



RBC Take P-art now in fifth successful year of bringing arts to Surrey youth

The Surrey school district's RBC Take P-art program, which may be unique in Canada, thrilled inner-city students again this year.

Earlier in February, RBC Take P-art kicked off with a performance at the Bell Performing Arts Centre by Norman Foote, a musician, puppeteer and comedian. Students from each of Surrey's 30 inner-city elementary schools experienced the event in February. Foote's singing, storytelling, wit and use of big, bold and funny props demonstrated to students the diversity of the arts and the power of words to transform meaning and perception.

At a second RBC Take P-art event in April, local singer and songwriter Lowry Olafson will conduct special songwriting sessions at ten schools. The participating schools will use a variety of means to choose the one lucky class in each school which will receive the songwriting session. Lowry and his ten classes will then perform their original songs at the Bell in front of an audience of peers,

parents and the public.

"Thanks to the RBC Foundation, our district is able to fund this very special program to provide such a unique and wonderful opportunity for our inner-city students," says Surrey Board of Education chair Laurae McNally. "Our board is pleased to support the RBC Take P-art initiative."

RBC Take P-Art gives disadvantaged students a taste of artistic creation, event planning, back stage operations and the grandeur and wonder of both watching and performing in a top level arts endeavour. By bringing arts education to youth, the program helps in creating well-rounded, imaginative and active participants in society.

The initiative is a collaboration of the Surrey district's fine arts department, the Bell Performing Arts Centre and the RBC Foundation, which has provided ongoing support totaling \$250,000 over the program's five-year history.



Norman Foote, a musician, puppeteer and comedian, demonstrated the power of words to students during a performance which was part of the Surrey district's RBC Take P-art program. The program brings arts education to youth who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience first-class performances.



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