



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 4, 2015**

## **We Are Family!**

Indeed, We Are Family! L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo is thrilled to present the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable from February 13 to 15, once again at Nanaimo's Beban Park Auditorium. This year, we celebrate our most loyal Festival participant: the family. And since we consider all visitors from Nanaimo and elsewhere one big family, brought together for three days of music, food, and interactive fun, you are all invited!

What is one great reason for family members to gather? Terrific food! Check out the authentic **poutine**, **tourtières** (meat pies), **ragoût** (meat stew), and other tasty traditional French Canadian food. And for dessert, young and old can taste the amazing **tire sur la neige** (toffy on snow). Your family will love it!

What would a traditional sugar shack be without lively musical entertainment? Headliner **Manon Bédard** makes her Festival debut to get you tapping your feet, clapping your hands, and dancing with your loved ones. This country performer sings in three languages: French, English, and Yodeling!

Plus, every family member will enjoy singing along in French and English with the sparkling **Charlotte Diamond**, at our Valentine Family Evening on — you guessed it — Valentine's Day. Throughout the weekend, there will be traditional French Canadian and other folk and fiddle artists, including Saltspring Island musician **Wesley Hardisty**, along with clowns' interactive performances at the Family Centre that will delight **tout le monde!** And our popular Market will continue to attract shoppers of all ages for some great retail therapy.

Our popular School Program is back again this year and kids are excited! Students from ten French Immersion and Francophone schools, and French as a Second Language programs located throughout Central Vancouver Island will take part in a fun-filled Francophone cultural event prior to the Festival from February 11 to 13! The lively musical group **André Thériault and Songs from the Heartland** will greet students as they enter Beban Auditorium. The **Yves Lambert Trio** will play traditional folk music that will get the children singing and dancing with enthusiasm.

Share in the **joie de vivre** of Vancouver Island's largest bilingual festival. We'd love to have your family — however you define it — join in the festivities in beautiful Nanaimo!

Please visit [http://www.francophonenanaimo.org/festival/fest\\_en.htm](http://www.francophonenanaimo.org/festival/fest_en.htm)

-30-

*For more information, contact:*

*Joanne Hogan, Communications and Public Relations / Communications et Relations publiques*

*L'Association des francophones de Nanaimo / Maple Sugar Festival du Sucre d'Érable*

*Mobile / Portable : 250 729 5333 – Email / Courriel : [joanne@francophonenanaimo.org](mailto:joanne@francophonenanaimo.org)*