

# TORONTO INTERNATIONAL BUSKERFEST FOR EPILEPSY

## Is Hitting The Beach This Summer!

### Bringing Epilepsy Awareness & More than 100 Buskers to Woodbine Park over Labour Day Weekend!

Toronto (May 18, 2016) – **Epilepsy Toronto** is proud to announce that the 17<sup>th</sup> annual **Toronto International BuskerFest for Epilepsy** will, for the first time ever, take place in **Woodbine Park** in the Beach, and, for the first time ever, the festival will serve up its non-stop, action-packed, fun-filled entertainment over the **Labour Day weekend**, which takes place this year **Friday September 2 through Monday September 5**.

Since its inception in 2000, the Toronto International BuskerFest has featured hundreds of the best street performers from around the world, hosted millions of amazed spectators and helped raise much-needed funds for Epilepsy Toronto through visitors' donations at the gate. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the event is widely recognized as one of the best and biggest street performer festivals in the universe, and the largest epilepsy awareness event in the world!

The new location of **Woodbine Park** will allow the festival to spread out, and provides the ideal space for the festival's Family Fun Zone, a new licensed beer garden and far, far more green, grassy seating with improved sightlines from which audiences can relax and enjoy a vibrant and exciting mix of performances from around the globe - over a hundred of the most remarkable street performers on earth!

"BuskerFest is one of Toronto's most exciting festivals, bringing together one-of-a-kind entertainers to our city, all in support of epilepsy awareness," said Mayor John Tory. "Woodbine Park in The Beach is a fitting venue for BuskerFest as it has previously hosted other successful festivals and provides an intimate and convenient location for festivalgoers."

"This is one of the most amazing festivals in the world. We are incredibly excited about all of the international and Canadian performers who make this festival come alive and who share their talents in support of epilepsy," said Geoff Bobb, Executive Director of Epilepsy Toronto. "With the funds raised at this festival through gate donations, we are able to provide much needed support to the 1-in-100 people in Toronto living with epilepsy."

"We are so excited to welcome BuskerFest to the Beach this summer!" said Ward 32 Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon. "This is a family-friendly event which guarantees entertainment for all and supports a very worthy cause."

The move to Woodbine Park was made possible through the support of the Province of Ontario and the Toronto Education Workers (CUPE Local 4400). "Epilepsy Toronto supports a cause close to the hearts of many of our members," said John Weatherup, President of the Toronto Education Workers. "A number of our members work closely with students who have epilepsy in TDSB schools. BuskerFest has become an important Toronto tradition and a great way to support people living with epilepsy in our community."

Join comedians, contortionists, musicians, magicians, fire jugglers, acrobats, aerial artists, clowns and daredevils; over a hundred of the most extraordinary street performers on earth, as they descend upon **Woodbine Park** for some serious fun! Admission by donation to Epilepsy Toronto. Prepare to be amazed!

#### **Toronto International BuskerFest for Epilepsy**

**NEW Dates:** Friday September 2-Monday, September 5, 2016

**NEW Location:** Woodbine Park, in The Beach (Coxwell Ave. at Lakeshore Blvd. E.)

Admission by Donation to Epilepsy Toronto

**For information, visit:** [www.torontobuskerfest.com](http://www.torontobuskerfest.com)

**Facebook:** at <http://www.facebook.com/BuskerFestToronto>

Instagram & Twitter: @BuskerFestTO #BuskerFestTO #BuskersAtTheBeach

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For photo downloads from past festivals: [torontobuskerfest.com/mediaresources/30](http://torontobuskerfest.com/mediaresources/30)  
Login: media; password: epilepsy. Interviews on request.