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## Performance art shines light on those 'living in a bubble'

By Marie LeBlanc on May 12, 2016

Posted in Arts & Entertainment, Downtown, Education, Environment, Health & Safety, Politics

As someone who suffers from Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS), and in commemoration of May 12 being International Awareness Day for this physiological illness, I chose today to undertake a performance art demonstration at the Manitoba Legislature.

The subject of my art is inside a bubble and unable to gain access to the Legislature or to most buildings in Winnipeg. That's the reality for many people who suffer from this disorder.

MCS is characterized by acute sensitivity to a myriad of chemicals commonly present in most modern environments. Symptoms can be present in multiple organ systems.

The illness as well as therapies and prevention strategies were recently articulated by a committee of international physicians in the Rome Resolution, Consensus on MCS on Jan. 15, 2015.

People with MCS face many challenges, including access to safe, affordable housing.

Presently, the City of Winnipeg and the Government of Manitoba do not have any provisions or policies regarding accessibility to suitable housing for people with MCS.

As a person with MCS who faces these and many other barriers on a regular basis, I believe International Awareness Day for Multiple Chemical Sensitivity is an appropriate time for someone to be in a bubble on the grounds of the Legislature.

My hope is that the general public as well as politicians are able to see and feel the frustration of how someone with MCS finds it nearly impossible to access safe housing.



Inside a bubble: performance art highlights access issues for those sensitive to multiple chemicals. /MARIE LEBLANC

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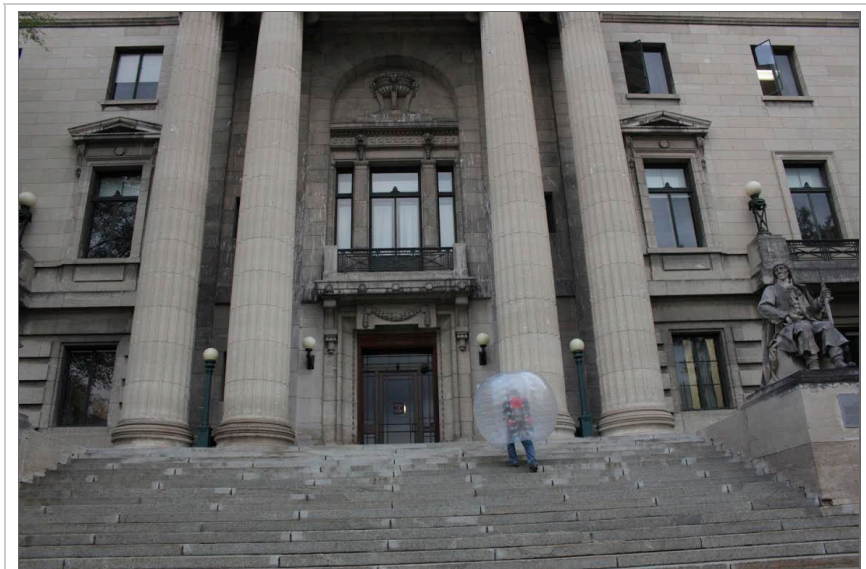
On the bandwagon: a sign of the times at a local donut shop. No word yet on official bagels or perogies. PHOTO by Greg Petzold

Submit your Photo here!

Check out our Photo of the Day Gallery!

### RIVER CITY 360

Is anyone willing or able to help the person in a bubble, who might someday be you?



Performance artist wants government to address issues confronted by those with MCS. /MARIE LEBLANC

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**About Marie LeBlanc**

Marie is an artist, poet, photographer, with a background in alternative health and Bachelor of Arts in Human Geography and Sociology (Advanced Major). She advocates and has been active in many committees to create awareness for people with various disabilities. She was awarded the Mental Health Volunteer Hero of the year in 2012 and has helped coordinate mental health walks. Marie believes creative expression through art and entertainment is healing for your body,mind and soul. She is extremely inventive, creative and resourceful.Other Interests include the environment, culture and just about anything due to her curious nature. She enjoys and has learned a lot through her experience writing and taking pictures for the community news commons.

One response to "Performance art shines light on those 'living in a bubble'"



**Perry Nikolychuk** May 15, 2016 at 12:39 am | [Permalink](#)

That is an interesting take on it Marie!! Keep up these excellent articles!!!

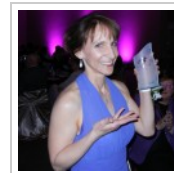
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**LOCAL HEROES**



**Fear and loathing at a special awards ceremony**

By Stephanie Staples on May 20, 2014

Being a finalist for the Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards is a scary and humbling experience that conjures up the question, "Why am I here?"

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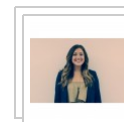
Know someone who is a local hero? Tell their story and we'll feature it here.

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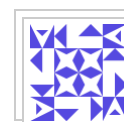
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