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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CITY OF BURLINGTON RECEIVES \$100,000 FROM QUEBEC FOR INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT FESTIVAL**

Burlington, VT: (February 3, 2009) In a press conference on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts, it was announced that the City of Burlington will receive \$100,000 from the government of Quebec, supporting the City's preparations for the 2009 Burlington International Waterfront Festival. In attendance at the conference were Festival producer and Vermont filmmaker Jay Craven, Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss, Vermont Commissioner of Tourism and Marketing Bruce Hyde, and Burlington City Arts Director Doreen Kraft.

"I greatly appreciate the financial support and partnership with the Quebec government for the Burlington International Waterfront Festival," said Burlington Mayor Bob Kiss. "Having had the opportunity to participate in Champlain 400 celebrations in Quebec, I understand how much the Quebec government and people value their connection to Vermont. Their generosity investing in Burlington will allow us to bring French-Canadian and First Nations talent to the 2009 Festival and will result in a stronger relationship that will benefit Quebec, Vermont and Burlington for many years to come."

This financial support comes from the government of Quebec and Société du 400<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de Québec (the Society for the 400th anniversary of Quebec). The funds will be used to support artists booking, contracts and payments transportation from Quebec to

Burlington return, accommodations in Burlington as well as per diems, union fees applicable in the United States, and more.

“Thanks to our friends in Quebec, Burlington's Champlain 400 events will bring to the city a distinctive and authentic feel of Quebec's rich culture--from its music and circus arts to its films and food,” says Festival producer Jay Craven. “I couldn't be more grateful for this gift and the enthusiastic support and appreciation it represents for what we're doing. Indeed, One of the most thrilling, unusual, and potentially fruitful aspects of the Champlain 400 events is the international part. Quebec has demonstrated the importance they attach to our Champlain commemorations, to the 400 year partnership between Quebec and Vermont, and to our mutual hopes that this is just a first step toward heightened cooperation and collaboration in the future.”

The Burlington International Waterfront Festival, part of the statewide Quadricentennial celebration, marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of French explorer Samuel de Champlain's arrival in Vermont. The Burlington Festival is expected to draw tens of thousands of visitors to Vermont and Burlington, principally from July 2 through July 14, when several activities, musical and dance performances, visual art, and Native American film, art, and lecture series are planned. Burlington will serve as the central location in Vermont for Champlain 400 and will host the celebration's signature event on July 11. The Champlain 400 has been listed in national trade and tourist magazines as one of the top events for 2009. Burlington has worked closely with the State of Vermont in planning the event.

One of the highlights of the Burlington festival will be Quebec Day, on July 10<sup>th</sup> - featuring more than 100 musicians, dancers, acrobats, filmmakers, and circus and theater artists. Quebec Prime Minister Jean Charest will travel to Burlington for the July 10th events. For more information on the Burlington International Waterfront Festival and other state wide Quadricentennial events, please visit [www.celebratechamplain.org](http://www.celebratechamplain.org).

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