



Featuring: The 2010-2011 SaskCulture Year in Review

Engage is a new publication, published by SaskCulture Inc. designed to highlight the work of cultural leaders, volunteers and the diversity of activities supported by the Culture Section of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



COVER PHOTO: Student Charlotte Hauk worked on revitalizing community through murals in her Student Summer Works project in Regina.

PHOTO COURTESY NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



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T IS A PLEASURE TO SERVE on the SaskCulture Board of Directors. Our work has been characterized by thorough consultation, which promotes unity of thought and direction on all subjects, and is based on reflective learning. Over the past year, we have had inspired discussions focused on advancing culture in all its manifestations across Saskatchewan.

This past year, thanks to the stability in funding in the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, we were able to provide unprecedented funding increases to annually funded organizations and to the various funding programs delivered by either SaskCulture or the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Overall, these increases went to further support the great work being done in Saskatchewan's cultural community, along with new initiatives, such as the Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant, Creative Kids and Culture Days - all designed to stimulate even more cultural engagement. We also took the opportunity to increase our investment in SaskCulture's infrastructure and human resources, in order to better manage the growing workload. The new office provides a better work environment for staff and a much more inviting space to connect with our members and other stakeholders.

Initiatives, such as the launch of the Municipal Cultural Planning and Engagement Grant and the continued leadership behind Creative Kids and Culture Days, have brought us even closer to many communities in Saskatchewan. Through these programs, we continue to build new connections, increasing awareness and building partnerships along the way with cultural organizations, Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts, municipalities, community cultural leaders and more.

President's Message

"... We need a new language that opens the door of understanding not a language of power and domination, but a language that emerges from the depth of our self-discovery, of discovering ourselves as an inseparable part of a whole that is the cradle of the miracle of life. If we manage to provoke such a shift, we may still experience the satisfaction of having brought about a new century worth living in." MANFRED MAX-NEEF

Implementation of SaskCulture's current three-year strategic plan is already underway. Through it we continue to strengthen our connection with you, our valued organizational members. Over the next few years, we will be focused on three priorities: supporting and leveraging the network, elevating awareness and understanding of the value of culture and investing in online technologies. As part of this work, we will also be addressing the concept of cultural diversity. Our challenge will be to develop a programmatic definition, which may include the triumvirate of "social cultural policy" multiculturalism, ethno-culturalism and interculturalism, as well as the impact of immigration levels and newcomers to the province.

Overall, I believe our Board of Directors' leadership has been stellar. It's effective and mature decision-making processes, have been characterized by behaviors that enabled it to reach and achieve coherence and focus, as well as to formulate common goals. The continuity and commitment of the Board of Directors in its efforts to reflect greater diversity in its membership has been successful. Directors not only bring expertise, ethno- and multi- cultural diversity, they also come from broadly distributed localities around the province. Together, with you, our staff and partners, we have managed our collective resources, promoted and delivered community-driven strategies that have won good will and support around the province.

Unity of purpose and direction is the foundation of success. This is our base and SaskCulture is well positioned to advance the process that ensures culture in Saskatchewan continues to pulsate with energy and creativity. Thank you!

Yours in service,

Reginald Newkirk

⁽BACK ROW, I-r) Bula Ghosh, Brenda Shenher, James Ingold, Laurel Reimche, Jennifer Holmes, Peter England, Cheryl Avery. (SITTING, I-r) Gwen King, James Hawn. MISSING FROM PHOTO: Reggie Newkirk, Harvey Knight, Emmaline Hill, David Cormican, Joseph Otitoju



ASKCULTURE IS GETTING REALLY adept at handling change. By April 2011, we had completed most of our staff changes, which resulted in a team of 14 dedicated professionals, half of which have been with the organization for just over a year or less. We also packed up our offices at the 12th Avenue location, where we were located for the past 12 years, and moved down the street to a newly renovated downtown heritage building in Regina. The new faces and new work environment have added a new energy into SaskCulture. I am often telling people that it feels like I have a new job!

As an added benefit, our partnership in the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation has remained stable and positive. Lottery sales saw record increases, with sales totaling \$205 million, leaving the system in good financial condition. This represents at 21.4 per cent increase over the previous year. The partners continue to work together to ensure that revenues go to support the work of sport, culture and recreation groups, and help us better meet the criteria laid out in the Lottery License Agreement.

Increases in revenues in the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund have enabled SaskCulture to focus on better supporting cultural organizations and their current challenges. We have realized the growing human resource concerns in the sector, and have provided increased support to assist organizations in better compensating their senior staff, as well as cost of living increases tied to staff and programming. We have continued to look for ways and resources for groups seeking to enhance their governance systems and explore new working relationships to address technological and demographic change.

This past year, we were pleased to bring Enid Lee as a keynote speaker to the 2010 SaskCulture Gathering and Annual General Meeting. Enid was able to share the issues and ideas involved in building an inclusive society. Delegates were encouraged to take these ideas back to their organizations. Further work in this area can be expected in this area, as new directions in multicultural and ethnocultural support figure prominently in our new three-year plan.

As for our last three-year plan, we are proud of the amount of work we have accomplished. Most of which was focused on the implementation of recommendations from SaskCulture's Funding Review which was completed in 2008. Now that eligibility processes, increased support for communities, diversity and capacity, the launch of Heritage Saskatchewan and Creative Kids are well underway, we are ready to shift our focus to new strategies that are in line with current community needs.

As you will read in this issue of Engage, we continued our commitment throughout 2010-11 to supporting several new initiatives that help us directly address the organizations' Ends where: there is a

(BACK ROW, L-R): Mei Shan Wan, Shawn Bauche, Dennis Garreck, Paul Gingras, Christie Nenson, Nichole Williams, Shaunna Grandish, Gloria Walsh. (FRONT ROW, L-R): Peter Brass, Damon Badger Heit, Rose Gilks, Dean Kush, Diane Ell. MISSING FROM PHOTO: Janice Kyle. thriving, cohesive cultural community; people of Saskatchewan see the value and support culture; and people's lives are strengthened and enriched by their participation in a diversity of cultural activity.

Of these new initiatives, the Creative Kids program completed its first year and demonstrated its ability to reach out to Saskatchewan communities and benefit children and youth facing financial barriers. Thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers, cultural community leaders, and staff, this initiative has taken off and gained a foothold in several communities. The program received over 600 applications in 2010-11, and granted approximately \$100,000 to children in Saskatchewan. I also want to thank Sask Sport Inc. and the Give Kids a Chance Charity for their valued advice and support in launching this program.

We are once again impressed with community support for the Culture Days initiative in Saskatchewan. SaskCulture, along with its partners in government, business and community, feel strongly that Culture Days is an opportunity to raise people's awareness of the wealth of cultural activity available in this province. The provincial government and many local communities took the opportunity to proclaim Culture Days or Week and participate in the celebration. Culture Days encouraged Saskatchewan people to Express the Creative You! and try some of the more than 165 cultural activities offered by over 110 groups in over 35 communities throughout Saskatchewan.

Following up on the interest from communities in cultural planning, SaskCulture was able to launch the Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant early in 2011. The first deadline saw a total of \$225,000 awarded to 13 communities interested in investing and building upon their community's cultural assets. We look forward to the follow up on these initial projects to see how they increase our province's cultural vibrancy.

