

The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



April 2019

For Immediate Release

Brandon's Fair Trade Feast

The Marquis Project and the Brandon Fair Trade Town Committee are pleased to announce the Fair Trade Feast Fundraiser on Sunday, April 28 at The Dock on Princess, 1133 Princess Avenue, Brandon. The three-course meal is being prepared with a wide use of certified fair trade ingredients such as spices, grains, chocolate, oil, sugar and coffee; some have been generously donated by Brandon's Ten Thousand Villages store. Locally grown ingredients include quinoa [donated by Tamarack Farms of Erickson], honey, and lentils [donated by Crocusview Farms of Kenton]. The Dock is providing creative menu design, food preparation and hosting:

- **First Course:** Tea-Poached Pear Salad consisting of roasted baby beets, tea-poached pears, goat cheese and spiced nuts with Tuscan lettuce mix and garnished with candied pear.
- **Second Course:** Coffee-rubbed beef tenderloin [cooked to medium] with bourbon vanilla sauce served with brown butter sage-roasted rainbow carrots and wild mushroom, lentil and quinoa risotto.
- **OR Vegetarian Option:** Cardamom-spiced butternut squash gnocchi, in a brown butter sage sauce, on a bed of arugula.
- **Dessert:** Quinoa lava cake.

The Brandon Fair Trade Town Committee, a Marquis Project initiative, is celebrating its 5th anniversary of becoming Manitoba's second Fair Trade Town in May 2014. Brandon has received national recognition by demonstrating strong commitment to fair trade from its community stakeholders, including Brandon City Council, businesses, community groups, and individual members. With Brandon, Gimli, Selkirk and Winnipeg achieving Fair Trade Town status, 62% of Manitobans live in easy access to fair trade certified goods and food items. For three years in a row - 2014, 2015, and 2016 - Brandon was named Fair Trade town of the year by Fairtrade Canada, and in 2017 was named as Fair Trade Town All Star. The first Trade Feast in 2017 won a national award as Fair Trade Event of the Year.

The commitment to Fair Trade is growing through consumer education and demand. Fair trade offers producers in the global south a better deal and improved trade conditions. Over 20 businesses in Brandon now carry Fair trade products, including edible items such as rice, chocolate, sugar, dried fruit, ice cream and spices and beverages such as coffee, tea, wines and beer. Eleven local restaurants serve fair trade products throughout the year. See the Products Directory for Brandon at the Marquis Project website at <http://www.marquisproject.com/>.

Two church groups in Brandon have received Fair Trade Faith Group status. Several workplaces in Brandon are designated as Fair Trade. Opportunities are also available for schools and campuses to seek fair trade designations through the Canadian Fair Trade Network Programs <http://cftn.ca/programs>.

Tickets for the dinner are \$50 per person and include a charitable tax receipt for a donation of \$25 to The Marquis Project. They are available for pre-sale at the following locations until April 21 or until they are sold out:

- The Dock on Princess, 1133 Princess Ave, Brandon. <http://www.thedockonprincess.com/>
- Ten Thousand Villages, 829 Rosser Avenue, Brandon. <https://www.tenthousandvillages.ca/store/4105>

An added feature to this year's dinner will be the celebration of The Marquis Project's 40th anniversary with Zack Gross as guest speaker, and the presentation of Global Citizenship Awards. Funds raised at the dinner will be used locally to support the ongoing commitment to Fair Trade in Brandon and globally to support projects between The Marquis Project and partners in rural development in Uganda or Tanzania. Ten Thousand Villages will have a display of Fair Trade items for sale. More information about Fair Trade will be available at the dinner.

For more information about this event or to arrange an interview, please contact the Marquis Office at 204-727-5675 or e-mail: marquis@marquisproject.com .

Email: marquis@marquisproject.com
Mail: P.O. Box 50045, BRANDON, MB R7A 7E4

Phone: 204-727- 5675
Web: <http://www.marquisproject.com>

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