



ANNUAL REPORT

2024/2025

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LOGO 2025
BY JONATO DALAYOAN



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 charitable 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 celebration of Francophone Culture, welcoming over 70,000 festivalgoers annually.

OUR MISSION

Promote *joie de vivre* and extend the reach of the French language and culture throughout the year through 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 responsibility
- Heritage
- Innovation
- Inclusion
- Integrity



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT MESSAGE OF RECOGNITION

From February 14 to 23, 2025, we celebrated the 57th edition of Festival du Voyageur, bringing joie de vivre to a cold and snow-covered Parc du Voyageur. Thousands of festivalgoers gathered for 10 days of festivities to honour the richness of our language, culture, and community.

This year's theme—blending the past, present, and future—was reflected in every aspect of the festival, bringing together tradition and innovation in meaningful ways. Fort Gibraltar transported festivalgoers back in time with costumed interpreters and traditional demonstrations, bringing the legacy of the voyageurs to life. Beyond the gates of Fort Gibraltar, the present pulsed with energy as fiddle music filled the air, snow sculptures glistened under the sun and the stars, and echoes of HÉHO chants could be heard throughout the park.

Each day of the festival was filled with activities for all ages, from musical performances and cultural programming to snow-tubing, snow-skateboarding, and horse-drawn sleigh rides. Despite the brisk February winds, festivalgoers showed up in full force, reflecting the resilience that has carried our communities from 1815 to today.

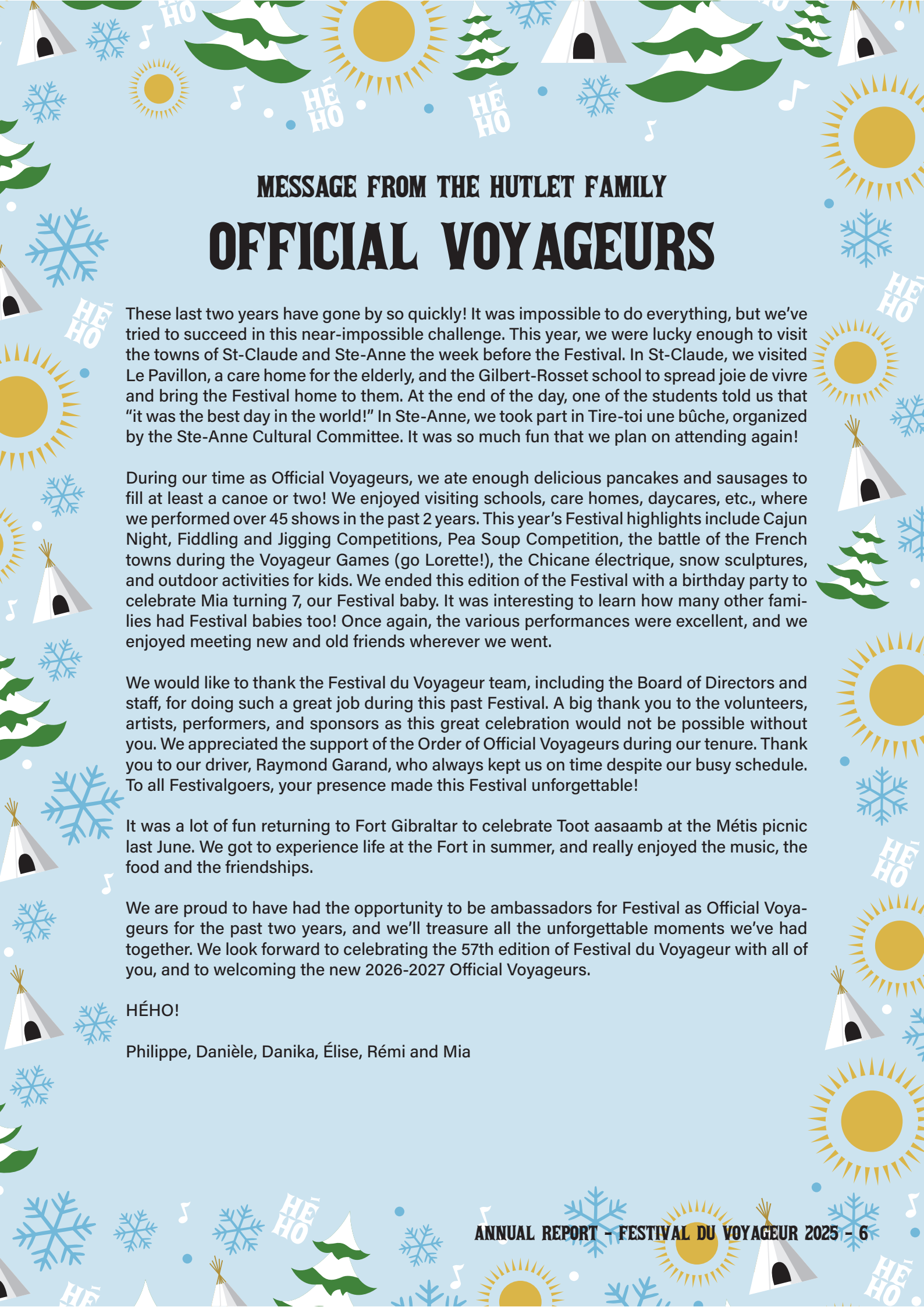
Festival du Voyageur is more than just a winter celebration. It is a living expression of how we have maintained our language and culture from generation to generation. Each day of the festival offers an opportunity to pass on these traditions, ensuring that future generations remain connected to our history.