We continue to appreciate our many partnerships. Through our work with our global partners – Sask Sport and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association – as well as our work with Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, we continue to work to further the means by which we can better serve Saskatchewan, and ensure cultural activity flourishes in every community. SaskCulture is also partnering with Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) to promote the Métis Cultural Development Fund, which supports projects designed to preserve Métis culture and heritage in the province.

In closing, I would like to thank SaskCulture's Board of Directors, a wonderful group of people, who continue to demonstrate their commitment to culture in this province. As well, I am always proud of the enthusiastic and enterprising staff members at SaskCulture, who are always looking for ways to better support the work done in the community. And, finally, I must thank the members, and their member networks, all of whom contribute their talents and creativity to this province and make it such a wonderful place to live!

Sincerely,

Rose Gilks General Manager



Saskatchewan Lotteries is the fundraiser for over 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups. These groups provide opportunities for people to participate in activities in every Saskatchewan community. Get involved today!

Learn more at www.sasklotteries.ca





Four lakes, four seasons, five communities for culture BY DIANE ELL

Natural and built heritage, creativity and cultural industry find their home amid the rolling valley and lakes found in

and around Qu'Appelle Valley.

Visiting this area, which includes the Town of Qu'Appelle, Fort Qu'Appelle, Katepwa, Wolseley and Indian Head, visitors have the opportunity to experience a wide range of arts and culture, as well as step back in time to explore the rich heritage of Saskatchewan.

For this reason, municipal leaders from these five communities were eager to find ways to maximize the cultural assets of their community and use them in their community plans.

"I have always been interested in revitalizing our main street," says Elaine Hanson, town councilor and business owner, Fort Qu'Appelle. "We tend to use the beauty of the Qu'Appelle Valley as an excuse to do very little to improve the aesthetics of the town."

Following a 2011 Municipal Cultural Planning forum featuring cultural planning expert Gord Hume, held in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport and SaskCulture, Hanson was pleased to hear from Ross Keith that other communities in her area were also interested in the concept of community cultural planning. SaskCulture's newly launched grant, the Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant, served as an impetus to bring communities together to build a strategy. Keith, a Regina business owner, heritage leader and Qu'Appelle area property owner, helped pull the communities together.

More and more communities are recognizing how their cultural assets can contribute to the increased quality of life of their residents, attracting and retaining residents, attracting new businesses, as well as providing numerous economic and social benefits. According to municipal cultural planning expert Gord Hume, "The link between municipal cultural planning and community economic prosperity is what drives large and small communities in Canada towards a new economic model."

According to Hanson, there is lots of cultural activity in the area. "Everybody has their own enterprises. There needed to be a catalyst to help organize people better." Through this type of planning, "we could look inward and determine our common interests and create an image and identity for our communities and for our area. It helped us work together towards the same goal."

Fort Qu'Appelle has a long history as a summer gathering place for many First Nations bands that travelled through the area. It was at Fort Qu'Appelle that Treaty 4 was signed by eight bands and the Government of Canada, on behalf of the growing country. Today, the original Hudson Bay Building, built 1897, and the first Home Hardware, built 1910, (owned by Hanson's family) are both still part of the community.

"The community has an active arts community and several designated heritage sites, including the old Central School, which turned 100 years old this year," explains Hanson. "A plan is underway to convert this school into the Valley Centre for the Arts, with studio space, retail gallery, teaching space and even a residential space for a visiting artist." The community's desire to preserve their heritage and celebrate their multicultural community is evident. Hanson has found her community very receptive and had very little trouble finding the funds to match the SaskCulture grant.

All on board

Besides Fort Qu'Appelle, the four other communities – Wolseley, Katepwa, Indian Head and the Town of Qu'Appelle - have recognized cultural planning could be beneficial to their entire community plans. These administrators understand that culture is one of the four pillars of a sustainable community, along with social, economic and environmental, and are eager to work together to develop a regional cultural plan.

Wolseley was established as a railroad town in 1882 and is one of the few communities that have managed to preserve some of Saskatchewan's oldest colonial heritage. It is home to the oldest standing courthouse in the province, as well as the well-known Wolseley Opera House built by settlers back in 1906, now serving as its Town Hall. Along with a swinging bridge first built in 1905, but reconstructed twice due to weather, it has the oldest public library in Saskatchewan, a Twi-lite Drive Inn and is home to the first location of Beaver Lumber in Canada, which is still in operation.

Having a backyard full of history has cultivated many arts and cultural interests in the community, including Wolseley Community Players, dance, blues band, a writers group and The Gallery which exhibits many local artists from the area. According to Dennis Fjestad, mayor of Wolseley, "a community that does not recognize the arts and culture is a community without a spirit or soul."

Katepwa is located on one of the four lakes in the Qu'Appelle Valley. The original settlers built the All Saints Anglican Church in 1886 and a community built around it. The valley formed more than 14,000 years ago from retreating glaciers and left behind the perfect retreat for recreation and relaxation. The native peoples inhabited the land for the past 11,000 years, with settlers moving into the region in the mid-1800s.

The Catholic missions in the area were established by Father Taché and Father Lebret back in 1865 and it grew into a Métis settlement by 1880. Today, Katepwa is a thriving resort community around the lake, featuring cultural attractions including bird-watching, Fort Ellis Historical site, Programming in the Park, Heritage Hiking Trails, and more.

Besides many other cultural assets, Indian Head is well known in the cultural community for the reconstruction of the Bell Barn – a round barn originally built in 1882, which was moved and reconstructed in the area in 2010. The Bell Barn was Saskatchewan's first round barn, built as part of an experiment supported by the federal government under Sir John A. MacDonald.

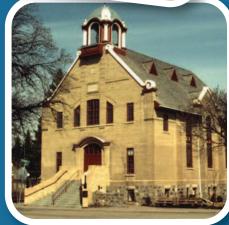
The community of Indian Head has embraced the interest in the Bell Barn. It has grown to see culture as a way of life and has many organizations to support resident's interest including Rural Sports Hall of Fame, museum society, heritage club, Prairie Theatre, School of Dance, Heritage Tour, Band Parents Association and many creative residents.

As with all the other communities, the Town of Qu'Appelle sees the Municipal Cultural Planning as an opportunity to help rejuvenate its main street and build a community that is attractive to new residents and youth. They along with corporate partners, such as the Moose Mountain Bus Lines, are hoping that the interest in culture in the area, both built and natural, will lead to new and exciting tourism and economic opportunities.

The Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning Grant is offered by SaskCulture thanks to funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

- 2. Original Hudson Bay Building in Fort Qu'Appelle Photo courtesy: Heritage Branch, Ministry of TPCS
- 3. Qu'Appelle Valley
- Istock Photography
- Wolseley Opera House Photo courtesy: Town of Wolseley





^{1.} Bell Barn in Indian Head Photo courtesy: Bell Barn Society

Community support key to Creative Kids

BY MEI SHAN WAN

I am working slowly on my guitar, but its getting better and better. A guitar is something that I wanted very badly and I am very excited that I have the chance to take lessons. So far I am working on reading music and getting good at strumming and doing chords. Thank you so much for the opportunity. Sincerely, Chantelle.

ONLY IN ITS FIRST YEAR of operation, Creative Kids has already found success in serving Saskatchewan communities.

From the beginning, the Creative Kids program, initiated by SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Arts Board and community volunteers, received strong interest throughout Saskatchewan from communities eager to become one of the eight Creative Kids pilot committees. This response was a testament to the commitment of the Saskatchewan people striving to maintain a culturally vibrant province.

