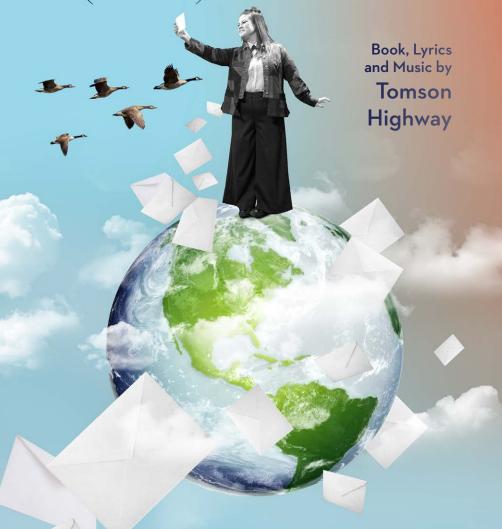
OVATION ROYAL MT



(Post) Mistress



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THEATRE ABBREVIATION LEGEND

Arts Club Arts Club Theatre Company · Vancouver, BC

ATF Atlantic Theatre Festival • Wolfville, NS

ATP Alberta Theatre Projects • Calgary, AB

BAM Brooklyn Academy of Music • NYC

Bard on the Beach Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival • Vancouver, BC

Belfry The Belfry Theatre • Victoria, BC

Blyth Blyth Theatre Festival • Blyth, ON

Broadway Theatre district • New York, NY

CBC Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

Centaur Centaur Theatre Company · Montreal, QC

Citadel The Citadel Theatre • Edmonton, AB

COC Canadian Opera Company · Toronto, ON

CS Canadian Stage · Toronto, ON

Dora Dora Mavor Moore Award • Toronto, ON

Drayton Drayton Entertainment • Ontario

Dry Cold Dry Cold Productions • Winnipeg, MB

Factory Factory Theatre • Toronto, ON

GCTC The Great Canadian Theatre Company

· Ottawa, ON

Grand The Grand Theatre • London, ON

HGJT Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company

· Toronto, ON

Mirvish Mirvish Productions • Toronto, ON

Moving Target Moving Target Theatre Company

· Winnipeg, MB

MTYP Manitoba Theatre for Young People

• Winnipeg, MB

NAC National Arts Centre · Ottawa, ON

Necessary Angel Necessary Angel Theatre Company

· Toronto, ON

Neptune Neptune Theatre • Halifax, NS

NFB National Film Board of Canada

NTS National Theatre School of Canada · Montreal, QC

Persephone Persephone Theatre • Saskatoon, SK

PTAM Popular Theatre Alliance of Manitoba

· Winnipeg, MB

 $\textbf{PTE} \;\; \text{Prairie Theatre Exchange} \cdot \text{Winnipeg, MB}$

 $\textbf{Rainbow} \;\; \textbf{Rainbow} \;\; \textbf{Stage • Winnipeg, MB}$

RNT Royal National Theatre • London, England

Royal Alex The Royal Alexandra Theatre • Toronto, ON

RSC Royal Shakespeare Company

· Stratford-upon-Avon, England

RWB Royal Winnipeg Ballet • Winnipeg, MB

Sarasvàti Sarasvàti Productions • Winnipeg, MB

Segal The Segal Centre for Performing Arts

· Montreal, QC

Shaw Shaw Festival • Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON

SIR Shakespeare in the Ruins • Winnipeg, MB

Soulpepper Soulpepper Theatre Company

· Toronto, ON

Stratford Stratford Festival • Stratford, ON

SummerWorks SummerWorks Theatre Festival

· Toronto, ON

TA Theatre Aquarius • Hamilton, ON

Tarragon Theatre • Toronto, ON

TBTR Theatre by the River • Winnipeg, MB

TC Theatre Calgary • Calgary, AB

TiFT Talk is Free Theatre · Barrie, ON

TNB Theatre New Brunswick • Fredericton, NB

Toronto Free Toronto Free Theatre • Toronto, ON

TPM Theatre Projects Manitoba • Winnipeg, MB

TSO Toronto Symphony Orchestra

U of M University of Manitoba

U of T University of Toronto

U of W University of Winnipeg

ViC The Village Conservatory for Music Theatre

· Winnipeg, MB

VP Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company

· Vancouver, BC

West End Theatre district • London, England

WCT Western Canada Theatre · Kamloops, BC

WJT Winnipeg Jewish Theatre

WSO Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

WST Winnipeg Studio Theatre

YPT Young People's Theatre • Toronto, ON

zone41 zone41 theatre • Winnipeg, MB

Royal MTC is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

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The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre is proud to call Manitoba home. Royal MTC is located in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Ininew, Anishinaabe and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. We are thankful for the benefits sharing this land has afforded us, and we are committed to the responsibilities of the Treaty. Hiy Hiy, Miigwetch, Wopida and Maarsii.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Welcome to Tomson Highway's *The (Post) Mistress*. I am thrilled to bring you this new offering from our digital programming series.

