

Award-winning film *Back Home Again* takes viewers on a mental health journey at TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

Edmonton, AB – April 29, 2022 – *Back Home Again*, an animated short film featuring the largest ensemble of award-winning actors in a Canadian short, comes to TELUS World of Science – Edmonton for a limited run of screenings this May to build awareness and spark conversations about mental health.

The film, an animated re-imagining of the Fort McMurray wildfire in 2016, tells the story of one of the largest evacuations in Canadian history that impacted the lives of more than 80,000 community residents. Told through the eyes of the woodland creatures inhabiting the land of Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo, the film features an all-star cast that donated their time to the production, including Jeremy Renner, Martin Short, Kim Basinger, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara, Michael J. Fox, and Howie Mandel. The film also includes an original song, performed by Jeremy Renner.

Inspired by real testimonials of community residents who experienced the fire, evacuation, and recovery efforts, writer, director, and creator Michael Mankowski commented, "I really wanted to make this film because I grew up in Fort McMurray and was there when this tragedy hit. I wanted to show the world how a community could come together and rebuild. I hope this film sparks conversations everywhere about how we are all one global community, and we all need one another."

As part of the limited run of screenings, TELUS World of Science – Edmonton will host a special screening on May 4, at 6:30 p.m., with a post-screening Q&A session featuring Mankowski, as well as the film's Executive Producer Charmaine Hammond, who describes the movie as "a conversation starter about hope, community, and mental health, a conversation needed now more than ever." Additional screenings run May 3, 4 & 7, for more information go to twose.ca/backhomeagain.

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About TELUS World of Science - Edmonton

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton's mission is to: Ignite curiosity. Inspire discovery. Celebrate science. Change lives. We are the destination to engage Albertans' hearts and minds in science. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

About *Back Home Again*

Back Home Again was created with support from The Canadian Red Cross, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and Fort McMurray Wood Buffalo Economic Development & Tourism. Extensive health research was utilized in the creation of the film, including research from the University of Alberta, CMHA, and other studies about mental health in disaster and post-disaster situations.