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Media Release

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Winnipeg's William H. Loewen to receive Governor General's Performing Arts Award

Monday, June 26 (Winnipeg) - This Thursday, June 29, 2017, Winnipeg business leader and philanthropist William H. Loewen will be recognized for his exceptional contributions to the arts with the 2017 Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts as part of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards.

Mr. Loewen founded Comcheq Payroll Service in 1968 and later Telpay Incorporated, Canada's largest independent provider of electronic payment services. He receives the award in recognition of his 30-plus years of dedication to the arts in Winnipeg. He and his wife Shirley have donated over \$1 million to the Winnipeg Symphony but his support of the famed organization goes far beyond financial contributions.

Mr. Loewen has served as volunteer, Board member and President with the Symphony during over 40 years and supports the Manitoba Opera, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Manitoba Choral Association, the Winnipeg Chamber Music Association and the St. Norbert Arts Centre. He has also donated Telpay's professional services and sponsorships to the organizations he supports.

"I am humbled to receive such recognition," Mr. Loewen said. "Our contribution to the arts has never been about receiving personal attention - it has always stood for the significant contribution that the Symphony and other organizations make to our city and province. That so many individuals' lives have been enriched by music and other performing arts is the real pleasure I receive."

Mr. Loewen will receive the Award on Wednesday, June 28 at Rideau Hall. Other recipients of Governor General Awards this year include Michael J. Fox, Martin Short, Brigitte Haentjens, Yves Sioui Durand, Jean Beaudin, Karen Kain, and Robert Binet. Michael Buble will also be honoured.

About the Award

The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts recognizes outstanding volunteer service to the performing arts by an individual or group. Each laureate receives a specially commissioned artwork created by a Canadian artist, and a commemorative medallion.

About Telpay

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