

PRESS RELEASE
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THE TD-BLUE METROPOLIS CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL FROM APRIL 26 TO MAY 5, 2019

OVER 100 ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN 0 TO 12 AND THEIR FAMILIES

Montreal, April 3, 2019 – This year, the 12th edition of the TD-Blue Metropolis Children's Festival once again marks the return of spring for both young and old! On the program, a wide range of activities for preschool-age children, those at the elementary level, teens, and parents. During the week, more than 80 author meet-and-greets, story hours, workshops and shows will be presented to school groups at libraries, schools, early childhood, daycare and drop-in daycare centres, and at hospitals and specialized schools for children throughout Greater Montreal. In the evenings and on the weekends of April 26 to 28 and May 3 to 5, youngsters will be able to take part in free events in **Montreal, L'Assomption, Repentigny, Laval, in Montérégie** and on the **West Island**.

Over 80 activities for school groups during the week

Thanks to our partnership with libraries in Montreal and throughout Greater Montreal, more than 80 activities have been scheduled for students at the kindergarten, elementary and high school levels. This year, we are expanding our reach to include **L'Assomption, Varennes** and **Chambly**. In all, **close to 60 participating libraries and schools!**

In hospitals and specialized schools

For the third consecutive year, children who are in hospital or who are disabled will be able to take advantage of the TD-Blue Metropolis Festival. In addition to the **Shriners Hospital**, our very first partner, since 2017, story hours and visits by authors will take place at **Sainte-Justine, Hôpital de Montréal pour les enfants/Montreal's Children Hospital**, at **École Victor-Doré** and **École Joseph-Charbonneau**, specialized schools in Montreal, as well as at **REACH School**, in St-Lambert.

Special events

It's also the third edition of the **Journée CPE, garderies et halte-garderies**. On **Friday, April 26, everyone across the province** is invited to read a book to the very young and to share their favourite book on our Facebook page. Participating institutions will also have a chance to win \$250-worth of new books for their library, to be purchased at an independent bookstore in their area.

LGBTQ literary brunch

As last year's event was such a success, a second edition of the **LGBT Families of Quebec literary brunch** will take place Sunday, May 5, at Hotel 10. This event, which is by registration only, will be hosted by actor Fanny LaCroix and author Sophie Labelle.

Close to thirty activities for all

In the evenings and during the **weekends of April 26 to 28 and May 3 to 5**, activities for all will be presented in addition to those reserved for school groups. There's something for everyone, and it's happening all over the place. There's the "**Tintamarre littéraire des auteurs jeunesse**" starting at Le Papetier bookstore on rue Notre-Dame in Repentigny. **Le pêcheur de mots** is a show taking place at the Kirkland Library, and at the St-Charles Library, in Montreal, there's **Les minidoux**. In Laval, **Indigenous author Sylvain Rivard** will talk about First Nations clothing. At the Town of Mount Royal Library, a **sanza workshop**, on thumb piano, and at L'Octogone Library in Lasalle, a workshop **on comics art**. Not to mention several **exhibitions** at the Contrecoeur, Varennes and Verchères libraries, as well as one at the Saint-Pierre Library, in Lachine.

Authors, illustrators, storytellers, comics artists, actors and workshop leaders from here and elsewhere

Marianne Dubuc, winner of the 2018 Prix TD de littérature canadienne pour la jeunesse and the Governor General's Award, will join us this year. We're also delighted to welcome TD Prize finalist, **Jeanne Painchaud**. Other featured authors and artists in this 12th edition are: **Jean-François Sénéchal**, winner of the Prix des libraires jeunesse 2019, **Martine Latulippe**, **Claudia Larochelle**, **Sophie Faucher** and **Cara Carmina**, **Monique Polak**, **David Gutnick**, **Nadine Robert**, **Sylvain Rivard**, **Anne Villeneuve**, **Fabienne Gagnon**, **Pierrette Dubé**, **Marie Barguidjan**, **Claudie Stanké**, **Rachel McCrum**, **Matthew Forsythe**, **Emmanuel Lauzon**, **Marie-Christine Hendrickx**, **Lydia Lukidis**, **Geneviève Desprès** and comics artist **Jocelyn Jalette**. Also **Natahsa Pilotte**, who is coming from Acadie to tell her stories using puppets, thanks to a partnership with the Regroupement des auteurs franco-canadiens. In addition, storytellers **Mme Chose**, **Saoussen Fathi**, **Ronald Larocque**, **Franck Sylvestre** and **Yolande-Okia Picard** with her Indigenous legends. Argentine author **Claudia Piñeiro** and German author-illustrator **Cornelia Funke** will also join in the fun!

For the complete 2019 program, please consult our brochure, which is available at most libraries throughout Greater Montreal and at other cultural centres, or consult our website at www.bluemetropolis.org

Blue Metropolis at a glance

Blue Metropolis Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1997 that brings together people from different cultures to share the pleasures of reading and writing, and encourages creativity and intercultural understanding. The Foundation produces an **annual literary festival** of international calibre and offers a wide range of **educational and social programs** year-round, both in classrooms and online. These programs use reading and writing as therapeutic tools, to encourage academic perseverance, and fight against poverty and social isolation.

TD's Ready Commitment

At TD, we have a long history of enriching the lives of our customers, colleagues and communities. It is our purpose and higher calling. We have had a long-standing commitment to diversity, human rights, arts and culture, and financial education – and we are leaders in pursuing a bold environmental agenda. In March 2018, TD launched The Ready Commitment, a multi-year global corporate citizenship platform, which is targeting \$1 billion in total by 2030 towards community investments. The Ready Commitment is helping open doors to a more inclusive and sustainable tomorrow where everyone has confidence in what tomorrow brings and feels connected to their community. <https://www.td.com/corporate-responsibility/ready-commitment/index.jsp>

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MERCI AUX PARTENAIRES MAJEURS DE LA PROGRAMMATION POUR ENFANTS ET À CEUX DE NOS PROGRAMMES ÉDUCATIFS 2018-2019
THANKS TO THE PRINCIPAL PARTNERS OF THE YOUTH SECTOR & 2018-2019 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

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PORT MONTREAL



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