

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event)



Applicant Information	
Organization	The National Theatre School (NTS) Drama Festival
Contact Name	Kevin Fraser
Title	Theatre Arts teacher at Kingston SS & Festival Coordinator
Address	Kingston SS, 145 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON K7K 2P4
Phone #	KSS: 613 544 4811 Personal Cell; 613 483 3064
Email	fraserk@limestone.on.ca
Event Website	https://ent-nts.ca/en/intro-nts-dramafest-ontario/
Event Information	
Event Name	Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS Drama Festival
Event Dates	Tuesday, March 24 - Friday, March 27, 2026
Event Organizer Name	Kevin Fraser
Event Organizer Phone #	613 483 3064
Event Organizer Email	fraserk@limestone.on.ca kslntsdrmafest@gmail.com
Funding Amount Requested	\$7,965.77

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



Please provide a description of event (300 words).

If there is not enough space, please answer the question on a separate page.

My name is Kevin Fraser, and I teach Theatre Arts at Kingston Secondary School. I also serve as the Festival Coordinator for the Kingston – St. Lawrence District National Theatre School Drama Festival (K – SL District NTS Dramafest), part of the longest-running high school drama festival in North America.

The NTS DramaFest (formerly Sears Drama Festival) is an annual three-tier festival celebrating student theatre starting at the District level, advancing to the Regional level, and culminating in a Provincial showcase. It provides students with a platform to create, perform, and connect through drama, while developing vital skills such as teamwork, empathy, problem-solving, and communication. Participants perform plays, attend professional theatre workshops, and support each other's artistic growth in a positive, inclusive environment.

Since the closure of Kingston CVI and as Kingston Secondary School (like every school in the LDSB) lacks an auditorium, our district festival is hosted at the Thousand Islands Playhouse – Firehall Theatre in Gananoque. This professional venue allows students to perform on a real theatre stage, although it introduces additional rental and logistical costs.

The 2025 – 2026 Kingston – St. Lawrence District NTS Dramafest will run from Tuesday, March 24 to Friday, March 27, 2026. This festival nurtures creativity, community, and confidence in young people. It encourages self-expression, inclusion, and collaboration—skills that extend far beyond the stage. After rebuilding post-COVID, the festival has grown from 3 productions in 2023 to 5 productions in 2024 to 8 productions in 2025. to 11 productions this year! Each year, we witness the festival's transformative impact on students, sparking passion, resilience, and artistic pride. My goal is to hit the pre-covid numbers of 12-15 entries next year.

Your support will help ensure this essential creative opportunity continues to thrive, empowering students across our district through every level of this unique festival experience

Additional items to be attached to the application:

- List of Board of Directors or Event Organizing Committee including emails and phone numbers
- Full Schedule of Events
- Detailed Event Budget/Financial Plan
- Please provide 2 letters of support from organizations and partners that support the project.
- The Town of Gananoque reserves the right to ask for copies of receipts validating expense claims.

Tourism Advisory Panel – Request for Funding Application (Tourism Event) Continued



If there is not enough space, please answer the questions below on a separate page.

1. Has this event been hosted before? If yes, when and where?

This is an annual event that is hosted in either February or March of each year. Since 2019, the event has been hosted at the Thousand Islands Playhouse's Firehall Theatre. Prior to that, since 1949, it was hosted primarily at Kingston Collegiate & Vocational Institute and Perth District Collegiate Institute with Brochville Collegiate hosting occasionally in the 1980s and 1990s.

2. Who is your target market/audience?

The festival is aimed to attract high school aged youth and their families who live in the District catchment area. Our goal is to also work with District high schools who might want to take part in the festival activities even though they don't have a production in the Festival.

3. Estimated # of tourists/visitors your event will attract to Gananoque (from 40+km away)

This event will directly serve 146 students and their families, with approximately half (73 students plus accompanying family members) traveling from beyond a 40km radius and visiting Gananoque during the Festival period. In addition, 96 students who live beyond 40km will travel to Gananoque on Wednesday, March 25 and Friday, March 27 to participate in Festival workshops.

