



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNA-Canada to Launch National Project

Wednesday, July 26, 2006, Montreal – UNA-Canada gets set to kick off the national launch of ‘A Sense of Belonging.’ The launch will incorporate activities that combine visual art, film and a panel discussion to promote diversity and kick off this two-year initiative.

Richard Spitz, Project Officer for Community Action, Department of Canadian Heritage is set to unveil a national art exhibit, created specifically for the project. The artist, 18-year-old DJ Morales, created nine colourful and symbolic canvases – each representing one of the key priority areas ‘A Sense of Belonging’ will focus on.

Montreal-based short film *Une femme de tête*, which explores the barriers to employment faced by many new immigrants, will make its public debut and will be accompanied by Producer, Patricia Bergeron. Calgary-based film, *Between: Living in the Hyphen* which interweaves the experiences of a group of Canadians with one parent from a European background and one from a visible minority will be accompanied by Writer/Director, Anne Marie Nakagawa.

An in-depth panel discussion will close the evening incorporating Dr. John Kelly, Aboriginal Researcher and Professor of Journalism, Viviane Duchaine, Montreal-Haitian Community Leader, as well as, Patricia Bergeron and Anne Marie Nakagawa.

A Sense of Belonging aims to promote diversity and combat racism and discrimination in local communities across Canada through community outreach and public education. UNA-Canada's overall goal is to support participation and opportunities for minority groups and promote fulsome and equal participation in Canadian society. Through the support of Canadian Heritage, the project will reach nine communities across Canada.

UNA-Canada is a national charitable organization celebrating its landmark 60th anniversary. As a ‘think and do’ organization, UNA-Canada supports a network of 17 volunteer branches with a National office in Ottawa and a Western professional office in Vancouver. Our mandate is to engage Canadians in the work of the UN and the critical global issues which affect us all, through innovative projects, policy research, and on-going communications with Canadians.

**The national launch of *A Sense of Belonging* will be held at the Goethe-Institute Montreal;
418 rue Sherbrooke Est, Montreal, Thursday, July 27**

6:50pm – Unveiling of National Art Exhibit

7:25-8:30pm – Film Screenings

8:30pm-9:45pm – Panel Discussion

Please contact Rebecca Cohn for more information:

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