"We have been fortunate to have brought together some very committed community volunteers," says Christie Nenson, Creative Kids Project Coordinator, "who have helped get the program underway."

Launched in 2010, the pilot Creative Kids program was designed to support children and youth facing financial barriers to their participation in cultural and creative activities. As of September 1, 2011, Creative Kids supported over 600 participants, approving over \$100,000 towards children and youth participation in cultural activities such as ballet, guitar, multicultural dance, voice, piano and more. The program is similar to the KidsSport program also run in the province through Sask Sport Inc., and is part of the Give Kids a Chance charity.



Taylor Canning and Megan Nash are actors featured in the new Creative Kids video launched at the Craven Jamboree. Visit **www.creativekidssask.ca** to watch!

Lakeland District provides opportunity for smart choices

IT'S AMAZING what an electric guitar can do. It can be used to create stirring rhythms and riffs, as well as to provide youth with a positive activity away from alcohol and drugs.

The Creative Kids Committee in Lakeland District supported five youth in the area that applied for electric guitars and lessons. The participants received the funding under strict guidelines that they were to remain drug and alcohol free, and be respectful at school. A local high school guitar player agreed to teach his younger peers and was given the opportunity to begin his own professional musical teaching career.

"The outcome was positive, to say the least," says Crystal Clarke, chair, Lakeland District Creative Kids Committee. "It's modeling acceptable behavior around the school and the community. A few of the students even carry their guitars with them and practice every spare moment." Clarke describes how one mother, who found moving back to the reserve difficult, said that her child was now involved in drugs and not able to access youth programs to keep them from getting in trouble. With the guitar lessons, the students are off of drugs and hanging out at her house in the evenings to play guitar or visit with each other. "Parents in the community are seeing the impact of one program and wanting to develop more youth programs on the reserve to help lead their youth into a brighter future," adds Clarke.

The Lakeland District continues to receive and adjudicate applications in their district. The Committee has been successful in the promotion and development of the Creative Kids program in the pilot year. They have received more than 48 applications and have also received two substantial donations to the program. For more information, visit **lakelanddistrict.ca**.



"I want to say "Thank you"! That doesn't seem to cover how I feel knowing I can now put my son in Evolution at the Globe Theatre and not worry how to pay for it. I appreciate this assistance from Creative Kids very much. It brought tears to my eyes. I never thought I would be in a place when I couldn't afford something for my son. My pride/self-esteem got knocked down. Your phone call put a smile on my face because I could put a smile on my son's. So, "Thank you" so very much. This helped more than you know. - Parent of Creative Kid

"We are very pleased that the need for this program has been validated," remarks Nenson. "The interest far exceeds our anticipated expectations." The Creative Kids program provides up to \$750 per child, per year, to children who meet eligibility guidelines.

In May 2011, Creative Kids took time to celebrate its success, along with its pilot communities, at its first annual gathering held in Saskatoon. Volunteer committee members from around Saskatchewan took this opportunity to network and share their experiences with each other.

"Comments from the gathering helped confirm the positive impact Creative Kids was already having in communities, "explains Nenson. "Creative Kids committees are already receiving applications, distributing funds and doing their own fundraising."

While the Creative Kids program started with some seed funding from the 2010 Saskatchewan Legacy Fund, it is actively working to build partnerships with more corporate sponsors in order to help more kids. A three-minute video and 30 second public service announcement were produced in the spring and will continue to be featured in Creative Kids fundraising and promotional efforts. In July, Creative Kids was able to air their video on the big screen at the Craven Jamboree, which helped to raise awareness, funds and future partnerships. Corporations, such as SGI, Great West Life, the City of Saskatoon and others have already pledged their support.

"We have many more kids to help," says Nenson, "so we will continue to raise the funds needed to ensure all kids who want to participate in cultural activities get the chance at a creative future."



Linking students to their interests

This year, Creative Kids and the Dream Brokers have formed a close relationship and together have helped place students into various creative activities and programs.

The Dream Brokers Program, established by Sask Sport, was originally designed to encourage inner-city children and youth to participate in sport, culture or recreation activities and programs. This year, SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association have joined Sask Sport in supporting this important work.

According to Dean Kush, Program Manager, SaskCulture, "This partnership has created a substantial increase in applications to Creative Kids. The Dream Brokers are instrumental in helping children access the cultural programs that interest them." The partnership has been successful in placing children, especially those considered "at-risk" youth, in programs to assist in their overall development.

Dream Brokers work directly with participating schools. For more information, contact Sask Sport at 306-780-9300 or visit sasksport.sk.ca.

ABOVE: Creative Kids volunteers and SaskCulture staff help spread the word at Craven Jamboree in July 2011.

I am working on control scales, it seems like everything is scales! This is to develop speed and harmonizing with chords. I have been working especially hard on *Sweet Child of Mine* by Guns and Roses. I love playing guitar and I take it home every night and I practice every night. It is my very favorite thing to do. Thank you so much for the guitar and lessons. It means a lot to me. Sincerely, Cody.

Showcasing the works of Jim Settee:

Keeping Saskatchewan stories alive

THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP between

BY DAMON BADGER HEIT

Written, Produced and Directed by Jeanne Corrigal A story of transformation and homecoming

Jim Settee: The Way Home

ian Cree Uder, historian, tracker, spin

Jim Settee's amazing journey received positive reviews from students and teachers around the province.

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. and the Métis Cultural Development Fund, Saskatchewan filmmaker Jeanne Corrigal was able to tour her film, Jim Settee: The Journey Home, a documentary film about the life of Elder Jim Settee, through the province. The film was screened at 45 Saskatchewan schools, reaching over 4,210 grade one to postsecondary students and teachers, from La Loche and La Ronge, to Avonlea south of Regina, east as far as Ituna, and west as far as Pelican Lake.

> The film documents the life of this well-respected elder and how Jim, an avid storyteller, helped keep oral history alive by connecting people to their own histories and cultures, and bring them home in more

ways than in the physical sense.

Jim Settee is renowned for keeping alive the stories of the peoples from across central Saskatchewan, throughout areas such as Montreal Lake, Big River and Sturgeon, Emma, Anglin and Waskesiu Lakes. He worked to "bring communities home" by helping to create the Fish Lake Métis Settlement north of Prince Albert and encouraging settlement of Métis peoples in the area. There is even a story of how in the summer of 1950, a search team in Prince Albert National Park went to him for help after three days of searching for a lost boy. In just two hours, after tracking over six miles of muskeg, Settee found the boy and brought him home safe and sound.

Sadly, Jim Settee passed away in 2009, before the completion of this documentary. But his memory and teachings still live on.

At each of her school visits, Corrigal presented her film and facilitated an interactive activity called 'Matchbox Stories'. She describes in the film how Jim would climb up a fire watch tower and throw down matchboxes with little

treasures inside to his grandchildren. As part of the classroom activities, Corrigal would use a matchbox and would unpack it for the children to see, connecting the various objects to the different teachings that Settee had passed on to her. The students would then make their own matchbox and fill it with their own teachings or important things about who they were and about those who had made a positive difference in their lives.

When asked to write three words that described the workshop, students wrote things such as: "Métis, amazing, memorable, unforgettable, learning." After having watched the film, many of the Métis students would proudly announce, "I am Métis too!" A grade 5 student wrote: "I am taking home with me a story about wisdom and courage, and about finding your way home."

