

À vos marques... prêts?



une initiative de



LES JEUX
de la francophonie **CANADIENNE**

Winnipeg, Manitoba Juillet 2005

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NEWS RELEASE

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Marc Devigne and Sami Jo Small issue a challenge to young French-Canadians: Compete in the 3rd edition of *les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne*

OTTAWA – This morning, Marc Devigne and Sami Jo Small, two Canadians who have distinguished themselves nationally and internationally in music and sport, challenged young French-Canadians to come and compete at the 3rd Jeux de la francophonie canadienne in Winnipeg in July 2005.

The event's honorary co-presidents, Marc Devigne and Sami Jo Small, are both French speaking Manitobans. Marc, a singer-performer, was a competitor in the *Canadian Idol 2003* contest. Sami Jo was a member of Canada's national women's hockey team, four times world champions and gold medallists at the 2002 Olympic Games in Salt Lake City. Marc and Sami Jo kicked off the recruitment period for the Games, reminding participants that they must measure their talents against the competition in order to improve their performance and achieve the highest levels of excellence.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for young French-speaking athletes across Canada to take part in a top-level sporting event that will be held entirely in French," said Sami Jo Small.

For five whole days, the Jeux de la francophonie canadienne, an initiative of the *Fédération de la jeunesse canadienne-française* (FJCF), will bring together more than a thousand athletes and artists aged 13 to 18 from across the country.

"We are sending out an appeal to all French-speaking young people from one end of the country to the other: 'Join in the Games and make them a national showcase of the artistic and athletic talents of young French-Canadians,'" stated Marc Devigne.

Games organizers are inviting former participants, Winnipeg residents, all Franco-Manitobans and French-Canadians to get involved too.

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“We need everyone to come out and help organize delegations, encourage young people to take part in the Games, and recruit volunteers. This is an exciting day for Winnipeg, for young people, and for French-Canadians in general, because the recruitment period for the Games is off to a great start,” notes André Brin, Executive Director of les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne (Winnipeg 2005) inc.

The organizing committee of les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne (Winnipeg 2005) inc. took the opportunity to mention that it is working closely with the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba.

“Winnipeg, with its sports infrastructure and unique artistic and cultural vitality, is the ideal venue for the third edition of the Games. We’re going to be able to create an event all French-Canadians can be proud of. It’s going to be great,” adds Rémi Léger, President of the FJCF.

The 2005 edition of les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne will feature three sporting competitions (track and field, badminton and volleyball), three artistic competitions (visual arts, improvisation and music), two demonstration competitions that are unique in 2005 (3-on-3 basketball, video), and a leadership component (apprentice *chefs de mission*, activity organization and media).

One of the premier youth gatherings in Canada, FJCF’s Jeux de la francophonie canadienne are a wonderful demonstration of the cultural, social, and linguistic vitality of young French-Canadians. The first two editions of the Games were held in Memramcook, New Brunswick in 1999 and Rivière-du-Loup, Québec in 2002.

For more complete information on les Jeux de la francophonie canadienne, the FJCF, and the 2005 Games host community of Winnipeg, visit the official Games site at www.jeuxfc.ca

To volunteer, contact the Games organizing committee at (204) 929-2005, or by e-mail at jeuxfc2005@jeuxfc.ca. Don’t forget to include your name, telephone number, and e-mail address.

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