April 29, 2020

Dear Member of Parliament/Member of the Legislative Assembly,

April 29th is International Dance Day and I would like to take the time to share with you some thoughts about dance and the arts in Winnipeg, Manitoba. As a dance artist/enthusiast/audience member/organization I believe that dance is vital to our sense of connection and enjoyment. Young Lungs Dance Exchange, a dance service organization in Winnipeg, MB, has circulated the statement below and because we can not gather this year to celebrate, I/we hope you will take a minute to read a few thoughts about this vital art form.

Young Lungs Dance Exchange International Dance Day 2020 Statement

*The current situation around Covid 19 has given us a global choreographic score to live and work by as we navigate this uncertain time together. Remaining physically distant from each other gives International Dance Day added significance this year as we work through something that connects us across the world and effects our physical movement. Dancing expresses all that we are missing right now and it is a reminder how vital this art form is to our sense of connection.*

*Dance of all forms and styles offers us a meeting place to engage through our bodies and shared stories. A language that is truly shared; young to old, across abilities, backgrounds and around the world. Perhaps now more than ever we feel the push and pull to come together and move our bodies, as social media and online platforms swell with dance classes, parties, performances and living room routines. Dancing has always brought people together and it will once again. When the rhythm of this time shifts, the flood of dancing will once again fill the streets, the fields, the studios and stages.*

*We invite everyone to take some time to consider how you dance, how dance connects with and intersects your life and how dancing can ultimately help us heal and celebrate. Thank you to the dance loving public and the funding bodies for your ongoing engagement and support of dance, dance artists and organizations.*

*On this day Young Lungs Dance Exchange acknowledges all the dance and dancers that have come before this time and we celebrate all the inspiring dancing yet to come. May we take the time to feel the pleasure in moving our bodies. May we continue to work to keep each other safe. May we look forward to the time when we can dance together again and share it with the world. It’s going to be a really great party!*

Happy International Dance Day!

Young Lungs Dance Exchange

I /we want to thank you for supporting dance and the arts and hope that you will continue to fight to ensure that our lives can be enriched through the arts. I/we look forward to celebrating with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Name and Address