



## DAREarts Atlantic Young People's Showcase with artist Alan Syliboy

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**Halifax, N.S. – DAREarts Atlantic**

On **Wednesday, October 28, 7 pm, at the Alderney Landing Theatre, 2 Ochterloney St, Dartmouth, NS**, you are invited to a public showcase and reception with **Mi'kmaq artist Alan Syliboy** featuring extraordinary artwork by one hundred young teens from **Astral Drive Elementary School** and **St. Joseph's A. McKay School** in Halifax and **Riverside Education Centre** in Milford. All are welcome to come and support these kids in their creative empowerment.

As part of Mi'kmaq Heritage Month, this event celebrates the youths' accomplishments over the last three weeks of the **DAREarts** program where they explored Mi'kmaq heritage and found their own personal empowerment using the arts. Inspired by artist **Alan Syliboy** along with his paintings and animations that reflect Mi'kmaq culture, history and traditions, the children each created their own artwork on canvas as well as theatrical pieces that they then shared with their school classmates.

The DAREarts weeklong workshops in each school also used the DARE values of Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence to instill empathy, empowerment and leadership amongst the children.

DAREarts Atlantic teaching team is comprised of Coordinator and Lead Teacher **Trish Gibbon**, DAREarts Lead Teacher **Laura MacKinnon**, Mi'kmaq Artist **Alan Syliboy**, and Artist-Educators **Alexis Mulligan**, **Henri Gielis** and **June Zinck**. Assisted by teachers from the three schools, the DAREarts team led the students through acrylic painting which will be incorporated into the showcase as projections as well as displays. Also on display will be **Alan Syliboy's** animation, 'Little Thunder' plus his new book, 'The ThunderMaker' that was launched this week.

DAREarts Founder, Marilyn Field says: *"DAREarts' education program enables students to find the spark that inspires them to learn, forge new friendships and have the courage to be leaders."*

DAREarts Atlantic Lead Teacher, Trish Gibbon says, *"Together, we overcame challenges, leaving the students and teachers with feelings of pride and success in what they had created."*

Artist Alan Syliboy says, *"By exploring Mi'kmaq culture together, the children are building a lasting empathy for each other. By creating together, they are becoming leaders who can themselves ignite change."*

DAREarts Atlantic thanks its key supporters for making this program possible: **The McCain Foundation, Northbridge Insurance, Scotiabank and RBC Foundation.**

Backstory: DAREarts is a Canadian not-for-profit organization, which stands for "Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence in Education". DAREarts' 5-year program focusses on working with 9-14 year olds from schools in high-priority communities, empowering them with confidence and courage to be leaders. Visit [www.darearts.com](http://www.darearts.com).

**For more information please contact:**

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