As we jigged, laughed, and gathered around fires with a maple taffy treat in hand, we celebrated where we have been, and where we are going. In every moment, we affirmed that our heritage, joy, and community can thrive—even in the heart of a prairie winter.



Breanne Lavallée-Heckert
Executive Director

Yannick Fréchette
President of the Board



MESSAGE FROM THE HUTLET FAMILY

OFFICIAL VOYAGEURS

These last two years have gone by so quickly! It was impossible to do everything, but we've tried to succeed in this near-impossible challenge. This year, we were lucky enough to visit the towns of St-Claude and Ste-Anne the week before the Festival. In St-Claude, we visited Le Pavillon, a care home for the elderly, and the Gilbert-Rosset school to spread joie de vivre and bring the Festival home to them. At the end of the day, one of the students told us that "it was the best day in the world!" In Ste-Anne, we took part in Tire-toi une bûche, organized by the Ste-Anne Cultural Committee. It was so much fun that we plan on attending again!

During our time as Official Voyageurs, we ate enough delicious pancakes and sausages to fill at least a canoe or two! We enjoyed visiting schools, care homes, daycares, etc., where we performed over 45 shows in the past 2 years. This year's Festival highlights include Cajun Night, Fiddling and Jigging Competitions, Pea Soup Competition, the battle of the French towns during the Voyageur Games (go Lorette!), the Chicane électrique, snow sculptures, and outdoor activities for kids. We ended this edition of the Festival with a birthday party to celebrate Mia turning 7, our Festival baby. It was interesting to learn how many other families had Festival babies too! Once again, the various performances were excellent, and we enjoyed meeting new and old friends wherever we went.

We would like to thank the Festival du Voyageur team, including the Board of Directors and staff, for doing such a great job during this past Festival. A big thank you to the volunteers, artists, performers, and sponsors as this great celebration would not be possible without you. We appreciated the support of the Order of Official Voyageurs during our tenure. Thank you to our driver, Raymond Garand, who always kept us on time despite our busy schedule. To all Festivalgoers, your presence made this Festival unforgettable!

It was a lot of fun returning to Fort Gibraltar to celebrate Toot aasaamb at the Métis picnic last June. We got to experience life at the Fort in summer, and really enjoyed the music, the food and the friendships.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to be ambassadors for Festival as Official Voyageurs for the past two years, and we'll treasure all the unforgettable moments we've had together. We look forward to celebrating the 57th edition of Festival du Voyageur with all of you, and to welcoming the new 2026-2027 Official Voyageurs.

HÉHO!

Philippe, Danièle, Danika, Élise, Rémi and Mia



67,380
FESTIVALGOERS



181
ARTISTS

282
HOURS OF PERFORMANCES

327
**OFFICIAL BUTTONS
IN L'SHED À LÉO**

12,946
VOLUNTEER HOURS

15,219
**PARTICIPANTS IN THE CANADA
LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

-44°C

**COLDEST DAY IN THE PARK
BRRR... IT WAS A COLD ONE!**

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 2025

MUSICAL PROGRAMMING

7 STAGES

181 ARTISTS

282 HOURS OF PERFORMANCES



BellMTS

Caisse Groupe Financier
Financial Group

 **LIQUOR
MART**

SiriusXM

 **musicaction**

Canada

Manitoba 

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

The historical interpretation at Fort Gibraltar brought the era of the voyageurs back to life. Through the stories and demonstrations of the interpreters, festivalgoers discovered the daily lives of these fur trade adventurers and immersed themselves in the spirit of adventure and solidarity that marked their era.

52 INTERPRETERS

8 INTERPRETATION STATIONS

4 SELF-GUIDED TOURS





NEW ACTIVITIES!

