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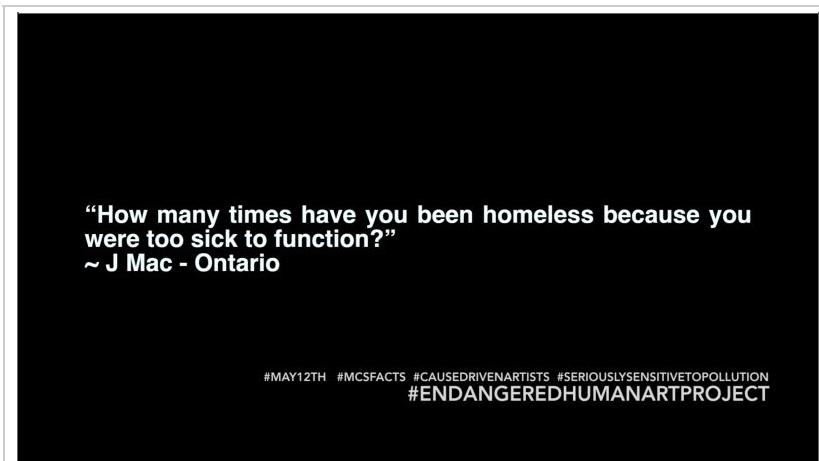
CNC is an online news hub authored by you, your friends and neighbours, sharing stories to make our world a better place. By creating CNC, The Winnipeg Foundation believes a more informed and engaged community is a more caring and giving community, building the capacity needed for stronger, healthier neighbourhoods.

Browse: Home / Our City / Education / Bringing awareness to chemical sensitivity

Bringing awareness to chemical sensitivity

By Marie LeBlanc on May 12, 2017

Posted in Downtown, Education, Environment, Health & Safety | Tagged Awareness Day, Multiple Chemical Sensitivity



One of the quotes to be projected by Marie LeBlanc on walls of the Centennial Concert Hall.

"WHO says we need fresh air?!" is a series of quotes from sufferers of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity, Environmental Illness, Mold Exposure, Electrohypersensitivity Syndrome, Lyme Disease and other conditions related to Chronic/Complex Immunological Neurological Diseases.

The art installation is dedicated to MCS sufferer Eliana from Mexico, who passed away recently, and will be displayed by me (Marie LeBlanc) Fri. May 12 – Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)/Environmental Sensitivities Awareness Day — outside the Centennial Concert Hall (with a few quotes displayed on the indoor screens) starting at 7 p.m.

You will feel the cries for help of those living with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity from Manitoba, Canada and globally as they share their daily struggles to obtain safe housing and fresh air for their mere survival.

DAILY NEWS PODCAST



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News Podcast

1 TRACK

November 21, 2017

148

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PHOTO OF THE DAY



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

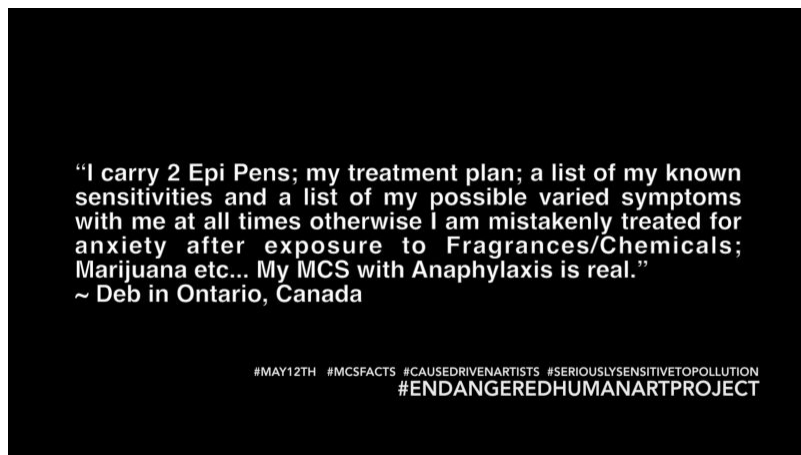


My friend Eliana, from Mexico, who in her struggle for safe housing recently lost her life. At the point when I began collecting stories she had moved more than 73 times in the past few years. I could feel her cry for help. We at the MCS community feel the loss of Eliana, and know she is resting in peace.

Eliana found herself in places that were very unsafe physically, at times when the air she breathed inside was safe for her.

Housing is the greatest challenge for people with MCS. Many choose to become homeless as the air they breathe in their homes is not safe, thus forced to make the choice of being homeless for their mere survival, placed into the streets where it is physically unsafe.