Corrigal describes how she felt as though Jim was in those classrooms with her in these travels.

The Métis Cultural Development Fund, administered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, is aimed at preserving the Métis culture and heritage in Saskatchewan.

Thay 4 Trayler What did you like best about the Jim Settre film event You can write or draw your a The I liked it when Jeanne Showed us the match box Jim gave her because to Jeanne the match box was a treasure cheast with all





ABOVE: Filmmaker Jeanne Corrigal shares stories she learned from Jim Settee.

Sample drawings from students at Corrigal's school workshops.

Youth in Sturgeon Lake focus on tradition and justice BY DAMON BADGER HEIT

STURGEON LAKE FIRST NATION, roughly

55km's north of Prince Albert, works collaboratively with justice, education, Indian family services, health and administrative service portfolios to provide cultural activities for the community. This year, these collaborative efforts are reconnecting youth and community to customary traditions of community justice.

Project Coordinator Isadoor 'Izzy' Wichihin, says the best way to ensure youth of Sturgeon Lake First Nation enter into a global culture with a strong Cree identity, in the modern context, is to ensure that cultural knowledge is being transmitted consistently and repetitively in a collaborative effort across all agencies in the First Nation.

"We are trying to reconnect with the inherent laws of the people, "Wichihin explains. "We're trying to reclaim customs, practices and beliefs. We talk about where we are in our society in globalization."

As part of this process, funding from SaskCulture's Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership grant is funding three gatherings in the community, one of which, a mini Pow wow, took place this past year in Sturgeon Lake. "Every year we hold culture camps. This is the first year for a mini Pow Wow, " says Wichihin. "We're trying to recapture a traditional way of life to establish projects and activities, such as storytelling and sweat lodges to reconnect with our core values. We also have break-out sessions for men and women", to help them learn and understand, "their roles and responsibilities in the community. We do this annually two to three times a year."

The mini Pow Wow, launched on July 15th, included 40 dancers from the Indian Child and Family Services program, along with six drum groups from the community. Roughly 200 people were in attendance along with elders and family members from off reserve. Lawyer Sylvia McAdam, who attended as one of the speakers, spoke about Indigenous law as part of an educational component to the gathering.

"SaskCulture funded this first mini pow wow which was a huge success," adds Wichihin. "We had an opportunity to honor the workers and leaders who assist in the wellness of the community."

The Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership grant, administered by SaskCulture, aims to support the transmission of cultural knowledge to youth people through cultural activities and mentorships.

Nurture Young Leaders!

Check out the Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Grant.

This grant supports community or cultural groups looking to support opportunities for Aboriginal youth to demonstrate their leadership skills through mentorships with qualified Aboriginal arts and cultural leaders.

Annual deadlines: October 15, April 15

For more information visit **www.saskculture.sk.ca** call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.



Culture Days highlights importance of culture to communities BY PETER BRASS

culture fête days de la culture

THIS YEAR, SASKCULTURE once again spearheaded the Culture Days celebrations in Saskatchewan. Leading up to the Culture Days week, organizers were pleased to see over 160 cultural activities registered, by over 40 communities in the province, into the national database. Swift Current stood out with over 27 separate cultural activities registered – one of the highest single community (of its size) registrations in the country.

Only in its second year, Culture Days has seen growing success in its ability to unite the province, and the country, in a national celebration of our culture.

"SaskCulture sees Culture Days as an opportunity to highlight the wealth of cultural activities in the province," explains Rose Gilks, General Manager, SaskCulture. "People often take for granted the many cultural opportunities that exist all year long thanks to the many artists and cultural workers who contribute to creative expression of all kinds in this province."

This past year, SaskCulture hired four Saskatchewan artists as Culture Days Animateurs, on contract from May to November 2011, to get the Culture Days message out to communities, hold workshops designed to promote interactive cultural engagement and inspire creative thinking around the province. Mindy Yan Miller, a visual artist from North Battleford worked in the northwest portion of the province, visiting many rural communities and First Nations reserves in the area. Darlene Williams, a dance artist from Saskatoon, travelled north and east to help communities develop Culture Days plans. Paul Wilson, a Saskatchewan author and publisher, took the idea of an "Invisible Library" across the southern portion of the province to festivals and summer celebrations. While Johanna Bundon, a dance and visual artist, worked on an interactive sound recording art project in and around Regina.





According to Paul Wilson, "Everyone can try something new and get the opportunity to appreciate different forms of cultural expression. It brings us together and makes us stronger."

Last year, only one Culture Days Animateur was hired to engage the province. Gilks explains that, "this year, we had the opportunity, thanks to additional funding from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, to hire more artists and get the Culture Days message out much further. " Feedback from Laura Hale, the first Culture Days Animateur, included a recommendation that more animateurs were hired to spend time meeting with community leaders and offering support in interactive Culture Days activity planning.

"We were also able to offer additional sponsorship dollars this year," she adds. A total of \$68,000 was provided to more than 30 Saskatchewan communities to help support their Culture Days initiatives. "This funding will not always be available, but it is hoped that it will help leverage additional community support for Culture Days into the future."

Saskatchewan people are encouraged to express their creative selves on Culture Days. "Participating in creative or cultural activities is good for individual health, it builds creative individuals who will go on to be the innovative thinkers of the future," adds Gilks.

www.culturedays.ca

PREVIOUS PAGE: Culture Days Animateur Paul Wilson shares poetry at Swift Current Kite Festival.

INSET: Children in Fort Battleford express their creativity in Culture Days workshop.

ABOVE: Workshop participant shows her work on mini moccasin.

RIGHT: Students from Fort Battleford are proud of sculptures.

Inside the Culture Days movement

BY PAUL WILSON, CULTURE DAYS ANIMATEUR

THE CULTURE DAYS MOVEMENT in Saskatchewan continued on a upswing in 2011 with the expansion of SaskCulture's commitment to the Culture Days Animateur program, from one artist in 2010 to four artists this year. The reach of the Artist Animateur program seems to be nearly province-wide with my counterparts, Darlene Williams and Mindy Yan Miller meeting with communities in the north and central areas, and Johanna Bundon and myself connecting with people in the south.

Since early June, we have been actively engaging with communities, presenting workshops and promoting involvement by communities, cultural organizations and individuals in Culture Days. We seem be having a significant impact on both an increase in the number of events taking place in the province during Culture Days, but also in awakening the "artist" in many individuals throughout the province.

Culture Days is a citizen-driven program, and in my journeys I found many people engaged in arts and culture, ready to get involved. For instance, the Assiniboia Arts Council is in its 30th year of delivering arts programming, and they were keen to participate in Culture Days as part of their anniversary celebrations. Plans were made for a writing workshop with Assiniboia writers which would culminate with a group reading during Culture Days.

Further north, Animateur Darlene Williams, who has background in dance and choreography, said that "through the community workshop meetings, I created a format for participants to see how what they do on a daily basis impacts their communities on a much broader scale." Both Darlene and visual artist Mindy Yan Miller have held several workshops. Mindy was able to travel with Aboriginal artist Audrey Fineday to local reserves where they engaged people in making doll-sized moccasins and clothing, and is working with North Battleford to set up an Artist's Salon. Johanna has been working on a sound recording project and connecting with the Francophone network interested in Culture Days.

Myself, I have been busy engaging people in a project called The Invisible Library, encouraging people I meet to create titles of imaginary books they would like to read. People who attended various events throughout the spring and summer have contributed to this process, as well as expressing their inner poet.