New activities took place at FDV2025! Festivalgoers were able to slide down the snowy hill in bright red tubes. A brand new Snow Skate Park was built to offer adventurous spirits the chance to try out snow-skating. These new additions added wonderful energy to the winter activities in the park.



NEW! L'SHED À LÉO

L'Shed à Léo was filled with memories of the festivals of yesteryear. Festivalgoers were able to discover the world's largest collection of Festival du Voyageur buttons, artworks, posters, official programs from the 70s and 80s, lots of old photos, and many other treasures from our archives.



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES

Commitment to reconciliation

The Festival recognizes the importance of Indigenous culture and history. We are committed to reconciliation and to offering programming and educational activities that reflect this commitment. Our programming includes Indigenous representation, education, and art.

INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- TOOT AASAAMB event (June 21, 2024)
- Offering activities inspired by Indigenous peoples in the school program curriculum
- Installation of the Infinity Fire as a gathering place
- Organization of the Maarch aek lii Michif in partnership with the UNMSJM
- Offering crafts made by Indigenous artists in the Festival's Boutique
- Organization of the Louis-Riel Day Market
- Hide tanning camp
- Flying Canoes presented by Winnipeg Art Gallery

MAPPING



FLYING BOATS



WINTER CAMP



MAARCH AEK LII MICHIF



HIDE TANNING



TOOT AASAAMB



LOUIS-RIEL DAY MARKET



ORDER OF THE CAPOTE



HONORARY CAPOTE

Festival du Voyageur's 2025 Honorary Capote was given to the Honourable Daniel Vandal.

COMPETITIONS



FIDDLING COMPETITION

7 & under: Mia Hutlet
8 to 10: Ally Sato
11 to 13: Élise Hutlet
14 to 17: Luchen Wang
18 & over: Kendra Gossen
55 & over: Rick Wedel
Championship: Nya Chapman

JIGGING COMPETITION

10 & under: Teklia Lee
11 to 13: Bella McLeod
14 to 17: Sammy Wylie
55 & over: Dean Davis
Open: Ashley Harris



COMMANDITAIRE PLATINE



COMMANDITAIRES ARGENT



COMMANDITAIRES AMIS DU VIOLON

- Southglenn Fiddlers
- Safeway - Marion

CONTRIBUTEURS



COMMANDITAIRES BRONZE



BAILLEUR DE FONDS OR



PEA SOUP COMPETITION

Mmm... nothing beats a nice warm pea soup in winter!

Audience Award: Nonsuch

Jury Award: Nonsuch



SCULPTURES

This year, the snow sculptures captivated visitors with their beauty and originality. Simple blocks of snow were transformed into true works of art, meticulously crafted by talented artists from here and abroad. Each creation amazed visitors with its intricate details and sparkling snow. Illuminated in the evening, they created an enchanting landscape that charmed young and the young at heart, making the event an unforgettable experience.





CANADA LIFE SCHOOL PROGRAM



**IN-PERSON
PARTICIPANTS**

9,086

4,010

**TAKE-HOME
CRAFT KITS**

**VIRTUAL
PARTICIPANTS**

1,150

184

**DIFFERENT
SCHOOLS**

**PROGRAMS
OFFERED (IN FR+EN)**

17



REGISTRATIONS



TOP 10 SCHOOL DIVISIONS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 - Private schools/home schooling/other | 6 - Division scolaire franco-manitobaine |
| 2 - Winnipeg School Division | 7 - Brandon School Division |
| 3 - River East Transcona School Division | 8 - Western School Division |
| 4 - Sunrise School Division | 9 - Red River Valley |
| 5 - Pembina Trails School Division | 10 - Louis-Riel School Division |

TOTAL: 43 SCHOOL DIVISIONS

15,219 PARTICIPANTS



RELAIS VOYAGEUR

AU CCFM
340, boul.
Provencher Blvd

SiriusXM



**14 FÉV - 20H
ET 15 FÉV - 13H30**

TERRE FERME WINNIPEG AVEC FOLLE AVOINE, CONNIE KALDOR,
ALEKSI CAMPAGNE ET LA LÉGENDE DE CALAMITY JANE



15 FÉV - 20H

**HELLO FIASCO
THE VELVET PILL**



16 FÉV - 20H

**CHEIKH IBRA FAM
KELLY BADO**



20 FÉV - 20H

**SOIRÉE CAJUN T'MONDE ET
ANDRINA TURENNE**



21 FÉV - 20H

**JILL BARBER
FLORA LUNA**



22 FÉV - 20H

LEIF VOLLEBEKK

MERCI TO ALL THE OFFICIAL SITES

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

C-Weeds
NONSUCH
MARION HOTEL
THE RIVERSIDE: TAP & TABLE



SUSTAINABLE FESTIVAL

For more than 10 years, sustainable development has been one of the Festival's primary concerns. We actively participate in the deployment of our social, economic, and environmental responsibility. This year again, we have focused our efforts on developing accessibility and promoting local resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS

ECO-MOBILITY - Free shuttles (festivalgoers and volunteers)

WASTE MANAGEMENT - Team of Eco-Voyageurs to sort waste and raise awareness among festivalgoers; water stations; reduction of printed materials; composting area; recycling of beverage cans; reuse of signage; and recovery of Christmas trees.