Conservatively, this represents at least 169 students from outside the 40km threshold, not including parents, guardians, and family members who will accompany many of them. These visitors will dine in local restaurants, shop in local businesses, and in some cases require accommodations, contributing directly to the town's economy during the Festival.

Beyond the immediate economic impact, this initiative is an investment in Gananoque's long-term vitality. By introducing these students and their families to the town and to the Thousand Islands Playhouse, we are fostering meaningful connections at an early age. Students influence family travel decisions, and positive early experiences often lead to repeat visits. Cultivating this relationship now helps build future audiences, repeat tourism, and sustained economic activity for Gananoque. Investing in these students is, in effect, investing in the town's future economic well-being.

4. How and where will the event be advertised/marketed?

The performances will be advertised through the Thousand Island Playhouse media channels, on the NTS national portal, through participating school Boards media channels, and directly at participating schools.



You agree that the information provide in this application is accurate. This is an application for funding and does not guarantee funding approval. Should the TAP and Council approve funding to your event, a funding agreement outlining the details of the funding and any associated recognition will be signed by both the Town of Gananoque and the organization receiving the funding.

Date: February 25, 2026 Title: Festival Coordinator
K-SL District NTS Dramafest

Name: Kevin Fraser Signature: Kevin Y. Fraser

Completed application (with all requested attachments) to be submitted to:

Attention: Tourism Advisory Panel

30 King St. East, Gananoque, ON K7G 1E9

Phone: 613-382-2149 ext. 1125

Email: businesscoordinator@gananoque.ca

COSTS OF 2025/2026 K-SL DISTRICT NTS DRAMAFEST

Thousand Islands Museum	\$100	Workshop Space
Rental of Grace United Church	\$1600	(Other spaces are being used at Gananoque SS with limited cost)
Firehall Theatre Rental	\$2500	5 days x \$500/day (Saturday is a contingency day in case of inclement weather.)
Workshop Costs	\$2850	
1 Festival Adjudicator	\$1100	\$100/play 11 plays
Festival Stage Manager Stipend	\$700	The Festival SM arrives at 7am and leaves between 11:30pm to 12am daily. This is far below minimum wage.
Opening Night Dinner	\$687.40	Provided & served by the Gananoque SS Hospitality class \$8/person x 76 + hst
Teacher Coverage/Supply Costs	\$9,425	
Teacher Coverage/Supply Costs For K. Fraser Festival Coordinator & J. Hale Festival Co-Coordinator	\$2600	4 days @ \$325/day/teacher = \$1300x2
Ernestown SS	\$1300	4 days @ \$325/day/teacher = \$1300
Frontenac SS	\$975	1 day @ \$325/day/teacher x 3=\$975
Loyalist CVI	\$1300	4 days @ \$325/day/teacher = \$1300
Napanee DSS	\$2600	4 days @ \$325/day/teacher = \$1300x2
Module Vanier	\$650	1 day @ \$325/day/teacher x 2=\$650

Contingency of 3% of subtotal \$18,962.40 = \$558.37

TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS TO \$19,520.77

**HOST THE 2026 K-SL DISTRICT
NTS DRAMAFEST**

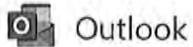
Revenue

Registration Fees	\$4,125	\$375/production x 11 productions
Participant Fees	\$5,430	
Ernestown SS	\$270	9 students @ \$30/student = \$270
Frontenac SS	\$660	44 students @ \$15/student = \$660
Loyalist CVI	\$420	14 students @ \$30/student = \$420
Napanee DSS	\$510	17 students @ \$30/student = \$510
Module Vanier	\$990	33 students @ \$30/student = \$990
Kingston SS	\$810	27 students @ \$30/student = \$810
Perth DCI	\$270	9 students @ \$30/student = \$270
St. Mary CHS	\$180	6 students @ \$30/student = \$180
Vankleek Hill Collegiate Institute	\$1,320	44 students @ 30/student = \$1,320 (Pending)

