



The Honourable Murray Sinclair to Receive the 2016 DAREarts Cultural Award on May 5th

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Toronto, ON – Marilyn Field, Founder and President of DAREarts, today announced that **The Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair** will receive the **2016 DAREarts Cultural Award** at the **DAREarts Leadership Awards**, on **Thursday, May 5, 2016** at The Carlu.

The DAREarts Cultural Award is presented each year to an individual who has led the way in cultivating culture for Canadian youth.

"Murray Sinclair is an iconic voice as advocate for the Indigenous community, both past and present," said Marilyn Field. "We at DAREarts, in our 20th year, are pleased to recognize his achievements in paving the way for our Indigenous people to have a voice and opportunity to achieve and succeed in the country they helped to build."

As chair of Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Murray Sinclair assembled recommendations for Indigenous and non-Indigenous citizens to move forward together. He also supported a new ballet that was premiered by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet called '*Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*'. It explores learning to accept each other's burdens as we walk through the past and toward the future. Together, we learn that without truth, there is no reconciliation.

Murray Sinclair was appointed the Chair of Canada's Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in 2009. The Commission's mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in Indian Residential Schools and document the accounts of survivors, families, communities and anyone personally affected by the Indian Residential Schools experience. He presented his report and recommendations to Canada in 2015. He was recently appointed to the Canadian Senate.

Murray Sinclair was Manitoba's first Aboriginal judge and the second Aboriginal judge in Canada and Co-Commissioner of Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Inquiry. Early in his career, he completed the "Report of the Pediatric Cardiac Surgery Inquest," a study into the deaths of 12 children that led to significant changes in pediatric cardiac surgery in Manitoba and the study of medical error in Canada. He has been awarded a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in addition to many other community service awards, as well as eight Honorary Degrees for his work in the field of Aboriginal justice. His Ojibway name is *Mizanay Gheezhik*, meaning "the One Who Speaks of Pictures in the Sky."

In addition to the Cultural Award, six teen youths will be awarded financial scholarships, **DAREarts Leadership Awards**, and given the opportunity to share their personal story of how DAREarts 'dared' them to face their challenges and overcome personal obstacles, to ignite positive change in their lives and in those around them.

This year's recipients of DAREarts Youth Leadership Awards are:

- **Ryan Durham-Sanca**, 17, from R.H. King Collegiate in Scarborough, ON
- **Delenn Kershaw**, 15, from Delphi Secondary Alternative School in Scarborough, ON
- **Taelor Heather Licardo**, 15, from Pickering High in Pickering, ON
- **Djordje Lukic**, 17, from Etobicoke School of the Arts and resides in North York, ON
- **Jada Sofea**, 14, from Simon Jacob Memorial Education Centre in Webequie First Nation, ON

Dante Scholar, 17, from Central Tech High School, Toronto, is this year's recipient of the **DAREarts Patina Prize**, in honour of the late Richard Patina, long-serving Chairman of DAREarts.

The first youth recipient of the **Paul Semple Scholarship**, honouring the late Paul Semple, DAREarts' Chairman who passed away last year, will also be announced.

About the event

The annual awards gala will be held at The Carlu, 444 Yonge Street, 7th floor, and hosted by 2015 Cultural Award honouree, Jeanne Beker, also known as an acclaimed Canadian television personality, fashion designer, author and newspaper columnist. In addition to the awards ceremony, guests will enjoy a sit-down dinner, live auction and silent auction that, this year, celebrates DAREarts' 20th Anniversary of empowering over 200,000 at-risk children. **The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada**, is preparing a congratulatory video for the evening. Tickets can be purchased by calling 905-729-0097 or visiting www.darearts.com

ABOUT DAREARTS

Canada's **DAREarts** is a national charity that empowers at-risk children with the confidence and courage to be leaders, using all the arts. When children apply the DAREarts values of Discipline, Action, Responsibility and Excellence, they take charge of their lives and become leaders who ignite positive change in Canada's marginalized communities, making Canada a better place for all of us.

For 20 years, DAREarts has delivered out-of-school, arts and values programs, taught by teachers and arts professionals, to over 200,000 children from grades 4 to 12. In Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Nova Scotia, DAREarts delegates participate in real-world workshops in art, architecture, dance, drama, fashion, literature, music and leadership. They then go back to their schools and peer-teach their classmates. Also, DAREarts answers invitations from Indigenous communities to deliver arts programming that aligns with their culture, exposing the Indigenous children to creative learning opportunities and hope for the future. Since its inception in 1996, DAREarts has helped to break the vicious cycle of poverty, bullying, isolation and marginalization for Canadian children that too often cripples successful development.

DAREarts is grateful to its Presenting Supporter, **Northbridge Insurance** and its Lead Supporters: **Scotiabank, TD** and the **Ontario Arts Council**, an agency of the Ontario government.

Web: www.darearts.com

Blog: <http://www.darearts.wordpress.com>

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