For immediate release

Pan-Canadian Jazz Youth Summit in Ottawa performs big band concert on Canada Day

Ottawa (Thursday, June 14, 2007) – **TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival and the National Capital Commission** (NCC) are pleased to announce the outcome of the cross-Canada audition for 17 of the country's most talented young jazz players to participate in a special week-long **Jazz Youth Summit** culminating in a big band performance on Canada Day. This project is co-sponsored by **Jazz Festivals Canada** (JFC) and the **NCC** to celebrate the **150th anniversary of the choice of Ottawa as the nation's capital**.

JFC member festivals were invited to submit the names and CDs of talented young players in their communities. More than 60 nominations were sent in and today, the project director Jim Lewis, has announced 17 exceptionally talented young artists who will play at the **Ottawa Jazz Festival** in Confederation Park, on July 1, 2007 to celebrate Canada Day as part of the activities organized by the NCC in the Capital Region on July 1. **All concerts on Canada Day are FREE!**

The band members include:
Curtis MacDonald (alto sax) from Calgary, Alberta
Nathan Cepelinski (alto sax) from Ottawa, Ontario
Brent Mah (tenor sax) from Calgary, Alberta
Elyse Venne-Deshales (tenor sax) from Montreal, Quebec
Michael Heinermann (baritone sax) from Ottawa, Ontario
Riley Bennett (tenor sax) from Calgary, Alberta
Megan Juttings (trumpet) from Ottawa, Ontario
Rachel Stride (trumpet) from Vancouver, B.C.
Stephen Bishop (trumpet) from Medicine Hat, Alberta
Nicolai Koegler (trumpet) from Kitchener, Ontario
Curtis Layne (trombone) from Ottawa, Ontario
Andrew Ludtke (trombone) from Medicine Hat, Alberta
Eric Cathcart (bass trombone) from Ottawa, Ontario
Brad Jefford (guitar) from Conception Bay, Newfoundland
Tyson Kerr (piano) from Sherwood Park, Alberta
Evan Tighe (drums) from Ottawa, Ontario
John Russell (bass) from Victoria, B.C.

The Jazz Youth Summit will begin on Saturday, June 23, in Ottawa. Participants will work with their director, Jim Lewis (bio attached) and will have guest jazz teachers throughout the week.

They will receive an all-access pass to the Ottawa Jazz Festival where they will have the opportunity to hear jazz greats like Bill Frisell, Don Byron, Toots Thielemans, Dave Brubeck, Renee Rosnes, and many more…

Their intensive workshop period will culminate in a grand big band finale on Canada Day in Confederation Park on the last day of the Festival. This is a premiere event that combines fresh, virtuosic and rising talent in a big band format for this one extraordinary concert!

For more information please visit www.ottawajazzfestival.com <http://www.ottawajazzfestival.com/><http://www.ottawajazzfestival.com/> .

For more information on Canada Day celebrations in Canada's Capital Region, members of the public may contact the **NCC** at **1 800-465-1867** or at **613-239-5000**; visit the website at **www.canadaday.gc.ca <http://www.canadaday.gc.ca/><http://www.canadaday.gc.ca/>** ; or drop by the NCC's Capital Infocentre, located at 90 Wellington Street, in Ottawa.

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Information:

Suzan Zilahi, Communications Director
TD Canada Trust Ottawa International Jazz Festival
(613) 241-2633 (Office)
(613) 859-5415 (Cellular)
media@ottawajazzfestival.com

Kathryn Keyes, Media Relations Advisor
National Capital Commission
(613) 239-5636 (Office)
(613) 859-9565 (Cellular)
kkeyes@ncc-ccn.ca