St. John CHS	\$0	15 students @ \$0/student = \$0 just presenting their production & no activities
Regiopolis NDSS	\$0	12 students \$0/student = \$0 just presenting their production & no activities
Limestone Learning Foundation Grant	\$2000	Grant dictates it be used toward workshop costs

Total Revenues \$11,555 – Total Costs \$19,520.77 = Deficit of \$7,965.77

This deficit is caused by the Limestone DSB announcing that it would no longer cover supply costs for this event after registration information was processed and released to participants. This is currently being contested. If supply costs were not an expense, we would have a surplus of \$1459.23



Outlook

Re: K-SL District NTS Dramafest

From Barb Jenkins <barbjenkins1@gmail.com>

Date Mon 2025-07-21 10:01 AM

To Fraser, Kevin <fraserk@limestone.on.ca>

Cc Grace United <grace.gan@outlook.com>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Limestone District School Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kevin

Thank you for choosing Grace United for your event. We will have time to reschedule our regular users to accommodate your request which is great. I believe you will find everything comfortable and suitable. FYI we hope to relocate the conference table to a bigger room which is around the corner from where it is now.

Price are accurate and total 2500 not including the Sanctuary. Do you need the altar area rearranged to be a stage? We will include that space which is normally about 3 to 500 dollars.

We can offer you a special price of 1500 for all 4 days. If you change your mind about the exact spaces please let me know. A discount will be available only if we have time to find another rental.

Hope this is workable for you and you now have time to find a sponsor. You can call if you need to discuss. 613 583 2077 Thanks do much.Barb Jenkins

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025, 8:09 a.m. Fraser, Kevin <fraserk@limestone.on.ca> wrote:

Hi Barb!

Kevin Fraser here, I ran the Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS Drama Festival last March. I hope this finds all well with you and that you're enjoying the summer!

This year I am running the Festival from Tuesday, March 24 through to Saturday, March 28. I am hoping that the Festival will be larger than last year's, so I am hoping that I can book the hall, the sanctuary, the upstairs room, and the conference room for those dates. I contacted St. Andrew's also, but Beth told me that she couldn't guarantee any bookings as the church may be up for sale. I won't know my numbers until January, so I may be overbooking. Is it okay to release some of the room bookings if my numbers don't warrant me using them? Let me know.

I run the drama festival at cost as it is already hard enough for schools to come up with the funds to participate. Last year you were extremely generous and charged me a \$100 for the full rental, which I truly appreciated. I am trying to secure additional funding for this year's festival so hopefully I will be able to pay you more for use of the space. I wasn't able to secure anything to make up for last year's shortfall, but I was given some promising leads for this year's and that's what I am now pursuing. So if you could please let me know the rental cost, so I know how much I need to calculate into my grant request.

Thanks so much!

Kevin

Kevin Fraser

he/him

Kingston Secondary School

Theatre Arts Teacher

Theatre Director

Festival Coordinator for the K-SL District NTS Dramafest

Member of the Ontario NTS Dramafest Executive Committee

From: Grace United <grace.gan@outlook.com>

Sent: July 17, 2025 8:03 AM

To: Fraser, Kevin <fraserk@limestone.on.ca>; Barb Jenkins <barbjenkins1@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: K-SL District NTS Dramafest

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Limestone District School Board. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Kevin,

All is good here.

Great to hear from you and that you would like to use the church again.

I have included Barb Jenkins, our rental coordinator. She will be your contact from now on.

I have also included the Rental form, if you could fill that out and return to Barb please?

I do not see a problem with those dates, as it gives us enough notice to let any regular users now in advance.

Enjoy your summer.

Laurie Cadue

Grace United Church

120 Pine St.

Gananoque, ON

K7G 1C7

P: 613-382-2161

[YouTube](#)
[Website](#)

From: Fraser, Kevin <fraserk@limestone.on.ca>

Sent: July 15, 2025 2:32 PM

To: Grace United <grace.gan@outlook.com>

Subject: K-SL District NTS Dramafest

Hi Laurie,

Kevin Fraser here, I ran the Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS Drama Festival last March. I hope this finds all well with you and that you're enjoying the summer!

