN | INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES COORDINATOR



## **AMBASSADORS**

## OFFICIAL VOYAGEURS

- PHILIPPE HUTLET
- DANIÈLE HUTLET
- DANIKA HUTLET
- ÉLISE HUTLET
- RÉMI HUTLET
- MIA HUTLET

## OFFICIAL MASCOT

• LÉO LA TUQUE



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- ERIC PLAMONDON | PRESIDENT
- YANNICK FRÉCHETTE | VICE PRESIDENT
- YVES LAGASSÉ | TREASURER
- REBECCA BLAIKIE | SECRETARY
- MARTIN GAUTRON | DIRECTOR
- RENÉE SAURETTE | DIRECTOR
- GABRIELLE LISI | DIRECTOR
- CATHERINE BIAYA | DIRECTOR
- BEYDI TRAORÉ | DIRECTOR
- FRED PRESBER | DIRECTOR



## **COMMANDITAIRES** | SPONSORS

#### **Partenaires officiels | Official Partners**

















## **Commanditaires principaux | Premier Sponsors**













#### **Commanditaires majeurs | Major Sponsors**









































### **Commanditaires médias | Media Sponsors**











#### **Amis du Festival | Friends of Festival**

100 Nons | Avenir IT | Beaver Bus Lines Country John's Portable Toilet Rentals | Éducatrices et éducateurs Francophones du Manitoba Fort Group | Maxim Truck & Trailer | Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI) | Musique et Film Manitoba | PepsiCo | Craig & Ross | Fireball | Hub International Parenty Reitmeier | Tower Engineering | Winnipeg Airports Authority | Truly Twisted Tea | Somersby Cider | Carlsberg Alcohol Free

#### **Bailleurs de fonds | Funders**











## **SURVEY RESULTS**

OVERALL SATISFACTION

8/10

FDV PROMOTES JOIE
DE VIVRE AND FRANCOMANITOBAN CULTURE

98%

FDV IS ECO-FRIENDLY



SATISFACTION WITH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

97%

FESTIVAL IS AN INCLUSIVE EVENT

96%

#### MAIN REASONS FOR ATTENDING

- Music Francophone culture
- Activities Special Event

#### **QUOTES FROM FESTIVALGOERS**

"We love the children's/campfire area this year. The new tree maze, tunnels, and cool huts were a hit (the slides are always awesome). The music is always a highlight and the variety of food options is also great. Happy to have local beer. Always enjoy the workshops (soapstone carving one was great again). Awesome job pivoting with the sculptures."

"The music, the positivity of staff/volunteers, the beer selection and overall incredibly positive vibes every single person was giving off. Great times were had!"



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#### REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the members of Festival du Voyageur Inc.:

#### **Opinion**

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at April 30, 2024 and the summary statement of operations and summary schedule of revenue and expenses for the year then ended, and related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of Festival du Voyageur Inc. (the Corporation) for the year ended April 30, 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, on the basis described in the note.

#### **Summary Financial Statements**

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Corporation's audited financial statement and the auditor's report thereon.

#### The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated DATE.

#### Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the note.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statement is a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Winnipeg, Manitoba August 14, 2024 CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS INC.

Fort Group

#### FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION APRIL 30, 2024

		2024	2023
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS  Cash restricted for replacement reserve Accounts, subsidies and grants receivable Inventory Prepaid expenses	\$	162,567 164,757 55,021 8,374	329,269 112,742 38,550 25,554
		390,719	506,115
CASH RESTRICTED FOR REPLACEMENT RESERVE		175,000	
CAPITAL ASSETS		910,413	926,497
	\$	1,476,132	1,432,612
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES  Bank indebtedness  Accounts payable and accrued expenses GST payable  Unearned revenue  Obligation under capital lease Canada emergency business account loan	s	372,478 138,364 21,935 81,000 541	223,702 144,711 5,034 - 6,315 40,000
		614,318	419,762
OBLIGATION UNDER CAPITAL LEASE		22,994	23,535
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	100	477,763	530,063
		1,115,075	973,360
NET ASSETS			
NET ASSETS Unrestricted (deficit) Internally restricted		(365,491)	(224,765)
Invested in capital assets Capital asset replacement	-	409,115 317,433	366,584 317,433
		361,057	459,252
	\$	1,476,132	1,432,612

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

Treasurer

The accompanying note is an integral part of these summary financial statements.

#### FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
REVENUE		
Operating grants		
Government of Canada	\$ 96,859	217,000
Province of Manitoba	407,365	356,090
City of Winnipeg	94,500	94,500
	598,724	667,590
Centre Fort Gibraltar	23,095	162,752
Contributions related to capital assets	92,300	80,550
Donations and fundraising activities	9,452	-
Interest and other	15,103	6,118
Other productions	8,195	190,819
	148,145	440,239
Winter Festival (Schedule 1)		
Winter Festival - grants and subsidies	354,425	530,834
Winter Festival - sales and admissions	2,025,661	1,963,717
Winter Festival - sponsorships	399,028	501,597
	2,779,114	2,996,148
	3,525,983	4,103,977
EXPENSES		
Amortization	183,214	164,787
Bank charges and interest	52,355	23,339
Fort Gibraltar	439,072	340,005
Insurance	118,874	113,295
Other	899	8,402
Other productions	4,997	351,029
Photocopies, office supplies and other	12,753	19,424
Professional fees	53,708	54,503
Promotion and marketing	1,995	3,920
Property taxes	30,791	28,502
Salaries and benefits	430,642	536,760
Supplies and service contracts	8,983	10,125
Telecommunications	8,590	9,758
Training, meetings and receptions	18,438	25,582
Utilities	15,352	17.481
Winter Festival (Schedule 1)	2,243,515	2,776,541
	3,624,178	4,483,453
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES BEFORE		
OTHER ITEM	(98,195)	(379,476)
OTHER ITEM		400.000
COVID-19 Subsidies		100,000
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	<u>\$ (98,195)</u>	(279,476)

The accompanying note is an integral part of these summary financial statements.

#### FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC. NOTE TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2024

#### Note on Basis of Presentation

The summary financial statements presented include only the summary statement of financial position and does not include the statement of changes in net assets, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements. The summary statement of financial position and summary statement of operations are not reproduced in as much detail as the audited financial statements. A copy of the audited financial statements is available at the office of Festival du Voyageur Inc.

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC. SCHEDULE OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR WINTER FESTIVAL APRIL 30 2024

	Contribution	175 000	34 348	154 425	67 000	14 062	49 999	36 000	530 834	960 396	(92 243)	(186 258)	6 675	(17 333)	44 119	480 511	(1 400 842)	(46 252)	219 607
2023	Charges	•	1	ı		•			ı	ı	143 871	189 258	177 504	73 733	75 331	21 086	2 049 506	46 252	2 776 541
	<b>Produits</b>	175 000	34 348	154 425	67 000	14 062	49 999	36 000	530 834	900 396	51 628	3 000	184 179	56 400	119 450	501 597	648 664		2 996 148
	Contribution	14 000	15 000	154 425	000 29	•	000 66	2 000	354 425	943 278	(14 164)	$(142\ 256)$	(11 647)	(7 814)	46 018	398 875	(974 811)	(56 305)	535 599
2024	<u>Charges</u>	•	ı	1	•	•	•		1	1	78 311	146 356	190 075	25 864	56 140	153	1 690 311	56 305	2 243 515
	Produits	\$ 14 000	15 000	154 425	67 000	•	000 66	2 000	354 425	943 278	64 147	4 100	178 428	18 050	102 158	399 028	715 500		\$ 2779114
		FACTOR and Music Government of Canada	National Trust for Canada - JCT	Canadian Heritage	Bureau de l'éducation	Indigenous Facilities Project at the Park	PrairieCan	City of Winnipeg		Admissions	CCFM Trading Post	Marketing	School program	Sculptures program	Souvenirs	Sponsorships	Voyageur Park	Volunteer program	