SOCIAL ACTIONS AN ACCESSIBLE FESTIVAL

Free admission to the Festival for children aged 5 and under
Preferential pricing for seniors

People with disabilities - Dedicated volunteers and specific signage; reserved areas near stages; accessible washrooms

Safe space - Dedicated Safety zone in the park

Community - Over 500 tickets donated to charitable and community organizations with the support of Réseau Compassion Network



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 2025

MERCI TO OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



12,946
VOLUNTEER HOURS

MERCI TO OUR TEAM LEADERS

Andrea C.
Amber W.
Brett N.
Brigitte L.
Bruce W.
Carol J.
Christina B.
Christine K.
Christophe C.
Christy N.
Clarissa A.
Daniel L.
Daniel M.
Derrick F.
Doris S.

Elise A.
Erin T.
Ernest H.
Gayel A.
Geneviève M.
Guillaume D.
Jean-François P.
Joanne R.
Jodi M.
Jonas E.
Khaled O.
Kevin C.
Kristopher W.
Louise H-S.
Lorinda M.

Mariia R.
Meagan P.
Muhammad S.
Nassiba B.
Odette D.
Philippe B.
Quazi A.
Robert B.
Simona E.
Sundance M.
Terry B.
Youssef M.
Yvonne B.

FESTIVAL 2025

RELIVE FESTIVAL 2025 @HEHO.CA







FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 2025

PERMANENT STAFF

BREANNE LAVALLÉE-HECKERT / Executive Director

JULIEN DESAULNIERS / Artistic Director

COLIN MACKIE / Director of Heritage and Education Programs

MONIQUE OLIVIER / Heritage and Education Program Manager

CHANTAL VIELFAURE / Director of Marketing, Communications and Sales

LYNETTE BUCHANAN / Finance and Administration Manager

JACQUES RICHER / Project Manager

AINZA BELLEFEUILLE / Director of Operations

MARJORIE GRAINVILLE / Director of Finance and Human Resources



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR 2025

AMBASSADORS OFFICIAL VOYAGEURS

- Philippe Hutlet
- Danièle Hutlet
- Danika Hutlet
- Élise Hutlet
- Rémi Hutlet
- Mia Hutlet

OFFICIAL MASCOT

- Léo la Tuque



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YANNICK FRÉCHETTE / President
REBECCA BLAIKIE / Vice President
SYLVIE TRUDEAU / Treasurer
MARTIN GAUTRON / Director
RENÉE SAURETTE / Director

GABRIELLE LISI / Director
CATHERINE BIAYA / Director
FRED PRESBER / Director
BRADLEY LÉGARÉ / Director
ERIC PLAMONDON / Outgoing President



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 - Craig Ross - Dead Horse Cider
Éducatrices et éducateurs francophones du Manitoba - Falcon Ridge Ski - Fireball - Fort Group - Hub International - Ocean Trailer
Monnaie royale canadienne - Payworks - Peg City Co-op - PepsiCo - Prism Kombusha - Truly - Twisted Tea - Winnipeg Airport Authority

BAILLEURS DE FOND - FUNDERS



SURVEY RESULTS

OVERALL SATISFACTION

8/10

FDV PROMOTES JOIE DE VIVRE AND FRANCO-MANITOBAN CULTURE

98%

FDV IS ECO-FRIENDLY

96%

SATISFACTION WITH STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

97%

QUOTES FROM FESTIVALGOERS

"I didn't know what to expect at the festival. I planned to spend two hours there. But I ended up staying for seven hours! The music, food, and exhibits were excellent. I also met some wonderful people. And I plan to stay in touch with one of them. This time, I didn't go to Winnipeg for the festival. In the future, I'll come back just for the festival."

"I thought the festival was incredible this year. The staff were all very friendly, and the snow sculptures were magnificent, especially the fish. What's more, Cord Lund's musical performance was simply fantastic and a wonderful addition."

FESTIVAL IS AN INCLUSIVE EVENT

97%