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**GRANTS FROM THE ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL AND THE NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS
PROGRAM INSPIRE CREATIVITY**

WINDSOR, ON – Kay Douglas, local artist and author, is honoured to be one of two artists in the Southwest region and the only artist from Windsor-Essex to receive an **Arts in Education** grant from the Ontario Arts Council (OAC) in their last round. *Yours for the Dreaming*, Douglas' first children's book has been a labour of love for over 17 years. It is a personal commitment to encourage creative thinking and new perspectives on reading. Kay shares, "As an artist, I feel it is important to teach children how to hold on to their creative ability. When children carry their creativity into adulthood it provides them with the tools to think through difficult challenges, to imagine bigger than they would otherwise, to refuse to settle for what is just because it is."

The OAC grant will provide Douglas the opportunity to partner for a workshop with elementary school teachers interested in incorporating the exploration of creativity as a tool for learning and expression from concept to completion. Plans for the pilot with the Greater Essex County District School Board and the Windsor Public Library are underway. Classroom education kits have also been developed.

Douglas is convinced that creativity is a universal concept that can cross all boundaries including age, culture, language and geography. Just as the title emphasizes dreaming, Douglas is excited by the interest and opportunities that have been a result of how creative concept can spearhead partnerships that benefit all. Currently, the *Yours for the Dreaming* education kit is being piloted by a private school in Michigan called Cedar Crest Academy. Cedar Crest Academy's philosophy of an individualized educational vision for each student as well as its strong integration of the arts and creativity is an excellent fit with *Yours for the Dreaming*. In January, *Yours for the Dreaming* was piloted in Kenya as part of an international project to enhance a rural elementary school led by Kay Curtis. The vision of both the "Kays" is to record the impact of the project in Kenya, Michigan and Windsor through a documentary.

Thanks to a grant from the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, Kay Douglas is also partnering with The Centres for Seniors Windsor to develop a life enrichment program that will train seniors to lead creativity workshops with other seniors at the Centre and in community locations. The senior's project will culminate with an art exhibit also in partnership with the Windsor Public Library.

As Douglas states, "Having the ability to see beyond the lines has opened many doors and windows for me. It allowed me to recognize challenges and position opportunity through concept development that enlists strategic partnerships. Teaching the creative process will provide an ongoing tool for building a world we have yet to imagine.