

For Immediate Release
July 26, 2018

The Calgary International Children's Festival is closing its doors

CALGARY, AB – After 32 years of love and laughter, the Board of Directors at the Calgary International Children's Festival have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2019 Festival and begin work to dissolve the Society.

Due to a challenging economy, an unsustainable operating model and cost structure, and a decrease in available funds, organizers are unable to present a Festival that meets the high artistic standards and quality of community outreach that audiences and funders expect and deserve.



For context: revenues earned from ticket sales only represent about 10 per cent of total revenues. The Festival has a commitment to provide access to all, and ticket prices must remain affordable for schools (which account for 65 per cent of ticket sales) and for young families in Calgary. Raising ticket prices is therefore not an option, and still would not fill the gap of contributed revenues required. The Board chose to cancel the Festival now to ensure the orderly wind up of the Festival, and to end on a positive note.

"The Board and Festival staff would like to thank all our supporters who helped us become a vital contributor to the cultural landscape of our community for the last 32 years, becoming the largest presenter of performing arts for children in Calgary," said Board Chair Carri Clarke. Festival supporters include corporate sponsors, individual and corporate donors, government and foundation funders, partners who donated goods and services, volunteers, artists, and ticket buyers.

"We would especially like to thank our audience – the thousands of children, parents, grandparents, caregivers, and teachers who have seen our shows and visited our outdoor site over the years," Clarke added. *"Many had their first exposure to the performing arts through the Calgary International Children's Festival. "*

The Board, Festival staff, and volunteers of the Calgary International Children's Festival worked tirelessly to provide young people with a performing arts experience that sparked imagination, inspired creative thought, encouraged cultural understanding, and fostered a lifelong passion for the arts. Clarke summarized, *"The arts will always be an important part of all children's education and we hope that the cancellation of the Festival will prompt other current and future arts presenters to provide these experiences to children in Calgary. Thank you Calgary, for 32 wonderful years."*

For further information please visit www.calgarykidsfest.ca or if you have any questions, please contact Carri Clarke, Board Chair, at clarkecd@telusplanet.net.