I am contacting you early this year to ensure I have everything lined up. Last year was a bit too last minute and stressful for me, so thanks for being so accommodating and helping me with a last minute room rescue; I really appreciated it!

This year I am running the Festival from Tuesday, March 24 through to Saturday, March 28. I am hoping that the Festival will be larger than last year's, so I am hoping that I can book the hall, the sanctuary, the upstairs room, and the conference room for those dates. Let me know if these dates will work on your end. I am trying to secure additional funding for this year's festival so hopefully I will be able to pay you more for use of the space. I wasn't able to secure anything to make up for last year's shortfall, but I was given some promising leads for this year's and that's what I am now pursuing

Thanks so much!

Kevin

Kevin Fraser

he/him

Kingston Secondary School

Theatre Arts Teacher

Theatre Director

Festival Coordinator for the K-SL District NTS Dramafest

Member of the Ontario NTS Dramafest Executive Committee

NAME OF ORGANIZATION/INDIVIDUAL: Kevin Fraser
 EVENT: Kingston - St. Lawrence District NTS Drama Festival
 DATE OF EVENT: March 24-28 TIME: 8am - 5pm
 REPEAT EVENT: _____
 FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT BEING REQUESTED: See below. Note PA rental for Hall Mar. 24
 # OF TABLES/CHAIRS REQUIRED: 0 COFFEE / TEA POT REQUIRED: 0

Additional Notes:

Daily Bookings for the following
 Hall (with p.a. system for Mar. 24 only) \$120/day x 5 = \$600
 Sanctuary TBD/day
 Conference Room \$20/hr x 9 = \$180 x 5 = \$900
 Upstairs Room \$20/hr x 9 = \$180 x 5 = \$900
 This is a not for profit high school drama festival. The space will be used for workshops.

Proof of Insurance is required by all renters. Insurance may be purchased through Grace United Insurance provider. Prices vary depending on the activity.

Name of contact person who assumes responsibility for the activities, welfare or participants and care or facilities on behalf of the event and whose signature appears in the waiver of this application. If a key is required, the key to be returned to the Rental Coordinator or church office immediately following the event. (Please print and sign below)

CONTACT PERSON: Kevin Fraser Kingston Secondary School
 MAILING ADDRESS: 145 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON
K

PHONE: KSS: 613-544-4811 EMAIL: fraserk@limestone.on
KF's cell: 613 483-3064
 SIGNATURE: Kevin M. Fraser

Fill in table below, with fees from page 1 - If unsure, leave blank.

Facilities Requested	FEE
Hall ___ / Sanctuary ___ / Kitchen ___	
Custodian Fee	
Honorarium(s) Minister ___ / Organist ___ / AV Team ___	
TOTAL	\$



Grace United Church

120 Pine Street, Gananoque, Ontario K7G 1C7
Phone: 613-382-2161

Barb Jenkins – Rental Coordinator

barbjenkins1@gmail.com 613-583-2077



REQUEST FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

FACILITIES REQUESTED	FEE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Hall plus kitchen to be used to serve a meal ➤ Use of Sanctuary for Concert or another event (Capacity 270) <p>***For insurance purposes, a representative of the Church must be present for the use of the Kitchen & Equipment. There must also be a person on site with a current Food Handlers Safety Certificate.</p> <p>(There is a \$100 Fee included in the price listed for custodian)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$400 ➤ TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Hall for classes/groups ➤ Community Hall with Tables & Chairs for class or meetings. ➤ Small meeting room (Board Room) (15ppl) ➤ Small casual meeting room (up to 15 ppl) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$20 /hr ➤ \$120/day ➤ \$20/hr ➤ \$20/hr
<p><u>Sanctuary for Celebration of Life or Funeral Service</u> <i>(A donation to the church for the use of the facilities is appreciated.)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Minister/Officiant – of your choice ➤ Organist ➤ AV Service to record service for YouTube ➤ Personnel to Open/Close and/or Operate Elevator <p><i>(Note: If you are booking the service through a Funeral Home, the Funeral Director will have the list of honorariums and discuss these fees with you.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contact Officiant ➤ Min \$200 ➤ \$100 ➤ \$100
<p><u>Additional Equipment</u></p> <p>Coffee/tea pots <i>(must supply own coffee/tea/milk/cream etc.)</i></p> <p>TV on cart with HDMI cord <i>(DVD Player also available)</i></p> <p>Sound system: Hall</p> <p>Sanctuary (with music directors' permission)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ \$25/day ➤ \$25/day ➤ \$25/day ➤ TBD

