

David Hodges embarks on N’we Jinan Cree Community Tour

For Immediate Release

Montreal, February 28, 2014 – Hip-hop artist and youth worker David Hodges will be leaving Sunday to bring his brand of music, poetry and expression to Cree First Nation communities throughout northern Quebec.

A full time hip-hop artist and youth worker from Montreal, Hodges has been actively touring schools and communities for more than 6 years. He has a background in teaching and is passionate about working with youth. During his Notre Home Tour last year, he connected with Cree students from across Quebec, and was invited to Chisasibi to lead a community outreach program at a local youth centre.

Hodges says the experience opened his eyes to the possibility of touring Cree communities. With the support of the Cree Nation Youth Council, Hodges will be visiting ten primarily Cree communities across northern Quebec over the next month: Things get underway March 3 in Waswanipi, and wrap up April 5 in Washaw Sibi (Pikogan).

In each of the communities Hodges will host music workshops, poetry workshops and songwriting and recording workshops. “I feel the youth of today need different outlets to express themselves,” says Hodges. “I want them to express themselves to shape their culture and help youth make their mark.”

Interactive workshops

In the music workshops, Hodges will use songs and stories in a one-hour performance. The assembly style presentation focuses on topics such as bullying, isolation, goal setting, understanding potential, belonging, respect and embracing uniqueness. The workshop helps motivate students to get more involved in school life, encourages them to be more respectful towards each other and demystifies fears that often exist in youth.

His poetry workshop is a one-week program that introduces SLAM poetry as a means of self-expression. Students will learn about different writing and performance techniques, while encouraging shy students to step up and express themselves.

For many the songwriting and recording workshop will be a week-long introduction to the art and science of songwriting, recording, sound design and music production. The classroom will become a walk-in studio will have the chance to write and record their own song.

Adventure

Hodges candidly admits that he's not entirely sure of what to expect, as some of the communities aren't even accessible by road. But he is confident that music is something all young people relate to.

"Personally I want to raise awareness of who these people are, to make a bridge of mutual understanding of identity," Hodges says. "I find these things really important to help young people shape their ideas of what it is to be a Quebecer, and to be a part of society."

Last summer Hodges, in cooperation with the Quebec Community Groups Network, brought his Notre Home tour to more than 40 schools across Quebec, meeting more than 10,000 students. The tour aimed to inspire young English-speaking Quebecers to identify with their home and express themselves creatively.

About David Hodges

David Hodges is a full time hip-hop artist / youth worker from Montreal, QC. David has been working in the education field for more than six years and is passionately driven to help motivate youth to find their voice. He has been touring schools, actively providing inspirational workshops that influence kids to keep in the right direction.

Cree Nation Youth Council

For more about the Cree Nation Youth Council, go to:

<http://www.creenationyouthcouncil.ca/>

About the QCGN

The Quebec Community Groups Network (www.qcgn.ca) is a not-for-profit organization bringing together 41 English-language community organizations across Quebec. Its mission is to identify, explore and address strategic issues affecting the development and vitality of English-speaking Quebec and to encourage dialogue and collaboration among its member organizations, individuals, community groups, institutions and leaders.

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