



Press Release

Recycling the Water Cycle CIRQINIQ goes to Cirque du Monde Annual Assembly

Kuujuaq/Drummondville, Québec May 8, 2012 – Each spring, Cirque du Monde, the community outreach division of Cirque du Soleil®, hosts its Annual Assembly for all of the social circus groups in Québec. Held in Drummondville from May 4 to 6, CIRQINIQ was invited to attend the event and to present a six-minute performance, which they worked hard to prepare in Kuujuaq during the week leading up to the Assembly. This gathering is an opportunity for youth involved in social circus around the province to meet in one place and exchange cultural and creative experiences.

From April 24 to May 1, six junior instructors and two apprentice junior instructors for the Cirqiniq program worked with two senior circus instructors in Kuujuaq to prepare a 6-minute circus performance. The junior instructors included Richard Annanack from Kangiqsualujuaq, Paulassie Pinguapik and Minnie Ningiuruvik from Kangirsuk, Paulussie Inukpuk from Umiujaq, Alasie Sakiagak and Manu Uqittuq from Kangiqsujuaq, and Gerard Meshier and Alex Tukkiapik from Kuujuaq. The senior instructors hired to work with the youth were Emmanuel Cyr and Rebecca Leonard.

The theme of the Assembly was recycling and the CIRQINIQ youth chose the legend of Sedna the Sea Goddess for their performance to emphasize the water cycle. Props and costumes incorporated pool liner, plastic water bottles, rubber hoses and re-used costumes from previous shows. The performers also retold the legend in a new way. On May 1, the youth performed the piece at Jaanimmarik School in the afternoon for the students and again in the evening for a small group of supporters.

On May 2, the group flew to Montreal with financial assistance provided by First Air. The next day, CIRQINIQ toured the National Circus School, attended a meet-and-greet luncheon with representatives from Cirque du Monde, and travelled to Sherbrooke to meet the social circus group in that city for a workshop and local performance.

Cirque du Soleil® made special arrangements for the CIRQINIQ youth to attend their current show, *Amaluna*, under the blue and yellow big top tent in Old Montreal on the evening of May 6. The youth were also invited back stage to meet the performers.

The KRG is a non-ethnic public organization created in 1978, under the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement. The organization has jurisdiction over nearly the entire territory of Québec north of the 55th parallel in areas such as municipal matters, transportation, the environment, policing, employment, labour training, income security, childcare services, renewable resources, land-use planning, civil security and economic development.

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