While Tomson is best known as one of Canada's most renowned playwrights, what is less known of this extraordinary artist is that he is also a gifted concert pianist. Born in northern Manitoba, Tomson has had an impact across Canada and around the world.

The (Post) Mistress is rooted in its music, with Tomson writing and composing this beautiful array of songs in Cree, French and English. And it is within this eclectic blend of French café chanson,

tango, Berlin cabaret and samba that he crafts the story of Marie-Louise Painchaud, a small-town postmistress from Lovely, Ontario who lives vicariously through the letters that pass through her hands, and travel around the world. But what Tomson has created is far from ordinary, rather it's a fantastical piece disguised as a small-town tale. In it he has created a love letter to all of us, sharing his gift of storytelling in the many lives he portrays within the letters, and filling them with the love, laughter and longing that connect all of us to each other.

I hope you enjoy the show.

Leuz

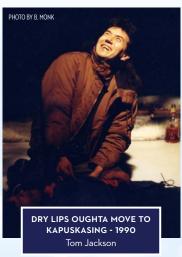
Letter from the Playwright

Dear audience: thank you for being here. A soodly chunk of my writing career addresses itself to the question of what I call the "Mothe Earth principle," that is, the idea of divinity in female form. In Monotheism - i.e. Christian mythology - no such idea exists. What did was its predecessor, polytheism, that arcient Greek system of many gods. And goddesses. In that system, God mad a wife . His name was Zeus, the King of the sky-ter name was thera, aka. Mother Earth, the question being: what on earth ever happened to her? In polytheism, not only did God have a wife, he also had a brother, this name was trades. The King of Death, he ruled over a region of humanikind's existence called the ofterlife. HE also had a wife, ther name was Persephone, the Queen of Death. This is her story ...

> - Timson Highway, Gatheau, Quebec 10 mars, 2021

Tomson Highway Productions on Royal MTC Stages







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Persephone

Marie-Louise Painchaud is no ordinary postmistress. Tomson Highway envisions her as Persephone, sorting through letters between the living and dead.

Persephone is the Greek goddess of springtime and maidenhood, and is the queen of the Underworld. She is married to Hades, who is also her uncle. Her Roman name is Proserpine.

Persephone was born to Zeus and harvest-goddess Demeter, and became the queen of the Underworld. Zeus, however, did not care for Persephone, and left them both. Demeter would then raise Persephone alone.

As soon as Persephone matured, she gained many suitors. She, however, remained a maiden. One morning, she was out picking flowers when Hades burst through the Earth, riding a golden chariot pulled by black horses. He had seen her earlier that day and had fallen in love with her. He grabbed her by the wrist and waist, took into the chariot, and down to the Underworld.

Persephone spent a year there. In this time period, during the first nine days her mother Demeter was distraught and searched for her. Hekate saw Persephone one of the nine days and told Demeter. Demeter became intensely sad and stopped caring about nature and the Earth. This caused nature to die, and the first winter to occur.