Along with Regina comic artist, Jonah McFadzean, I have collaborated in creating "Comics on the Spot", portraying culture milieu of such events as the Windscape Kite Festival, Festival of Words and the Wood Mountain Folk Festival. We are also collaborating on a series of "Poetry Comics" which will be part of the Culture Days collection.

For the Cannington Manor Heritage Park Fair, I wrote and performed poems written about real people who were settlers in the area. Afterward many people shared stories that had been in their families for generations and I encouraged them to write them down and share them with others and make them available to the local museum. Many said they would.

At the Regina Folk Festival, I had the wonderful experience of reading one of my poems to Fred Penner who said something that has stuck with me in my Animateur work. He said, "Never underestimate your ability as an artist to make a difference."

I have given writing workshops at the South Saskatchewan Independent Living Council where I have seen breakthroughs where participants have seen themselves on the page for the first time. The experience has been as transformative for me as it has for the people in the workshop.

The dialogue I have had with community leaders and workshop participants has increased my admiration for the wonderful work that happens in Saskatchewan villages, towns and cities to ensure that participation in arts and culture is essential to their way of life.

SaskCulture's development of the Animateur program is undoubtedly contributing to increased involvement in Culture Days in Saskatchewan, which means more people will be connecting to their own creativity through engagement in cultural and artistic pursuits. From my perspective Saskatchewan communities are ready willing and able to embrace the Culture Days Movement.

Avonlea museum hosts big attraction

BY MEI SHAN WAN

IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE that

Saskatchewan's official "Riderville" continues to thrive with community enthusiasm. Avonlea, a small village of 400, has had remarkable participation in their events, and it is proud to say that their local museum is a main attraction.

Avonlea's community spirit was showcased throughout a several month contest in Saskatchewan to win the title of "Riderville". Their efforts to win the title increased tourism to their village and, even before the winner was announced, managed to double their visits to the museum last year.

Randi Edmonds, a board member at the Avonlea Heritage Museum, says, "everything seems to be well supported throughout the year in this village. There is good attendance at most activities and events. It is a fairly tight-knit community." Most of the crowd at the events consists of members of the community, families, and friends.

Wrapping up their year at the museum is the three-month display of "Scotty" a replica of Tyrannosaurus Rex found in 1991 in Eastend – a traveling display hosted by the Royal Saskatchewan Museum. "It has been a very good partnership between the Avonlea museum and the Royal Saskatchewan Museum," says Edmonds, "a lot of families and friends in the community have visited the museum."

The museum is open seasonally and offers various activities and guided

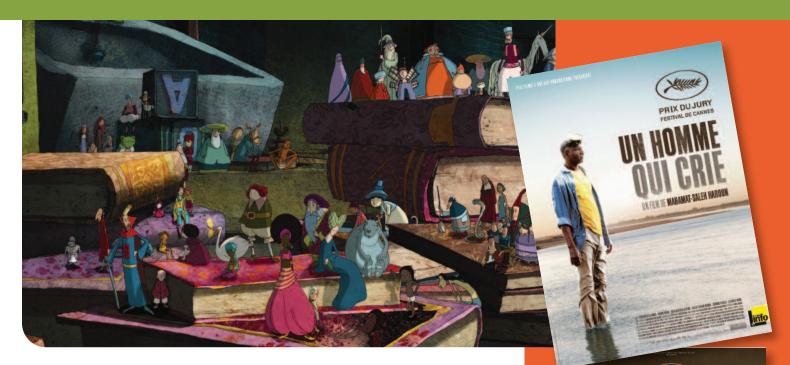
tours for everyone to participate. The collection is primarily pioneer artifacts used at the beginning of the 20th century. They relate to the work of the early settlers, the tools and equipment they used for their livelihoods and in their homes. The museum features a range of exhibits in a historic train station, as well as the Pioneer display where work is progressing on their Main Street display featuring a number of different shops. All the Main Street businesses have artifacts in them. The museum has featured activities including several teas, Dino Days, Sunday movie matinees, and a pot luck picnic with old time games. Board members can be found working at the museum on Tuesdays and the museum board schedules to meet consistently once a month.

"The next thing we are working on now is preparation for the 2012 celebrations," says Edmonds. Avonlea will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in July 2012. The planning committee has been meeting monthly making plans for the centennial celebrations. Organizers hope to develop memorabilia to mark the event, as well as souvenirs.

The Avonlea Heritage Museum boasts a 12 page newsletter, "Heritage House Happenings", which is a colourfully designed publication of operational, financial, and community updates. The publication includes historical facts about the town and museum, stories about its residents, and upcoming events around the community and at the museum, which has been named a heritage site.

The Avonlea Heritage Museum is a recipient of the Museum Grant Program, which provides operational support to qualifying museums.

The Museum's Main Street hosts many interesting exhibitions, including Scotty the T-Rex exhibition and antique snowmobiles.



Cinergie continues to grow thanks to MIF

BY MEI SHAN WAN

EVERY YEAR IN SASKATOON the Federation des Francophones de Saskatoon host the Cinergie Festival. The festival has been advertised as one of Saskatchewan' most unique arts and culture festivals and this year, it was proud to announce that it had doubled its attendance.

Cinergie is Saskatchewan' annual French language film festival. This year, it celebrated its 6th anniversary and ran for four full days, one day longer than the previous years. It was determined to increase the participation between French immersion and Francophone, the French-speaking community, and the community at large.

"We have almost doubled the number of films this year," Tao Chamberlin, festival director, says in a recent article, "We've also added an opportunity for young filmmakers to showcase their short Frenchlanguage films." Cinergie 2011 showcased 13 feature films, three professional short films, and five student short films – all in French, most with English subtitles.

Festival organizers aimed to increase school attendance and involve Frenchspeaking students by providing them with a richer film experience. The teachers were provided a resource booklet that provided a variety of follow-up activities to further incorporate the matinee films in class. The attendance of students doubled since 2010 and those who attended the morning matinees discussed cultural and cinematic ideas and decisions in the movies. Along with the matinee showings, Cinergie featured a Cannes Film Festival Jury Prize winner and Cannes Grand Prix winner, both of which received Oscar nominations. The film selections offered a broad variety of genres, including drama, burlesque, action and thriller.

To increase awareness to the public, the festival created a new logo and poster theme and increased their presence on social media. As a result, they received extensive media coverage. Numerous articles and interviews were conducted prior to and during the event. Organizers also created a launch party for Francophones, French speakers, and the general public to meet. It proved to be a significant indicator, as many individuals from politics, business, arts, Francophone organizations, and education were interested in networking and discussing the future. Due to the success of the event, the launch party is expected to continue in the future.

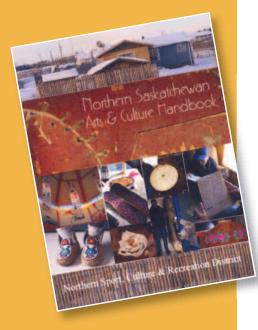
The Multicultural Initiatives Fund (MIF) – Project Funding supports initiatives and activities in the areas of cultural identity, intercultural understanding and issues related to social justice and harmony. As a recipient of MIF, Cinergie was able to connect the broader community with its bilingual program and plans to continue with youth and community engagement with the Francophone community for the years to come.