This Form must be returned to the Rental Coordinator for approval.

WORKSHOPS & WORKSHOP LEADERS & COSTS

Here is the list of workshop leaders:

1. Reenactment Swordsmanship with Ironwood Sword School 4 workshops @ \$150/session=\$600
2. Acting for the Camera with Alexander Crowther 1 workshop = \$300
3. The Actor & the Voice with Ian Malcom 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300
4. Finding the Funny: Comedy Writing with Carolyn Bennett 2 workshops @ \$225/session=\$450
5. Special FX Make-up* with Leslie Wandell 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300
6. Face Painting with Christine Harvey 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300
7. Directing with Brian Frommer 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300

These are Pending

8. Audition Technique with Rosemary Doyle 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300
9. Mask Making* with Clelia Scala
10. Feldenkrais Technique with Susan Yee
11. Improv with Wilding 2 workshops @ \$150/session=\$300



INVOICE FH253_NTS

Presenter:

NTS Dramafest - Kingston StL District
c/o Kevin Fraser
Kingston Secondary School
145 Kirkpatrick St, Kingston ON K7K 2P4
Tel: (613) 483-3064 kslntsdrmafest@gmail.com

Event:

NTS Dramafest District Festival

Date/time:

Monday March 24 – Wednesday March 26, 2025
(inclusive)

Venue rental fee:	\$1,500.00
<i>*per signed contract</i>	

HST (13%) 888156247RR0001	\$195.00
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Balance owing	\$ 1,695.00
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Payment can be made with Visa, MasterCard, cash, cheque or e-transfer

Cheques payable to: Thousand Islands Playhouse

e-transfer sent to: bookkeeping@1000islandsplayhouse.com (use the Invoice # as reference)

Payment due within 7 days following the event.

*** Facilities and inventory included**

Firehall Theatre (185 South Street, Gananoque ON) auditorium, lobby, upper studio

Empty room with seating to be used as a performance space

Any existing lighting inventory and soft goods owned by the Theatre.

Thousand Islands Foundation For The Performing Arts
Managing Artistic Director: Brett Christopher
185 South Street, Gananoque, ON | K7G 1A1
Administration: 613-382-7086 | Box Office: 613-382-7020
1000islandsplayhouse.com

Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS DRAMAFEST 2026

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Left Column = Productions Schedule

Right Column = Participants Schedule

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

9:00am – 11:00am: Technical rehearsal
School#1: KINGSTON SS - *BEFORE THE BELL RINGS*
Firehall Theatre

7:45am – 8:45am: Unload Set & Store in rehearsal order
9:00am – 11:00am: Skill-based workshops
Locations to be announced

11:30am – 1:30pm: Technical rehearsal
School#2: NAPANEE DSS - *HAMLETTE*
Firehall Theatre

11:15am – 12:15pm: Collaborative Session #1
Icebreakers Locations to be announced

2:00pm – 4:00pm: Technical rehearsal
School#3: KINGSTON SS – *THIS WASN'T IN THE SCRIPT*
Firehall Theatre

12:15pm - 1:15pm: Lunch on Own

1:15pm – 3:00pm: Check-in to Hotel

7:00pm – 9:00pm: Performances
Schools#3, #2, #1 *Firehall Theatre*
7:00pm: ***THIS WASN'T IN THE SCRIPT***
7:45pm: ***HAMLETTE***
8:30pm: ***BEFORE THE BELL RINGS***
9:00pm: PUBLIC ADJUDICATION
9:25pm: PRIVATE ADJUDICATION