Persephone longed for a friend, and hated Hades. However, he soon grew on her, and she experienced true freedom (in Hades, at least). Soon, Hecate came down and befriended her, and Hades grew happy for Persephone.

Zeus then ordered Hades to return Persephone, but Hades sent a wonderful gift to Zeus. Persephone also ate six pomegranates, which cursed her to stay there for six months. Zeus was taken by the gift but was torn between it and nature. He, Demeter, and Hades came to an agreement: Persephone would spend winter in Hades and the rest of the year with Demeter.

SOURCE: GREEKMYTHOLOGY.WIKIA.ORG

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PRESENTS A STAGED MUSICAL CAPTURED FOR THE SCREEN

The (Post) Mistress

Book, Lyrics and Music by Tomson Highway

April 8 - 25, 2021

·	
Director	Simon Miron [†]
Music Director	Naomi Woo
Set Designer	Andrew Moro
Costume Designer	Andréanne Dandeneau
Lighting Designer	Larry Isacoff§
Sound Designer	Chris Coyne
Assistant Director	Katie German*
Assistant Set Designer	Shauna Jones‡
Stage Manager	Kathryn Ball†
Assistant Stage Manager	Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy
Video Production	Frank Digital
THE CAST	
Marie-Louise Painchaud	Krystle Pederson
MUSICIANS	
Tenor Saxophone	Neil Watson
Piano	Naomi Woo

SETTING

The post office in Lovely, a small town in francophone Northern Ontario. Friday, August 9, 1986, that is, a time before the internet, when people wrote letters on paper, frequently by hand and sent them by post.

The (Post) Mistress was first produced in its final English form by O'Kaadenigan Wiingashk and Public Energy Performing Arts at The Market Hall Performing Arts Centre.

Mr. Highway is represented by Catherine Mensour/The Mensour Agency Ltd.

Special thanks: St. John's Music for the grand piano.

Production photography by Hugh Conacher.

The (Post) Mistress

SONGS

Taansi, Nimiss (Hey Big Sister)
Hey, Good-Lookin'
Quand Je Danse (When I Dance)
Oh, Little Bear
Love I Know is Here
The Window
When I was Last in Buenos Aires, Argentina
Some Say a Rose
Mad to Love
Have I Told You
The Robins of Dawn

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ACTRA Manitoba



Krystle Pederson Marie-Louise Painchaud

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

ET CETERA Krystle Pederson is a Cree/ Métis singer, dancer, actor and musician with an outstanding career. Krystle is a recipient of the CBC Future 40 Award, shortlisted for the Saskatchewan Arts Awards for Emerging Artist as well as a nomination for the YWCA Woman of Distinction Awards. Krystle's list of acting credits includes a supporting role in the Saskatchewan film Run: Broken Yet Brave: Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre's The (Post) Mistress. Sum Theatre's Little Badger and the Fire Spirit, National Arts Centre's Gabriel Dumont Wild West Show. Red Sky Theatre: Mistatim. Ferre Play Theatre: The Penelopiad. Persephone

Theatre: Reasonable Doubt. Currently Krystle is the lead vocalist for Lynx Lamour Goes to Nashville, a brand new one-woman Cree musical written and composed by Tomson Highway. Krystle has had the great pleasure of taking this musical to New Zealand and has been touring Canada over the past two years. As it has been a long year without performance due to COVID-19, Krystle is very excited to reprise her role as the "(Post) Mistress" as well as have her debut performance with the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg. Krystle hopes that everyone eniovs the show from the comfort of their homes. So grab a glass of wine, sit back, stay safe and enjoy the show.



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I believe that in a great city, or even in a small city or a village, a great theatre is the outward and visible sign of an inward and probable culture.

- Sir Laurence Olivier -

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Tomson Highway Playwright

ROYAL MTC Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing, The Rez Sisters.