CINERGIE CELEDITATES FRENCH TIIM IN SASKATCHEWA PHOTOS COURTESY FEDERATION DES FRANCOPHONES DE SASKATOON

Northern District highlights artists in new handbook

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH



The new handbook signals that northern Saskatchewan artists are ready for more exposure.

THE NORTHERN SPORT, CULTURE AND RECREATION DISTRICT (NSCRD) has

developed the Northern Saskatchewan Arts & Culture Handbook, a colourful, 50page publication, which highlights many of the region's creative talent. The NSCRD developed the handbook to help promote the many artists living in northern Saskatchewan, many of whom do not have the same opportunities to get provincewide exposure, which many of their southern counterparts may receive.

According to Judy MacLeod Campbell, program manager, Culture and Community Development, NSCRD, "people often approach our organization inquiring about artists working in the North. "The many talented artists and craftspeople of northern Saskatchewan are often 'hidden' in their communities. The Handbook was developed to begin to identify who these artists are, and to recognize and profile their work within their communities, the north, and the province."

She goes on to say that "The artists and communities are very proud of the handbook and their profile within it. We have also had significant interest from

Build Your Capacity!

Check out the Capacity Building Grant Program.

This grant provides funding to new and existing cultural organizations looking to support activities that build their capacity or partnerships with others.

NEW DEADLINES: October 15, May 7

For more information visit **www.saskculture.sk.ca** call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.



cultural organizations and organizations we partner with in the north, such as education and government."

During the early months of 2011, the NSCRD created a northern, Saskatchewan-wide artist registry to develop the handbook. Artists were able to self-register. Community partners helped the Cree and Dene-speaking artists with the registration process, so that they too would be represented in the handbook.

Sixty-six artists are represented and all have a varying degree of experience in their creative field. Some are hobby artists, others are emerging artists, or professional artists. Each artist page in the handbook features the artist's biography/statement, their medium, contact information, and photos of their artwork. "We know we have not reached all of the artists in the north in this Handbook, so we will continually collect artist profiles," MacLeod Campbell notes.

"We hope that the benefits will include utilizing the artists (in a respectful, professional way that includes payment for service) in community programs to pass on the knowledge of the art or craft – which are often traditional culture – to the youth in their communities, and to provide these youth and community members with increased cultural and artistic opportunities and experiences," explained MacLeod Campbell.

Also, the Handbook was designed to help schools and communities access artists for programming, community events and showcasing their artwork. It also aims to promote an understanding of the value of the art and artists, instilling a sense of community pride.

MacLeod Campbell said she also hopes that the handbook will help to link artists with programs and opportunities that are offered through organizations, such as the SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Arts Board, and the Saskatchewan Craft Council.

Although no definitive plans have been made, MacLeod Campbell said an updated edition could be in the works in the future. Currently, there are only a limited amount of copies of the handbook available for purchase for \$20 including shipping. To purchase a copy of the handbook, please contact NSCRS's mail office at (306) 425-3127 or visit www.nscrd.com for more information.

The Northern Saskatchewan Arts and Culture Handbook was created thanks to funding from Capacity Building Grant available through SaskCulture.



Symphony makes new home in Saskatoon inner-city

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH

READY TO MOVE FORWARD, the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO) plans to bring sweet music to the Saskatoon community of Riversdale.

Over the past several years, Riversdale has become a cultural hub where several different visual arts, theatre and film organizations have set up shop. In early June, the SSO announced plans to move its operations into this inner-city neighbourhood. They found a new home at 408 20 St. West, about one block west of the Roxy Theatre.

"This will be the first time all components of the SSO will be located under one roof," explains Jill Reid, Executive Director, Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Discussion on how to use the opportunity that the new space offers for creating hands-on music experiences for the community, especially developmental programs for children, is occurring. Reid says, the first step is to ensure that adequate resources are available for this purpose as well as for the SSO's core areas of activity. She also notes that, "exposing children to the symphony will help ignite their interest in music and in learning to play an instrument."

While the SSO is looking forward to this new lease on its existence, it has had to overcome a very difficult financial situation. At the end of the 2008-09 season, the SSO's newly elected Board of Directors had the arduous task of rebuilding the organization, as well as the trust and confidence of its fan base. According to Reid, who was hired as part of the rebuilding efforts, "change was necessary to move forward." were sensitive issues, the facilitators were able to create a respectful environment for all to participate," explains Reid. She added that the meetings gave everyone an opportunity to hear incredible stories from people who had been involved with the SSO from the beginning, alongside ideas about music, culture and connection from symphony lovers old and new.

The decision to move the SSO and all of its components into the Riversdale area came out of these meetings where staff, musicians, volunteers all had the opportunity to express their concerns, thoughts and excitement about this concept.

"There will always be a group of people who fear change, but as the energy builds from people working together, I believe the Saskatoon Symphony is very capable of being not only a current cultural icon for Saskatoon, but a necessary and desired element for all citizens of the city," said Reid.

For more information on the SSO, please visit **saskatoonsymphony.org**

The Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra receives annual operating funds from the Saskatchewan Arts Board and The City of Saskatoon.

I believe the Saskatoon Symphony is very capable of being not only a current cultural icon for Saskatoon, but a necessary and desired element for all citizens of the city.

Consultants Lenore Swystun and Dianne Fletcher were hired to help facilitate consultations with the SSO stakeholders in the spring of 2010. The symphony's directors, musicians and interested community stakeholders attended what was referred to as a Town Hall session. Three additional Beyond the Town Hall sessions were held this summer as a means of focusing on audience expansion and growth of revenue. The facilitation and consultations, supported by a Capacity Building Grant from SaskCulture, were important to holding an inclusive, community-based approach to rebuilding the organization.

"This support was key to providing us with professional facilitators who have the skills sets necessary to guide us through the process. Even when there ABOVE: New space for the Saskatoon Symphony in the inner-city helps it connect to new audiences.

PHOTOS COURTESY SASKATOON SYMPHON



Getting attention for heritage

BY DIANE ELL

Saskatchewan may be a young province in relation to the rest of Canada, but it still has a vibrant and storied history to share.

Share Your Culture!

Check out the Multicultural Initiatives Fund.

This grant supports cultural organizations interested in hosting cultural activities, events or projects designed to enhance multicultural, ethno-cultural or cross-culturalism in Saskatchewan.

NEW DEADLINES: January 31 (Annual), March 15 & September 30 (Projects)

For more information visit www.saskculture.sk.ca call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.



New Deadlines!

HERITAGE SASKATCHEWAN IS EAGER to

bring more attention to the importance of heritage in the province. Incorporated in 2009, the organization is bringing the heritage community together to share common concerns and to work to raise greater awareness and support for heritage from the public and community decision-makers.

"We are working hard to build understanding and create a shared voice for heritage in the province," explains Ingrid Cazakoff, Chief Executive Officer, Heritage Saskatchewan. "Heritage interests are so diverse, and include both tangible and intangible. It takes time to build the relationships that will help bring about positive understanding and change."

Heritage Saskatchewan was pleased with the increase in funding made to the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF) in the last provincial budget. SHF went from a \$375,000 annual budget to \$500,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year. At their first MLA Reception, held in May 2011, the Heritage Saskatchewan Board commended the government on its support, and encouraged continued investment into the future. The MLA Reception was attended by 32 Members of the Legislative Assembly, from both sides of the house, and many Heritage Saskatchewan members.

