

Claire Harvey
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Fort McMurray, AB T9H 0B3

March 25, 2010

Cara Brown, President
Alberta Music Education Foundation
5401-39th Street
Red Deer AB T4N 1A1

Dear Ms. Brown

I am writing to express my support of the Alberta Heritage Music Project (AHMP). I believe that the funding and support of music education in the province is vitally important, and through the AHMP I have seen the positive impact of this support in Fort McMurray.

I was fortunate enough to participate as a volunteer in the AHMP in Fort McMurray last May, which was in part funded by the Alberta Music Education Foundation. It was an amazing opportunity that brought together students and a group of seniors in the area through their shared experiences and love of music. I saw how much work went into this project, how much fun the students had in putting it together, and I was deeply moved by the response of the seniors who were involved. Not only did it give the students an opportunity to learn and perform in a musical context, it gave them a chance to connect with another generation in a way they found meaningful. It also allowed many seniors to share their stories and memories, be listened to, and see their stories told through music. Their reactions made it clear this project made them feel valued.

Through my involvement in the AHMP, my own life has been enriched as I am now friends with one of the seniors who took part. Through her, I heard first hand that the other seniors who were involved were talking excitedly about the final performance for many days afterward.

I hope this project is brought to other communities within the province, and beyond, so that this amazing experience can be shared by many more!

Sincerely,

Claire Harvey