

artsREACH

Media Advisory

May 18, 2006

Retired Ontario Teachers support Capital Region children in public elementary schools with grant for artsREACH workshops

Victoria, BC - *The Octa Collective Society* (Octa) will receive a "Project - Service to Others" grant from the Retired Teachers of Ontario (Victoria Unit) at a special presentation on **Wednesday, May 24, 2006** at George Jay Elementary School. The \$4000 grant will cover the cost of delivering ten artsREACH workshops in drawing, painting or theatre to public elementary schools in School Districts 62 and 63 in the 2006/07 school year.

Cheque presentation:

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

George Jay School, 1118 Princess Avenue, Victoria, BC at 10:30 am in the Gymnasium

Pre-Presentation Workshop:

The Media is invited to attend and/or participate in a Painting Workshop with a class of children prior to the announcement. If you would like to participate in the workshop, please RSVP prior to Tuesday, May 23, so that we have paint, paper and space ready for you!

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

George Jay School, 1118 Princess Avenue, Victoria, BC at 8:45 am in the Gymnasium

For more information:

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Backgrounder:

artsREACH's mandate is to deliver high-quality visual and performing arts training to young people in the Capital Region, regardless of their financial means. To reach children who would benefit the most from this mandate, free drawing, painting and theatre workshops are delivered by professional artists and actors in public elementary schools, focusing on schools with a high population of children from low-income families.

The **Retired Teachers of Ontario/les enseignantes et enseignants retraités de l'Ontario** - commonly referred to as RTO/ERO - is a provincial, bilingual organization of retired Ontario teachers, administrators and other educational personnel. With 179 members, the Victoria Unit is one of four British Columbia units that make up District 42.

Project - Service to Others is a Provincial RTO/ERO program which provides grants to Districts for initiatives which support the concept of "Service to Others". The intent is to raise the profile of retired teachers by visibly demonstrating to active teachers and to the public-at-large that retired teachers care about their communities and about public education, and are willing to do something to help those who need assistance.