ET CETERA Tomson Highway is a Cree writer and pianist/songwriter from Northern Manitoba. Among many others, his best-known works are the plays: The Rez Sisters, Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing, and the best-selling novel, Kiss of the Fur Queen. He lives in Gatineau, Quebec with his loving partner of 37 years where, together, they are busy, and very happy grandpapas of two angelic young children. He is working on a hot new book that will be sure to shock the living daylights out of the world. You must read it.

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Simon Miron Director

ROYAL MTC The Cottage, The Dresser.

OTHER THEATRE Director: Pippin, American Idiot (ViC/WST): Freestyle Fantastique, Songs for a New World (White Rabbit Productions): The Last 48 (ArtLaunch); 7 Stories (TBTR); The Last Five Years (Winnipeg Fringe). Acting: The House at Pooh Corner, James and the Giant Peach, Honk! (MTYP); Le Boucher, Le Père, Heyderabad (TCM); Little Shop of Horrors, South Pacific, Les Misérables, The Little Mermaid. The Producers (Rainbow); Blithe Spirit (Echo Theatre).

TRAINING/TEACHING Founding member of the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre (ViC). Simon holds a masters from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and trained with Peter Hinton at the Stratford Festival.

ET CETERA Simon is a francophone Métis artist who self identifies as two spirited. In loving memory of Rita Miron (née Cormier).



Naomi Woo Music Director

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

ET CETERA Naomi is Assistant Conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Passionate about telling stories through music, she is delighted to be making her musical theatre debut.





At BMO, we take pride in our local communities and the artists that contribute to the cultural diversity and artistic richness of our cities.

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Andrew Moro Set Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

ET CETERA Andy Moro is a mixed-blood interdisciplinary artist and co-founder of ARTICLE 11 with Tara Beagan, A11's recent theatrical work Deer Woman has met international acclaim. The National Arts Centre Indigenous Theatre recently released a digital iteration created by ARTICLE 11 in association with Downstage, Calgary. A11's performance installations DECLARATION and ROOM have been adapted across Turtle Island. ROOM is presently being reinvented with Making Treaty 7 for a large-scale outdoor iteration in Calgary. Moro's recent design includes Beagan's Ministry of Grace for the Belfry Theatre in Victoria, The Third Colour for PTE, Finding Wolastog Voice at TNB, Dancers of Damelahamid's Minowin, Spirit & Tradition, Unnatural and Accidental at NACIT and Kaha:wi's Blood Tides. Upcoming is SkyDancers for Montreal's A'nó:wara Dance, MTYP's Frozen River and Lady Day for Theatre Calgary.



Andréanne Dandeneau Costume Designer

ROYAL MTC First engagement.

ET CETERA Andréanne Mulaire Dandeneau was born and raised in Saint Boniface. MB and is of Ojibwa/French Métis ancestry. She studied one year in Environmental Design at the U of M; moved to Montréal to pursue post-secondary studies in French (2001); graduated with a Diploma in International Fashion Design from Collège LaSalle (2004). Prior to launching her company in 2005, Andréanne drew from her own contemporary dance experience and began designing costumes for dance troupes. She has been the costume designer for the Nafro Dance Company since 2004; commissioned by the RWB to design an "Alexander McQueen-inspired" haute couture gown (2012/13 season); commissioned by the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to design a shawl for Ginette Reno's performance at their opening ceremony (2014); stylized Lisa Meeches, APTN Host, on Taken for several seasons. She earned the Excellence in Aboriginal Business Leadership Award from the Asper School of Business (2016). In 2020, she celebrated 15 years as designer and manufacturer, in Winnipeg. Andréanne is committed to fair trade. environmental stewardship, and ethical business practices. Today she operates as Anne Mulaire and continues to explore her Métis heritage.

"Because the arts forge human connection and ignite unforeseen possibilities within all of us."

