

MEDIA RELEASE

March 2021



101 Deweguns...
A Living Hearts Legacy

Niagara-Based Collective Launches Reconciliation based Drum Project with a Lasting Legacy



*“And when something stirs in your heart
A feeling so strong and intense
When something occurs in your heart
And there isn't a **next sentence...**”*

“Son” by Gord Downie



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'101 Deweguns...A Living Hearts Legacy' is a collaborative response to Gord's challenge for us all to **"Do Something"**. This multi-year all inclusive project calls on people from all walks of life to become involved in the creation of a **'next sentence'**; one which empowers our collective inner child to feel safe through healthy expressive engagement in the arts. Seeded by a Niagara-based collective from the Indigenous community, alongside allies who are looking to create a meaningful and continuous journey of Reconciliation, the project is presented in partnership with the **FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre** and **Kakekalanicks Indigenous Arts Consultancy**.

'101 Deweguns' was conceived by Niagara-based Indigenous community members Jackie Labonte and Oliver Nobosin as an opportunity to build a deeper cultural understanding and thoughtful Reconciliation. The project's name comes from the Ojibway word **'dewegun,'** which translates to mean **'living heart'**.

"We extend an invitation out to all people from all walks of life, from coast-to-coast across this great land, to come together in unity with hands and voices to help give life to this **healing medicine canvas**, as we all become integral parts in **paying this legacy forward**," says Jackie and Oliver.

A series of **free workshops** are about to begin to create all 101 Deweguns, continuing over the next two years, culminating with a cross-country drumming circle and public exhibitions of the completed drums' journey.

"It is our sincere wish to introduce as many people as we can to the amazing work being carried out by DWF, and for this **'next sentence'** to become an empowering tool through creative expression, illuminating the future for the next 7 generations" says Jackie and Oliver.

About the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund



Inspired by Chanie's story and Gord's call to build a better Canada, the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) aims to build cultural understanding and create a path towards Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. DWF's work centers around improving the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, and connections between all Canadians.

For more information, visit DownieWenjack.ca



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The **'101 Deweguns' Collective** is a committed group of individuals and organizations who have come together to bring the vision of this project to life.

The Collective includes Jackie Labonte, Oliver Nobosin, Christopher McLeod, Carrissa Gracey, Ashlyn Baskin, Erin Gracey, Kirk Fielding, Frances Porter, Jess Boulay (Giant Shoe Creative Agency), along with Michele-Elise Burnett (*Kakekalanicks Indigenous Arts Consultancy*), Gina Wilson-Mcintee (*Gina Wilson-Mcintee Designs*) and Annie Wilson & Sara Palmieri (*FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre*).

Be the Living Heartbeat you wish to feel and express in the world.
Help pay the **'Next Sentence'** forward 7 Generations.

Please visit '101 Deweguns... A Living Hearts Legacy' at:

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