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**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ottawa - MASC regrets to announce that the MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Festival and the MASC Arts Awards will not be held this spring. Last week, MASC also announced that the *Festival de danse en milieu scolaire* will be cancelled.

These decisions have been made due to several factors. For some of our events, the current labour dispute has affected student involvement. For all events MASC is taking pro-active measures given the concerns of COVID-19. We refer to the Government of Canada, Health website which suggests that organizations “Cancel classes that bring students together from multiple classrooms”. Given that our events gather students from many different schools and cities, MASC feels that this is the right decision.

MASC will be making efforts to reschedule MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Festival to the fall of 2020. The other two events will be planned for the 2020-2021 school year.

MASC Young Authors and Illustrators Festival: In its 29th year, this high-quality three-day event offers 450 students in Grades 4 to 7 the opportunity to participate in hands-on creative workshops and author readings with some of Canada’s finest authors and illustrators at the Museum of Science and Technology.

MASC Arts Awards: In its 22nd year, this heart-warming event is a celebration of students in Grades 6 to 8 who are passionate, creative and would benefit from support to explore his or her artistic development outside the school setting. Winners are awarded a scholarship from the School of Dance, the Ottawa Children’s Theatre, Bluesfest School of Music and Art, the Ottawa School of Art or mentorship with a published author, to support them in furthering their artistic development.

The **Festival de danse en milieu scolaire:** is a 3-day event organized by MASC in partnership with the *Centre d’excellence artistique de l’Ontario, le Centre de danse contemporaine* (ODD) and The School of Dance. Entering its 6th year, this highly anticipated event brings together 150 franco-ontarian students from across the province. Participants take workshops, create original choreographies and attend dance performances all led by professional francophone dancers.

We would like to thank all of our partners, parents, participants, funders, volunteers and supporters for their dedication to these important events. We look forward to continuing to offer rich artistic programming in our community for our children.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary, MASC is a charitable organization that provides schools and communities with experiences of artistic excellence that awaken the creative process, deepen awareness, encourage understanding and give vivid demonstration of Canada’s diversity.