

**FOLK ON THE ROCKS**

Mr. Speaker,

During the weekend of July 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Folk On the Rock will be hosting their annual summer music festival. This years theme is Global Fusion and is an exploration of what multicultural means in Canada today.

For 28 years Folk On the Rocks has been bringing music to the shores of Long Lake. The Festival is one of the NWT's premier musical events and is known as a culturally diverse event, which includes a 50/50 split between northern and southern performers.

The Festival has always supported Northern performers and has been a great opportunity for these Northern performers to play alongside and collaborate with established southern performers. This exposure is incredibly valuable for the Northern performers and helps them enhance their current skills.

Folk on the Rocks should be very proud of their contribution to the Northern music scene. They've made a real difference in the lives of many northern performers.

This year the line up is spectacular both from a northern and southern point of view. Artists include:

- The Juno-nominated Jill Barber, one of Canada's most renowned singer songwriters,
- Toronto based Elliot Brood who play dark, gritty folk and howling bluegrass,
- BC born and Toronto based Ndidi Onukwulu with a voice you won't forget,
- Malajube with their rock, punk and bubblegum pop sounds for everyone to enjoy.
- The Mushfiq Ensemble singing in a dozen languages,
- Shane Philip with a musical tapestry including reggae, ska, folk, funk and rock,
- From Fort Smith, State Of the Art... A hard rocking band with raw grit and intensity,
- Four Leaf Clover, St. Patrick High Schools own Jazz band. Well worth a listen
- Shea Alain, A local singer songwriter and winner of last season's Rock the Folks contest.
- Santa Lucia LFR, Latin Funk and Rock.
- Plants and Animals from Montreal with classic-rock folk-prog.
- Uzume Taiko with a dynamic fusion of old Japanese and new styles of drumming
- Tambura Rasa upbeat sounds and songs from around the world.
- Taqralik Patridge with spoken word performances from Nunavik.
- Aaju Peter from Greenland,
- Juno nominated Mike Ford previously from Moxy Fruvous,
- Alex Mahe on guitar in both French and English,
- Mathew Noqingaq a drummer from Iqaluit,

- The Green Fools, Calgary based comedians,
- The songs and sounds of Stephen Kakfwi. Some of you might remember him; I think he's been in here once or twice.
- Tony Foliot, the Snow King,
- The Dawgwoods. Yellowknife's newest folk rock band with a great sound,
- Bryce Young, and
- Yellowknife's own.... The Skinnys, who are pure entertainment

I encourage everyone in Yellowknife over the weekend to come out and enjoy the performances. You won't be disappointed.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.