3:30pm – 5:00pm: Large Group Activity

5:30pm – 6:30pm: Spaghetti Dinner

6:30pm – 6:45pm: Travel: Hotel to Firehall Theatre

7:00pm – 9:30pm: Performances *Firehall Theatre*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026

9:00am – 11:00am: Technical rehearsal
School#4: ST. JOHN CHS – *FAST FOOD*
Firehall Theatre

9:00am – 11:00am: Skill-based workshops
Locations to be announced

1:00pm – 3:00pm: Technical rehearsal
School#5: KINGSTON SS - *UNSEEN*
Firehall Theatre

11:15am – 12:15pm: Collaborative Session #2
Locations to be announced at Collaborative Session #1

3:30pm – 5:30pm: Technical rehearsal
School#6: ST. MARY CHS - *STRESSED*
Firehall Theatre

12:15pm - 1:15pm: Lunch on Own

1:15pm – 3:15pm: Skill-based workshops
Locations to be announced

7:00pm – 9:30pm: Performances
Schools#6, #5, #4 *Firehall Theatre*
7:00pm: ***STRESSED***

3:30pm – 4:45pm: Collaborative Session #3
Locations to be announced at Collaborative Session #1

4:45pm - 6:45pm: Dinner on Own

7:35pm: ***UNSEEN***

7:00pm – 9:30pm: Performances *Firehall Theatre*

8:10pm: ***FAST FOOD***

9:45pm – 11:30pm: Ice Cream Social & Dance Party
Firehall Theatre

9:00 pm: PUBLIC ADJUDICATION

9:25pm: PRIVATE ADJUDICATION

Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS DRAMAFEST 2026

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Left Column = Productions Schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

9:00am – 11:00am: Technical rehearsal

School#7: LOYALIST CVI - *THE SEVEN*

Firehall Theatre

1:00pm – 3:00pm: Technical rehearsal

School#8: ERNESTOWN SS - *THE HATCHETTS*

Firehall Theatre

3:30pm – 5:30pm: Technical rehearsal

School#9: REGIOPOLIS NDSS - *THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE*

Firehall Theatre

7:00pm – 9:30pm: Performances

Schools#9, #8, #7 *Firehall Theatre*

7:00pm: ***THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE***

7:45m: ***THE HATCHETTS***

8:50pm: ***THE SEVEN***

9:30pm: PUBLIC ADJUDICATION

9:55pm: PRIVATE ADJUDICATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

9:00am – 11:00am: Technical rehearsal

School#10: PERTH DCI - *WATERMELON & THE HUMAN*

CONDITION* *Firehall Theatre

12:00pm – 2:00pm: Technical rehearsal

School#11: MODULE VANIER – *THE IMAGINARY*

FRIENDS DETECTIVE AGENCY* *Firehall Theatre

2:30pm – 4:30pm: Technical rehearsal

School#12: *Firehall Theatre*

6:00pm – 8:00pm: Performances

Schools#6, #5, #4 *Firehall Theatre*

6:00pm: ***THE IMAGINARY FRIENDS DETECTIVE AGENCY***

7:00pm: ***WATERMELON & THE HUMAN CONDITION***

7:25pm: PUBLIC ADJUDICATION

7:45pm – 8:15pm: Collaborative Performances

Numerical order 1 to 5

8:20pm – 9:15pm: Awards & Recognition Ceremony

9:15pm: PRIVATE ADJUDICATION

Order based on farthest distance to travel:

Saturday, March 28 to be used if there is an inclement weather day. The schedule will remain the same for the other days, and the affected day moves to Saturday.