Kelly Thornton, Artistic Director, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre





Larry Isacoff *Lighting Designer*

ROYAL MTC Di and Viv and Rose, 23.5
Hours, Armstrong's War, The Secret Annex,
Harvey, Other People's Money, August:
Osage County, The Fighting Days, The
Shunning, The Seafarer, Looking Back West, Bleeding Hearts, Rope's End, The
Retreat from Moscow, Fully Committed,
Mating Dance of the Werewolf, The
Miracle Worker, Cloud Nine, Bedroom
Farce, How I Got That Story, The
Affections of May, Mrs. Klein, The Gin
Game, Paper Wheat.

OTHER THEATRE Cercle Molière, Globe Theatre, 25th Street Theatre, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, PTE, MTYP, Persephone Theatre, Dry Cold Productions.

ET CETERA Evie Award for Outstanding Lighting Design in 2020. Larry divides his time between engaging theatre projects, sitting on the Board of Directors for Sarasvàti Productions and teaching yoga.



Chris Coyne Sound Designer

ROYAL MTC The Mountaintop, Fun Home, Kill Me Now (with NAC), The Hound of the Baskervilles 2016 (Tour).

OTHER THEATRE Chris has had the pleasure of working with many local and international theatre groups. Credits include Routes 2016/17 Tour (MTYP); The Hound of the Baskervilles Mar. 2015, Little Thing, Big Thing Sept. 2015 (PTE); EDEN 2013 (Sarasvàti); Bashir Lazhar Mar. 2013 (TPM); Angels in America 2012, Perestroika 2014

(WJT); Three Sisters 2011 (zone41).

TRAINING Chris is a graduate of the Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology.

ET CETERA Chris has been involved in the theatre industry in Winnipeg for many years. Currently working as Royal MTC's Technical Director at the John Hirsch Mainstage.



Katie German
Assistant Director

ROYAL MTC Mentee in the 2020/21 National Mentorship Program. Assistant Program Director of the 2020/21 Pimootayowin Creators Circle.

OTHER THEATRE Directing/Assistant/ Associate: Embodying Power and Place (Nightwood Theatre & Harlem Productions); Katharsis (PTE); Elizabeth Rex (Bunbury Productions); Tiny Treasures, Charlie Brown Double Bill (MTYP); Matilda, Newsies, Tuck Everlasting *Canadian Premiere (Junior Musical Theatre Company). Performance: A Year with Frog and Toad, Seussical The Musical (MTYP); Women of the Fur Trade (Vault Projects): Breaking Up Is Hard To Do, South Pacific (Rainbow Stage); Pippin, American Idiot (WST/ViC); Evil Dead The Musical, The Last Five Years. The Rocky Horror Show (Wasteland Productions); Sweeney Todd (Dry Cold Productions).

FILM/TV Wolf Joe Cartoon (Media RendezVous/Big Jump Media Inc.).

TRAINING Graduate of Grant MacEwan University, Theatre Performance.



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Shauna Jones Assistant Set Designer

ROYAL MTC Women of the Fur Trade, Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley.

OTHER THEATRE Lawrence and Holloman, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Good People, Prelude to a Kiss (Guild Hall - Whitehorse, YT).

TRAINING Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity Practicum program (2019) in Scenic Art.

ET CETERA Shauna would like to extend a sincere thanks for the additional and thoughtful support of the Kingfisher Foundation, and to Royal MTC for giving her this opportunity.





Kathryn Ball Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC Mainstage: The New Canadian Curling Club, Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical, Shakespeare in Love (with Citadel), Steel Magnolias, The Shunning, The Importance of Being Earnest, Dreamgirls, Orpheus Descending. Warehouse: Bang Bang. Regional tours: Last Train to Nibroc, The Hound of the Baskervilles, Armstrong's War, Miracle on South Division Street, Ed's Garage, The Melville Boys, Bad Dates.

OTHER THEATRE Numerous productions with Manitoba Opera, Prairie Theatre Exchange, Rainbow Stage, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Citadel Theatre (Edmonton) and the Globe Theatre (Regina), Sarasvàti Productions, The Little Opera Company.

