

## Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Connor Franta, Johnny Orlando, Lizzie Velasquez and more celebrate young change-makers at WE Day Ottawa

- Bios, photos and information for WE Day Ottawa available on the [Electronic Press Kit](#) –
- WE Day Ottawa is free to thousands of students thanks to partners led by National Co-Title Sponsors [RBC](#) and [TELUS](#) –
- WE Day Ottawa will stream live at 9:30 a.m. ET on November 14, 2018 at [we.org/watchweday](http://we.org/watchweday) –

**Ottawa (November 14, 2018)** – Today, [WE Day](#), returns to Ottawa bringing together 16,000 students and educators at Canadian Tire Centre to celebrate young people committed to making a difference. This inspiring youth empowerment event features renowned speakers, innovative thought leaders and dynamic performers with WE Co-founder, **Craig Kielburger**, co-hosts **Keshia Chante**, **Millie Davis**, **Maripier Morin** and **Tai Young**, alongside **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar**, **Celebrity Marauders**, **Connor Franta**, **Twin Flames**, **Elle Mills**, **Now United**, **Johnny Orlando**, **Tyler Shaw**, **Lizzie Velasquez**, **Spencer West** and [more](#).

“The young people at WE Day give me hope that a better world and a future full of optimism and progress lies ahead,” said Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, NBA's All-Time Leading Scorer, NY Times best-selling author and columnist. “I’m humbled, and incredibly proud to stand in front of the thousands of students at WE Day Ottawa. Their phenomenal actions and leadership are really something to be celebrated and I am honoured to be a part of it and help inspire another year of change.”

Speakers and performers at WE Day Ottawa will energize the crowd through a day filled with powerful educational speeches, inspirational moments and empowering performances. A few must-see highlights include:

- **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** encourages the WE Day crowd to support their community by speaking out about issues that are important to them.
- Entrepreneur, New York Times bestselling author and creator, **Connor Franta**, shares his message of acceptance and equality for all including the LGBTQ+2 community.
- Singer-songwriter, **Johnny Orlando**, closes the show with a performance of his viral hit songs ‘What If and ‘Last Summer’.

More than a one-day event, WE Day is connected to the free, yearlong educational program [WE Schools](#). The program is designed to enhance a school or community’s existing social initiatives or spark new ones. WE Schools provides participants with curriculum, educational resources and action campaigns, encouraging students to further their curricular learning and develop life skills to succeed beyond the classroom. In the 2017/2018 school year, 3,200 schools and school groups across Ontario improved the world through WE Schools, volunteering over 1.8 million hours and raising more than \$4.8 million in support of over 1,900 global and local causes including bringing awareness to homelessness, food security, LBGTs+2s rights, access to education, access to clean water and the environment.

WE Day is free of charge to students and educators across Canada thanks to the generous support of partners led by National Co-Title Sponsors [RBC](#) and [TELUS](#). This means students can’t buy a ticket to WE Day Ottawa—youth from across the province earn their way by taking action on one local and one global issue of their choice.

WE Day inspiration continues beyond today as moments from WE Day Ottawa through WE Day Connect, an interactive, online event accessible to students across the globe taking place on **Thursday, November 29, 2018.**

"From taking action on mental well-being, food insecurity and bullying, to access to education, and supporting clean water projects, the young people coming together today for WE Day Ottawa show us that kindness, compassion and inclusivity paired with the determination to do good makes a real impact in the world," said **Craig Kielburger**, co-founder of WE. "Not only are we celebrating the achievements made by tens of thousands of students from across Ontario, we are continuing to inspire and be inspired as they embark on another school year of creating positive social change."

WE Day Ottawa is supported by local co-chair Regional President, Ontario North & East, RBC, President and CEO Farm Boy Inc., Silver Maple Developments, CEO, Annie Ethier. Nationally, WE Day is supported by Jennifer Tory, Chief Administrative Officer, RBC; Darren Entwistle, President and CEO, TELUS; Elio Luongo, CEO, KPMG Canada; Bill Thomas, Chairman, KPMG International; Andrew Williams, CEO, DHL Canada; Jeffrey Latimer, President, Jeffrey Latimer Entertainment; The Honourable David C. Onley, Former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario; and Chief Perry Bellegarde, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations. Globally, WE Day is supported by Dave McKay, President and CEO, RBC; Hartley Richardson, President and CEO, James Richardson & Sons Limited; David Aisenstat, CEO, Keg Restaurants Ltd.; and Craig Burkinshaw, Co-Founder, Audley

**Stay connected on the latest news and updates on WE Day:**

#WEday | @WEmovement | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Media Centre](#)

-30-

**About WE**

WE Day is part of WE—a family of organizations making doing good, doable. WE is made up of WE Charity, empowering domestic and international change, ME to WE, a social enterprise that creates socially conscious products and experiences to help support the charity, and WE Day, filling stadiums around the world with the greatest celebration of social good. WE enables youth and families to better the world—supporting 7,200+ local and global causes by volunteering millions of hours of service, shopping daily with an impact, and raising millions of dollars that directly benefit their local communities and the world. Globally, WE teams in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have provided more than 1 million people with clean water, built 1,500 schools and schoolrooms overseas, and empowered more than 200,000 children with access to education. WE was founded more than 20 years ago by social entrepreneurs, brothers Craig and Marc Kielburger. Join the movement today at [WE.org](#).

**About RBC**

[www.rbc.com/futurelaunch](http://www.rbc.com/futurelaunch)

**About TELUS**

[www.telus.com/endbullying](http://www.telus.com/endbullying)

**For more information of WE Day or to request an interview, please contact:**

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

Camila Ossa  
Associate Director, Public Relations, WE Day  
1-647-459-4460  
[camila.ossa@we.org](mailto:camila.ossa@we.org)

**For French media inquiries:**

Amelie Rocheleau  
Directrice associée, Marketing  
1-514-213-9560  
[amelie.rocheleau@mouvementunis.org](mailto:amelie.rocheleau@mouvementunis.org)