

L'ÉCOLE
SUPÉRIEURE DE
BALLET
DU QUÉBEC

Press Release
For immediate publication

**The Fondation de L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec receives
a remarkable gift from Merck Canada inc.**

Montréal, July 13, 2016 — The Fondation de l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec is delighted to be the recipient of a remarkable donation from Merck Canada Inc. — a work of art entitled *Danser la vie* by painter Léa Rivière.

"This gift essentially embodies a rapprochement between the Foundation and the business community," stated Jean-Paul Bellon, Chairman of the Board of L'École supérieure's foundation, at the unveiling of the work. He went on to add: "It translates the corporation's sensitivity to the Foundation's mission, which is to support L'École supérieure in its pursuit of excellence."

"We are pleased that the donation of this beautiful piece of art will help support the Fondation de l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec and assist in the development of Quebec's finest dancers," said Jennifer Chan, Vice President, Policy and external affairs, Merck Canada Inc.

The work, a mixed medium on canvas, is a triptych created between 1998 and 2000. Inspired by dance, the three paintings show a woman whose hair recalls the mane of a horse — a subject favoured by Ms. Rivière, who is considered a world leader in the art of painting these animals. "Horses and dance are guides for humans," noted the artist.

About Merck

For 125 years, Merck has been a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and animal health products, the company works with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. Merck also demonstrate its commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information about Merck operations in Canada, visit www.merck.ca.

About the Fondation de l'École supérieure de ballet du Québec

The Fondation de l'École supérieure supports the school's activities and the Bibliothèque de la danse Vincent-Warren. It also plans to hold a major fundraising campaign for the renewal of the Maison de la danse du Québec Ludmilla-Chiriaeff.

About L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec

Founded in 1952 by Ludmilla Chiriaeff, and incorporated in 1966 at the request of Québec's Ministry of Cultural Affairs, L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec's mission is to train students to become classical dancers of national and international calibre.

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L'École supérieure de ballet du Québec sets the precedent for professional classical ballet training in Québec. The establishment is renowned for a superior level of dance perfection, research, and creation.

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