

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FUSE Festival celebrates Nova Scotia's diversity through dance

New cultural dance event marks Canada Day with free performances on Halifax Commons

(Halifax, NS) Halifax's newest dance event, the **FUSE Festival**, debuts July 1 on the Halifax Commons. Dedicated to celebrating Nova Scotia's diversity through dance, the Fuse Festival is part of Halifax's special Canada Day event and runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Halifax Commons. The Fuse dance stage will be located on Cogswell Street, across from the Emera Oval, and the festival is free to all.

"The FUSE Festival is designed to bring Nova Scotians of all cultural backgrounds together through a shared cultural dance experience," says Maria Osende, festival founder and artistic director. "We're showcasing more than twenty cultural dance performances by professional and community groups, including Mi'kmaq, African, Indian, Latin and hip hop."

At 2 p.m. on July 1, the audience will be invited to join in the special *FUSE Flash Mob*, performed to Pharrell William's song "Happy" and led by Festival performers. "We'll be encouraging everyone, of all ages, all stages and all abilities, to dance along and enjoy themselves," adds Osende.

Free pre-festival events offer a sneak peek & a chance to dance

Dance enthusiasts don't have to wait until the FUSE Festival on Canada Day to get in on the moves or enjoy dance performances.

In partnership with the festival, the Halifax Central Library is hosting two free, interactive pre-events from 2 p.m.—4 p.m., where audience members can enjoy and even try out different dance styles:

- **Sunday, June 11** – Irish and Indian dance, Flash mob
- **Sunday, June 18** – Hip hop and contemporary dance, Flash mob

At both events, festival performers will also teach the easy-to-learn *Fuse Flash Mob* choreography.

The FUSE Festival is made possible with funding from Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage and Canadian Heritage, and generous support from our partners: Halifax Regional Municipality, Halifax Central Library, Dance Nova Scotia and White Lelou Media. The FUSE Festival is presented by Atlantic Flamenco Productions Society.

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For more information on the Festival and the free interactive pre-sessions, contact:

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