"We were very pleased with the turnout for this event," says Cazakoff. "It was a great opportunity to network with elected officials and raise awareness of our organization and heritage as a whole."

Heritage Saskatchewan also held its second successful Forum in February 2011, Heritage: A Story to Tell, which brought people with interest in heritage from around the province for two days of discussion and learning. The next Forum will take place in February 2012, along with its AGM, and will focus on how heritage contributes to building creative communities.

For more information on Heritage Saskatchewan visit heritagesask.ca.

Heritage Saskatchewan receives annual operating funding from SaskCulture thanks to funding from the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

ABOVE: The heritage community gathered at the Saskatchewan Legislative Building to meet with government decision-makers.

Sask 11

CHARLOTTE HAUK'S JOB IS UNIQUE.

"I might be the only person doing this kind of stuff, at least in Regina," she says. It's probably true. As the North Central Community Association's (NCCA) Art Coordinator, she has brought at least seven painted murals into the community as a means to perk up the neighbourhood and reduce the amount of graffiti in the area.

The NCCA hired her as a summer student with a subsidy from the Student Summer Works program, which is administered by SaskCulture on behalf of the provincial government. Jessica Hanna, NCCA's Project Facilitator said they brought in Hauk to make connections between the Regina's North Central region and local artists, and to incorporate art-related programming into the community. Hauk is pleased with the arrangement. "She's been able to make a lot of great connections within the community, and the higher profile projects can really transform a block."

She spent the summer finding appropriate spaces, connecting building owners to local artists and coordinating the mural-painting process, through a series of the NCCA partnerships with organizations, such as church groups and Common Weal Community Arts. She worked with local artists - Darlene LaRoche, Jeff Key, and Andres Araneda and Nicole Araneda - to name a few, helping them bring small-scale sketches to life as full-sized murals, and rejuvenating buildings, such as the Four Winds Gospel Church, 5th Convenience Store, a Service Canada Centre, and a neighbourhood 7-11. The largest mural, an expansive blue canvas with symbols of peace and an Aboriginal hoop dancer, was painted on the back wall of the Jolly Roger Beer Store and Tavern with the youth of Mission 6:10, a local church group.

The winter is obviously off-season time for mural-painting, but Hanna has sourced additional funds to allow Hauk to continue teaching art classes at the NCCA when she returns to school in the fall. "She's always been willing to do things, and to meet all the challenges I've brought to her, " notes Hanna. "Murals are new to Charlotte, her background is actually ceramics, not painting. But she has risen to all the challenges."

Hauk feels the challenge of organizing large-scale paintings has been valuable in expanding her own artistic pursuits as well. "I actually started painting because of this and I have a couple paintings in a friend's arts show." By the end of the summer she will be creating her own

Summer work leaves impression in North Central

BY SHAWN BAUCHE

HOTO COURTESV:



the Regina Alternative Measures Program building, and the Regina Art Gallery has been talking with her about a fall exhibition.

Both Hauk and Hanna agree, that one of the biggest accomplishments belongs to the community. "With the Jolly Roger, it felt like a lot of community involvement," explains Hauk. "It brought a lot of people together to create this beautiful art piece. It was great to see the transformation." Hanna is appreciative of Hauk's hard work, and hopes the North Central Community Association can continue mural activity next summer. She also appreciates the effect of hiring a student has had on the north central neighbourhood. "Without the (Student Summer Works) program we wouldn't have been able to have the impact on the community we had, and wouldn't have had an extra set of hands for someone who is super-busy over the summer. Students always bring great enthusiasm and passion."

Murals a big part of community revitalization efforts

This year, Student Summer Works allocated over \$133,000 to 41 cultural organizations to subsidize student wages and benefits over the summer. The program is funded by the **Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment** and Immigration and administered by SaskCulture.



AFFIRMATIVE

SUPPORTING THE PURSUIT of national championships, producing videos, hosting seminars and touring the north are just a few of the activities keeping the Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association (SEDA) busy this past year.

Possibly more hectic than past years, 2010-11 has been filled with long sought after achievements. One of the most exciting moments was seeing student debaters from Saskatchewan win the 2011 National Junior Debate Championships.

"This was the first time Saskatchewan students have won this national championship," explains Lorelie DeRoose, executive director, Saskatchewan Elocution and Debate Association. The two student debaters, Nasra Moumin and Areeb Salim, both from Campbell Collegiate in Regina, also won first and second speaker. "It made it even more special that they won here at home" she adds. The Junior National Debate Championship, which focused on energy

Champions only part of SEDA success

BY DIANE ELL

resources, was held May 12-15 in Estevan and Regina.

Also big news this year, Nicholas Carverhill originally from Saskatoon, had the opportunity to travel the world with Team Canada, competing in debate tournaments. Carverhill won the Top Speaker in the European Open in the Czech Republic and as an alternate, cheered the National Team to a Top 8 finish at the World Debate Championships in Scotland in August. Carverhill is only the sixth Saskatchewan person to ever make it on to the National Team and the fourth to be on the primary team, which will be competing at Worlds in South Africa this coming winter. His interest in debate started with his participation in SEDA's first summer debate camp back in 2006 when he was just starting Grade 7.

Helping students become debate champions is only part of what SEDA considers success. Thanks to a Capacity Building Grant from SaskCulture, staff spent part of November touring the northern part of Saskatchewan, visiting communities along a route that included Meadow Lake, La Loche and nearly a dozen schools in the area, including those on First Nations reserves. Their visits included meeting with teachers, holding student workshops and providing access to resources so that schools are able to set up their own debate clubs.

"Teachers and students were very receptive to our visits," says DeRoose. "They were thrilled that people from the south came up north to speak with them." DeRoose found the youth to be interested in some lively debate and teachers to be pleased with the experience. One teacher made the comment, "I didn't think my kids would even talk."

SEDA's work took them even further north. They helped hosts organize the National Student Debating Seminar held in

TOP: 2011 Saskatchewan Debaters (Back row, I-r) Layla Moumin, Regina Huda School; Angela Luo, Walter Murray Collegiate; Caleb Haight, Saskatoon Home Educated Debaters (SHED); Joshua Noel, SHED; Talon Hall, SHED; Slade Hall, SHED; Jason Xiao, Greystone Heights Elementary; Renlee Martillana, Greystone Heights Elementary. (Front row, I-r) Sarah Groat, Walter Murray Collegiate; Dominic Ong, SHED; Areeb Salim, Campbell Collegiate; Nasra Moumin, Campbell Collegiate. SIDE PHOTO: Leora Diakuw, Greystone Heights and Dominic Ong, SHED, prepare for debate question.



Hay River, North West Territories. "We had some interesting sessions on a new form of debating based on the governing style used by the territorial government," explained DeRoose, "It's a consensus style debating, rather than the confrontational format of debate we currently use." The seminar resulted in the development of new resources to be distributed to teachers met on the Northern tour.

Building strong resources have been key to SEDA's success. This past year, the organization produced a series of training videos that will help support the work of debate judges and coaches. "We are seeking new ways of reaching out to those interested in debate," said DeRoose. "Each club will get a video and we will try to make these available online in some way."

New online tools have also been a priority. SEDA launched its new web site at **saskdebate.com** and will continue to work on adding new features to support and celebrate debate in the province. "We are always interested in making debate more accessible," notes DeRoose. "We want to increase our use of social media and to make connections through new media, such as Skype." SEDA currently uses Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to help get its messages out.

