



WINTER LIGHT 2010  
JAN 6 – MARCH 12  
EDMONTON

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## Mispon – Winter Light Opening Gala

Mispon – Winter Light Opening Gala - Jan 6, 2010 at City Hall & City Hall Plaza. Winter Light officially launches Edmonton's winter festival season at **Mispon**, a light-hearted Gala in City Hall, January 6, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm. The event is free, and open to the public.

The Gala will officially launch Edmonton's 'winter festivals' season, which features 11 events from January 6 – March 13, 2010.

Playing on the event name **Mispon** ("it is snowing" in Cree), Winter Light's creative team will present performances and media installations that cheerfully salute Edmonton's reputation as a snowy winter city. "Snow is one of the best things about winter," says Winter Light director **Pamela Anthony**. "It's bright, transformative, and somehow very playful. I think the kid in all of us responds to the magic of snow."

Video artists **Tim Folkmann**, **Dean Davey** and **Matt Vest** will create the media interpretations of snow inside City Hall. They have also planned a 'surprise' on the theme of snow that will be revealed during the event.

**Mispon** is also an acknowledgement of the Aboriginal heritage of this region, and Cree elder **Betty Lafferty** will be on hand to provide a blessing and prayer for the festival. "We've been very fortunate to have guidance and support from so many wonderful people in Edmonton's Aboriginal community. They inspire us in exploring the meaning of 'winter spirit' and what it means in our community," says Anthony.

**Outside** on City Hall Plaza, Mispon includes an exhibit of **Joe Renaud's 'fire monsters'**, a skating demonstration, and light installations by multi-disciplinary artist **Dylan Toymaker**. **Inside**, the fun includes a cheeky 'warm up burlesque' directed by avant-garde theatre artist **Kristine Nutting**, and music by the rockabilly space cowboy band **Johnny Quazar and the Swingbots**. Traditional treats with a twist will be offered by NAIT Culinary Arts.

Under the auspices of the **Edmonton Arts Council**, Winter Light will produce **8 new winter festivals** and collaborate with 3 winter festivals (**Deep Freeze**, **Ice on Whyte** and **Silver Skate**) to create a full calendar of winter celebrations. All the festival producers will be on hand for the launch, and will offer a sneak peek at highlights for the winter season.

