

# First Nations Summit

## STATEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **First Nations Summit commends Royal Winnipeg Ballet for important contribution to reconciliation**

**Coast Salish Territory/Vancouver, BC** – First Nations Summit (FNS) leaders are commending the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) for undertaking the production *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation*, which has its Vancouver debut this evening at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Commissioned by RWB Artistic Director André Lewis, *Going Home Star - Truth and Reconciliation* explores the world of Annie, a young, urban First Nations woman adrift in a contemporary life of youthful excess. But when she meets Gordon, a longhaired trickster disguised as a homeless man, she's propelled into a world she's always sensed but never seen. Not only do they travel the streets of this place but also the roads of their ancestors, learning to accept the other's burdens as the two walk through the past and toward the future. Together, both Annie and Gordon learn that without truth, there is no reconciliation.

The poignant story of residential school survivors as told by the Royal Winnipeg Ballet is a very significant contribution to the reconciliation dialogue in Canada and we commend the Royal Winnipeg Ballet for undertaking this important initiative. They are a great example of an organization stepping forward and being proactive in the process of reconciliation in follow-up to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and Calls to Action.

We encourage all aboriginal and non-aboriginal people to make an effort to attend this important performance as it makes its way across Canada.

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*The First Nations Summit speaks on behalf of First Nations involved in treaty negotiations in British Columbia. The Summit is also a NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Further background information on the Summit may be found at [www.fns.bc.ca](http://www.fns.bc.ca).*

For further information:

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