Right Column = Participants Schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

11:15am – 12:45pm: Collaborative Session #4

Locations to be announced at Collaborative Session #1

12:45pm - 2:00pm: Lunch on Own

2:15pm – 4:15pm: Skill-based workshops

Locations to be announced

4:15pm - 6:45pm: Dinner on Own

7:00pm – 9:30pm: Performances *Firehall Theatre*

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

9:30am – 11:30am: Skill-based workshops

Locations to be announced

11:30am – 1:30pm: Lunch on Own

1:30pm – 3:30pm: Skill-based workshops

3:30pm - 5:15pm: Dinner on Own

5:15pm – 5:40pm: Collaborative Session #5 in house

6:00pm – 8:15pm: Performances *Firehall Theatre*

8:20pm – 9:15pm: AWARDS CEREMONY

Firehall Theatre

Kingston-St. Lawrence District NTS DRAMAFEST 2026

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 28 may also be used if the festival has more than 12 productions.

To Whom It May Concern,

As an Equity & Inclusion Consultant with the Limestone District School Board, I am pleased to express my strong support for the ongoing continuance of the Kingston–St. Lawrence NTS Dramafest.

The Kingston–St. Lawrence NTS Dramafest provides an exceptionally meaningful platform for student expression and artistic development. Its flexible production format creates opportunities for students to explore theatre in accessible, attainable ways that may not be possible within larger school productions. Many of the works featured in the festival are fully student-driven, with young people selecting, writing, and directing their own pieces. This autonomy empowers students to share stories that reflect their identities, lived experiences, and personal perspectives, often resulting in work that is deeply authentic and resonant.

The festival is particularly meaningful for students with intersectional identities. The arts have long provided a safe, affirming, and welcoming space for students who may not always see themselves represented elsewhere in school life, including many students who identify within the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Educators continuously note the powerful impact Dramafest has had on student confidence, belonging, and personal identity formation.

Beyond artistic skill-building, the festival nurtures collaboration, leadership, problem-solving, and emotional expression. Students learn to work as part of a creative ensemble, make artistic decisions, navigate challenges, and support one another through performance and production. These experiences centre creativity, communication, critical thinking, and the development of personal and social responsibility through the arts.

For many students, especially those in earlier grades who may be exploring theatre for the first time, Dramafest ignites a sense of possibility and belonging that carries forward into subsequent years. The festival provides a space where students feel seen, heard, and valued, an opportunity that strengthens their social-emotional well-being, builds confidence in their voice, and fosters a deeper connection to their school community.

For these reasons, the Kingston–St. Lawrence NTS Dramafest remains an invaluable and equity-affirming opportunity for students in Eastern Ontario. Thank you for considering this important initiative.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Rae McDonald

Curriculum Consultant: Equity & Inclusion, Arts, Social Studies, History & Geography
Limestone District School Board
220 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston ON K7M 0G2
mcdonaldr@limestone.on.ca

Tourism Advisory Panel

February 23, 2026

To the Tourism Advisory Panel Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners (TIAP), the Destination Marketing Partner for the 1000 Islands region, to express our support for the National Theatre School Drama Fest hosted at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in partnership with the National Theatre School of Canada.

In 2025, the NTS Drama Fest welcomed more than 250 students, educators, and family members to Gananoque over four full days of workshops and theatrical programming. Throughout the event, participants were actively engaged in our community, patronizing local businesses and restaurants, and experiencing the many attractions our region has to offer. This level of visitation provides meaningful economic and social benefits to our tourism sector.

TIAP is pleased to support this event through targeted marketing initiatives and promotional efforts. We strongly encourage the Committee to consider funding for this initiative, as it fosters cultural tourism, strengthens our regional profile, and encourages repeat visitation from across Ontario and beyond.

The Thousand Islands Accommodation Partners are proud to champion initiatives such as the NTS Drama Fest, which serve as important economic and cultural drivers for our region. Investments in events of this calibre contribute to long-term tourism growth and enhance Gananoque's reputation as a vibrant arts and culture destination.

Thank you for your continued support of tourism and community development in our region.

Sincerely,

K Christensen

Kathrine Christensen
Executive Director
1000 Islands Accommodation Partners