

Message from the Executive Director

Birthdays are always a time for celebration, dance, music, and speech! And this year, our Festival is gearing up to celebrate Canada's 150th Birthday—and we are glad to have you with us for this special festival year.

Last year, over 2500 aspiring performers in speech, dance, and music joined us to celebrate our 90th Anniversary year, and we welcome back many of you for another year as you progress through your studies and “perform, learn, and grow with us.”

As one of our adjudicators said to the participants last year, “Keep going to festivals—they *will* make you a better player.” And as another one pointed out, “Isn't it great to make music together?!”

I also welcome many new performers who will be joining us for the first time this year! We are particularly excited about our new discipline: Popular Voice, with Darby Mills as our adjudicator.

I welcome you all and hope that your festival experience will be memorable and wonderful in many ways. Remember, it is all about the complete festival experience—not necessarily the competition. Enjoy each moment and make the most of each moment. The journey, not the destination, is what counts most.

Thank you to all the fabulous teachers who have helped this festival come together—indeed, without the support of the teachers, there would be no festival at all.

Thanks as well to the wonderful Kelowna Kiwanis Board of Directors and members—and volunteers. There is so much work and talent that goes into making this festival a reality, and it humbles me to see the dedication, commitment, and hard work of these key people: they are solid gold and the foundation that holds this festival up to its high standards of excellence.

Finally, thank you to all our sponsors, donors, and supporters. We could not do what we do without your support.

Happy Birthday Canada! We love you and are glad to be here with speech, dance, and music to help celebrate our 150 year together!

Yours in speech, dance, and music,

Marv Machura