TRAINING Theatre Production program at MacEwan University in Edmonton and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Manitoba.



Zoë Leclerc-Kennedy Assistant Stage Manager

ROYAL MTC Apprentice Stage Manager: Women of the Fur Trade, As You Like It, Fun Home, Heisenberg, Shakespeare in Love, Sarah Ballenden, Bittergirl: The Musical. Zoë has worked in the Prop Shop for various productions since 2017 and has worked for the Winnipeg Fringe Festival since 2014.

OTHER THEATRE Live Stream Show Runner: Seven Visions, Fem Fest 2020 (Sarasvàti). Apprentice Stage Manager: A Charlie Brown Double Bill (MTYP); Falstaff (MB Opera). Head of Props (Watermark

Theatre, 2019); Props Apprentice (Grand Theatre, 2018/19 season); Props Coordinator (Sarasvàti's Fem Fest, 2016-2019).

TRAINING University of Winnipeg with a BA (Hons), specialization in Theatre Production and Stage Management. Prop Builder Practicum: Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.



Neil Watson Tenor Saxophone

ROYAL MTC First appearance.

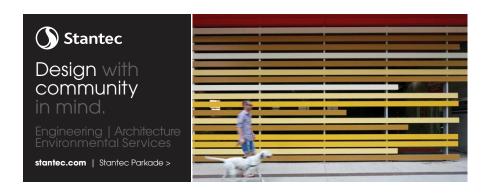
TRAINING/TEACHING Saxophonist Neil Watson has been an active performer on the Winnipeg music scene for more than two decades. He graduated from the University of Manitoba in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in saxophone performance and began to hone his jazz skills by studying with Sasha Boychouk in Winnipeg and Mike Murley in Toronto. In 2004, he returned to the U of M to pursue a Master's Degree. During this time, he made numerous trips to New York to work with various musicians and absorb the city's rich jazz scene. While there, he studied with legendary alto saxophonist Gary Bartz, Miguel Zenón, Wessell "Warmdaddy" Anderson, and Sherman Irby among others. Neil graduated with his Master's Degree in jazz performance in the spring of 2006 and performs regularly with

numerous groups including the Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra, The Ron Paley Big Band, and Marco Castillo's Brazilian Beats. Neil has shared the stage with Miguel Zenón, Curtis Fuller, Rob McConnell, Dave Young, PJ Perry, Terreon Gully and many other world-class jazz artists. In addition to his busy performing schedule, Neil has taught Jazz Theory, Jazz Pedagogy and directed student and community jazz ensembles at the U of M and is director of The Bridge: Music for Life, a program that offers music instruction in a classroom setting to innercity children.



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You're an important part of our community!

Throughout *The (Post) Mistress,* Marie-Louise Painchaud tells us about the members of her community, how they're connected, and what makes them special. At the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, our community is very special as well. It's the people who perform on our stages, work in our building, attend our productions, and support the theatre with their time and donations that make Royal MTC what it is!

Thanks to donors like you, Royal MTC has continued to make connections with this community! Your support has allowed us to record and digitally present *The (Post) Mistress* and *The Mountaintop*. And, thanks to you, we've been able to provide more opportunities for our beloved local artists through the National Mentorship Program, Apprentice & Assistant Program and the Pimootayowin Creators Circle. These programs are designed to provide mentorship and experience to local artists right here at home!

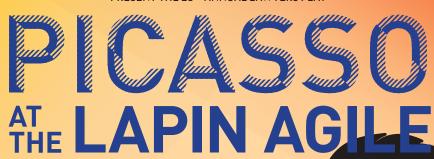
While this season has been unlike any other, it continues to be possible because of you, and we can't thank you enough!

If you would like to donate to Royal MTC, please visit us at royalmtc.ca/donate or contact Chris Turyk, Development Manager, at 204 954 6412 or cturyk@royalmtc.ca.





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