



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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La Compagnie de La Vérendrye Announces Call for Indigenous Artists

Future public art installation part of La Vérendrye Park development plan

St. Boniface, Manitoba, September 14, 2024 – La Compagnie de La Vérendrye, in collaboration with an Indigenous Advisory Committee, is proud to announce an open call to Indigenous artists for the creation of a new public art installation in La Vérendrye Park. The work will be developed as part of the park’s future development.

La Vérendrye Park, a historic green space in St. Boniface, was established in 1938 to commemorate the 200th anniversary of La Vérendrye’s arrival at The Forks. Recognizing the need for reconciliation and the importance of incorporating Indigenous perspectives, La Compagnie de La Vérendrye has embarked on a mission to enhance the park by focusing on the historical truths of La Vérendrye’s time.

“We’ve done a lot of thinking and talking over the past few years, and we’ve come to the conclusion that the park and the figure of La Vérendrye needed to be given a whole new context,” says Michel Loiselle, President of La Compagnie de La Vérendrye. “Our reflections and discussions led to a major reconciliation project in the heart of St. Boniface. Although La Vérendrye has been valued for his important role in the exploration of the West, we want to present a more realistic image of La Vérendrye and restore balance.”

The redeveloped park will include directional nodes. A key aspect of the project is to redefine the park’s West Node with a powerful new work of art. It will stand in stark contrast to the existing colonial statue of La Vérendrye, symbolizing a shift towards a more inclusive narrative that celebrates Indigenous resilience, reclamation and truth.

La Compagnie de La Vérendrye invite Indigenous artists, including emerging artists, who have a strong connection to the Indigenous communities of Manitoba, to submit expressions

of interest and qualifications. The selected artist will work closely with an Indigenous-led Selection Committee to develop a proposal that embodies the themes of resiliency, reclamation and truth.

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Contact: Michel Loiselle, Captain
La Compagnie de La Vérendrye
Cell: 204-296-6888
info@laverendrye.ca

About La Vérendrye Park's development plan

In late 2022, the La Compagnie de La Vérendrye engaged ft3 Architecture Landscape Interior Design to collaborate with Narratives Inc. and an Indigenous Advisory Committee, comprised of local First Nation and Métis members, as well as community stakeholder and partner representatives, to develop a preliminary master plan. This plan aims to celebrate and highlight the rich heritage of the site, incorporating four directional nodes, each with a unique focus and purpose, to honour the vibrant history of the area.

About La Compagnie de La Vérendrye

Launched on July 1, 1994 at La Vérendrye Park in St. Boniface, La Compagnie de La Vérendrye is the oldest French-language military re-enactment group in Canada. The non-profit organization brings together volunteers who are passionate about the hobby of living history in the era of New France. Through initiatives like the redevelopment of La Vérendrye Park, La Compagnie de La Vérendrye strives to foster dialogue, reconciliation and a more inclusive narrative for future generations.

For more details, visit laverendrye.ca and, in particular, the [page about the park](#), which describes the project and the park's development plan.

