

## Igniting Rural Communities



### Supporting Performing Arts in Rural Communities (SPARC)

#### MEDIA RELEASE

**Haliburton, July 24, 2014** - SPARC is pleased to announce the appointment of Elisha Barlow as Network Coordinator. Elisha previously worked at Fleming College – Haliburton School of The Arts and served as the Youth Facilitator at SPARC's successful Symposium held in Haliburton this past April.

Elisha has been an active member of the Haliburton Arts Community for the past 6 years. In addition to Fleming College, Elisha has worked at the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre and Yours Outdoors. She has been a board member for the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, volunteered for Hike Haliburton and The Forest Festival, and performed in Dusk Dances in 2013. Her areas of expertise include communications, research and data management, as well as administration and collaboration. She holds a Visual Arts Degree from the University of Western Ontario.

Elisha's position is funded through an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. The grant of \$105,400 also provided support for the Youth Caucus at the SPARC Symposium and will fund a rural communities performing arts network summit to be held in the Haliburton Highlands in the Fall of 2014. The summit will allow creators, producers and presenters in the performing arts (music, theatre, media arts, dance) to impact and inform the SPARC network model and its activities. This grant was first announced by MPP Laurie Scott at the SPARC Symposium.

The steering committee of SPARC has also experienced some shifts. The committee acknowledges the efforts and enthusiasm of departing members, Sean Pennylegion and Jack Brezina, and welcomes Adam Perecko and Rachel Gillooly. Adam is a local business owner involved in the performing arts who participated in the SPARC Symposium's Youth Caucus. Rachel was the Symposium Project Coordinator and has also assumed the role of chair of the SPARC committee. SPARC would like to acknowledge and thank past-chair Lesley English, who remains on the committee, for her dedication and direction over the past two years.

SPARC is sharing an office with the Arts Council~Haliburton Highlands, which is the lead organization administering SPARC in partnership with the Haliburton Community Co-operative. As of August 5<sup>th</sup>, SPARC and the Arts Council will be located at the Haliburton Creative Business Incubator at 710 Mountain St. Contact SPARC at 705-455-7617 or via email at [admin@sparcperformingarts.com](mailto:admin@sparcperformingarts.com).