



News Release

January 27, 2005

RBC sponsorship provides Surrey School District inner-city students a chance to experience the arts

RBC Foundation has contributed \$50,000 to fund a new one-year pilot arts education project called "RBC Take P-Art". A cheque was presented to the Surrey School District in front of more than 1,000 theatre patrons at the Bell Performing Arts Centre during a performance of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra on January 24.

The Take P-Art program is designed to give more than 6,000 Surrey inner-city elementary students a chance to experience the arts at a professional level. Students will see the world-renowned Plains Indian dance troupe, Red Thunder perform at the Bell Performing Arts Centre February 21, 22 and 23.

After seeing the performance, the students will have their own chance to perform on stage, or work as theatre technicians when 10 inner-city schools are given the opportunity to produce their own shows at the Bell next fall. Without the RBC Take P-Art program, these students would rarely have the opportunity to perform, or even visit a state-of-the-art theatre like the Bell.

"The Surrey School Board believes strongly in the importance of curricular and extracurricular arts education in creating well-rounded, imaginative and active participants in society," says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. "We are thrilled to be able to introduce RBC Take P-Art as a way of giving our inner-city students professional arts experiences."

The student performances at the Bell Performing Arts Centre will take place in November 2005. The program and funding will be evaluated before a decision is made to resume it next year.

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Liane Ricou
Surrey School District
(604) 501-8551
ricou_l@sd36.bc.ca

Jennifer Toderan
RBC Foundation
(604) 665-6938
jennifer.toderan@rbc.com