Fresh air can mean many things to many people. For those with MCS, fragrance is a challenge in any environment. Feel what they are experiencing as they express what happens to them when exposed to everyday chemicals many take for granted.



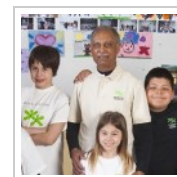
Gerry McDougal, Marketing and IT Manager at the Centennial Concert Hall, hopes that "WHO says we need fresh air?!" will inform people about sharing the air and refrain from scents to enhance everyone's experience.

I feel humans are becoming endangered. Loss of habitat and transportation corridors, and lack of social interaction is placing us in constant survival mode with no health care or any help at all. Animals becoming extinct are a cause for us humans becoming involved to stop this from happening. I feel humans are also becoming endangered.



Listen to audio stories from **River City 360**, a project of The Winnipeg Foundation, in partnership with Community News Commons and 93.7 CJNU-FM.

LOCAL HEROES



Giving kids the opportunities they deserve

By Stacy Cardigan Smith on July 30, 2013

Long referred to as an "advocate of humanity" and "father to thousands," Strini Reddy can now add Caring Canadian Award winner to his list of accolades.

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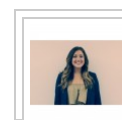
Know someone who is a local hero? Tell their story and we'll feature it here.

CNC CITIZEN REPORTERS



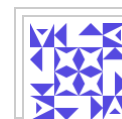
Dr. Syras Derksen

Connections Workshop aims to cultivate genuine listening



Rebecca Henderson

This is our chance to do better



Paul Rayner

Documentary brings story of hope to the screen



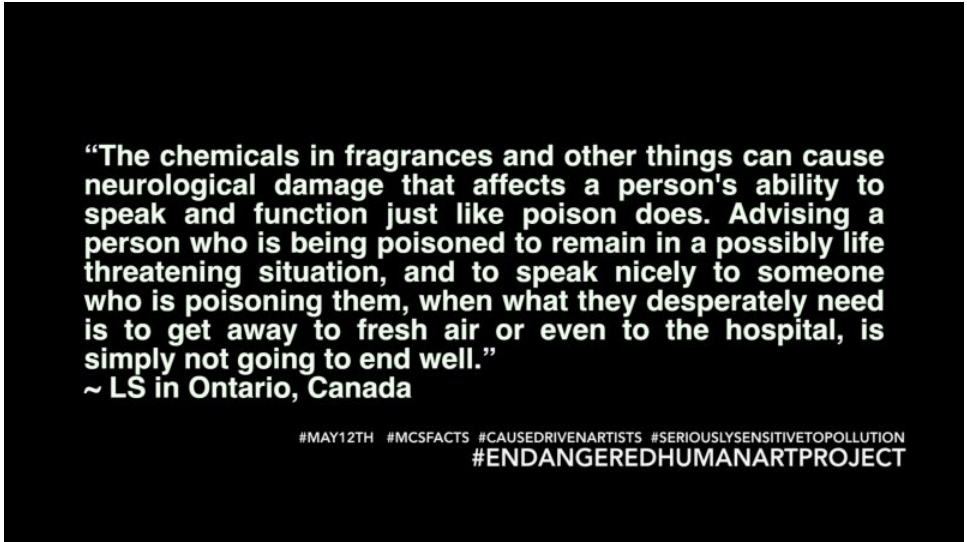
Huguette and Roger Lacroix

Stunned by bogus Taylor Swift tickets, shocked by stranger's act of generosity

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There are no borders when it comes to MCS. However, the provincial and national borders keep us apart. The air we breathe is not controlled by borders, however, we are.

I would like to thank my fellow MCS friends who contributed to "Who says we need fresh air?!" and to the Centennial Concert Hall for graciously letting me share my message "WHO says we need fresh air?!" and for sharing the air.



The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra has scent free messaging on the back of their tickets, says McDougal. Their policy is listed on their website in their *House Policies* section, and it's written in as a suggestion to patrons. As well, the WSO lists share the air as a suggestion on their website.

The Opera also has scent free messaging in their brochures, similar to the WSO, as a suggestion to patrons.

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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 "Bringing awareness to chemical sensitivity"



Doug Kretchmer May 13, 2017 at 10:20 am | [Permalink](#) | [Log in to reply](#).

Great article Marie. What a wonderful project. It's great that you are creating awareness about this issue. This is what true art is all about..... making a statement and stimulating thought and discussion. Way to go!

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Community News Commons is funded by:

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