SEDA is one of the 26 provincial cultural organizations in Saskatchewan that receive annual operating funds from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

Preserve Your Culture!

Check out the Métis Cultural Development Fund.

This fund, offered in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, is aimed at supporting activity that helps preserve and pass on Métis culture and traditions.

NEW DEADLINES: April 30, October 31

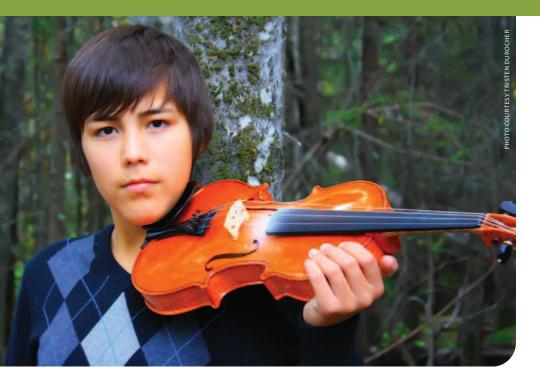
For more information visit **www.saskculture.sk.ca** call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.



TOP: Students at Birch Narrows Community School in Turner Lake learn about debate.

ABOVE: SEDA's northern tour included many northern schools, including Makwa Sahgaiehcan First Nations School in Meadow Lake.

New online tools have also been a priority. SEDA launched its new web site at saskdebate.com and will continue to work on adding new features to support and celebrate debate in the province.



Rising star from the north

BY DIANE ELL

FOR THOSE THAT THINK MASTERING the

fiddle at 15 years old is an accomplishment, try playing one while balancing on stilts. Tristen Durocher of La Ronge, has been playing violin for the past five years. He says he decided to perform on stilts just because he could. A performer at heart, Durocher refined many of his current skills and creative flourishes during his participation in the popular northern program Northern Spirits, coordinated through the Northern District for Sport, Culture and Recreation. He has participated in the program for the

Build Community with Culture!

Check out the Municipal Cultural Planning and Engagement Grant.

This grant supports municipalities undertaking cultural engagement and planning initiatives. Municipalities can apply for funding to assist them with cultural planning projects that explore and plan for the creative and cultural potential of a community. Project ideas include: inventory of cultural assets, facilitated community consultations on culture, municipal cultural planning or cultural mapping.

Deadline: October 31

Sask

For more information visit **www.saskculture.sk.ca** call (306) 780-9284 or Toll-free: 1-866-476-6830.



New Deadline!

past two years and feels it has been a good opportunity to learn about performance and meet new people.

"I especially like performing on a big stage," says Durocher. This past year, he was part of the Northern Spirits group that performed at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre in Prince Albert. The Northern Spirits program, supported in part with funds from SaskCulture, was designed to help northern youth enhance their performance and stage management skills.

Last year, Durocher was able to meet and play the fiddle with well-known Saskatchewan Métis fiddler John Arcand. "He let me try playing on his fiddle," says Durocher, "and gave me some tips on playing different songs." Arcand, who is an experienced Luthier who has been making custom fiddles for years, gave Durocher one of his much sought-after home-made fiddles. Durocher says that he enjoyed the experience and appreciated the opportunity to play with this Saskatchewan legend.

Unfortunately, this prized fiddle was lost, or possibly stolen following an event in Regina.

Thanks to his talent, skill and experience with Northern Spirits, Durocher continues to be booked to perform in a variety of Saskatchewan events, including the Lt. Gov.'s Garden Party held on Canada Day this past year. In 2009, he received the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award for Art in recognition of his accomplishments.

Durocher attends Churchill High School in La Ronge and has plans to continue performing and pursuing an arts career.



HOTO BY DAMON BADGER HEIT

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Paul Gingras, Organizational Outreach and Development Coordinator

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Dean Kush, Program Manager

Janice Kyle, Business Administrator

Christie Nenson, Creative Kids Program Coordinator

Sharon Pelletier, Executive Assistant (fill in for Maternity Leave, Aug. 2010- May 2011)

Gloria Walsh, Administration Manager (as of Dec. 2010)

Mei Shan Wan, Program Support (as of Dec. 2010)

Nichole Williams, Executive Assistant (Back from Maternity Leave May 2011)

MNP

Management's Responsibility

To the Members of SaskCulture Inc.:

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and ensuring that all information in the annual report is consistent with the statements. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of financial statements.

The Board of Directors is composed of Directors who are neither management nor employees of the Corporation. The Audit Committee, which is appointed by the Board, is comprised of directors and other community volunteers who review the financial statements in detail with management and report to the Board prior to their approval of the financial statements for publication.

MNP LLP, an independent firm of Chartered Accountants, is appointed by the members to audit the financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Audit Committee and management to discuss their audit findings.

September 23, 2011

MA- Set

Rose Gilks General Manager

Independent Auditors' Report

To the Members of SaskCulture Inc.:

The accompanying summarized financial statements, which comprise the balance sheet as at July 31, 2011 and the statements of operations, and changes in net assets for the year then ended are derived from the complete financial statements of SaskCulture Inc. as at July 31, 2011 and for the year then ended, on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated September 23, 2011.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on SaskCulture's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Summarized Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summarized financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of SaskCulture Inc. for the year ended July 31, 2011 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Regina, Saskatchewan September 23, 2011

MNPLLP

MNP LLP

ACCOUNTING > CONSULTING > TAX ROYAL BANK BUILDING, 900, 2010 - 11TH AVENUE, REGINA, SK S4P 0J3 1.877.500.0780 P: 306.790.7900 F: 306.790.7990 mnp.ca





	Summarized E	SaskCulture Inc Summarized Balance Shee As at July 31, 2011	
	2011	2010	
Assets			
Cash and short-term investments	1,278,164	1,038,589	
Accounts receivable	41,663	44,463	
Prepaid expenses and deposits	578	3,832	
Loans receivable – current	10,151	10,227	
	1,330,556	1,097,111	
Capital assets	374,332	48,455	
Loan receivable – non current	10,000	20,000	
	1,714,888	1,165,566	
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accruals	227,391	112,039	
Holdbacks payable	377,566	339,204	
Deferred revenue	9,755	25,000	
Due to Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	269,894	134,401	
Current portion of lease inducements	19,544	2,894	
	904,150	613,538	
Lease inducements	156,352	-	
	1,060,502	613,538	
Net Assets			
Invested in capital assets	374,332	48,455	
Unrestricted	280,054	503,573	
	654,386	552,028	
	1,714,888	1,165,566	
Su	ummarized Statement o For the year ended		

	i or the year chaca daily or, zorr	
	2011	2010
Revenue		
Grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	5,735,034	4,467,510
Grants from Government (Federal and Provincial)	133,563	108,070
Self-generated and GST rebate	102,358	93,320
Ť	5,970,955	4,668,900
Expenses		
Other	1,418,471	1,200,529
Program initiatives	4,450,126	3,524,980
¥	5,868,597	4,725,509
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	102,358	(56,609)

Summarized Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the year ended July 31, 2011

	Invested in capital assets	Unrestricted	2011	2010
Balance, beginning of year	48,455	503,573	552,028	608,637
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(76,102)	178,460	102,358	(56,609)
Purchase of capital assets	401,979	(401,979)	-	-
Balance, end of year	374,332	280,054	654,386	552,028

Detailed financial statements are available on request.

Report on the **Culture Section** of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

Fiscal Year

(April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011)

PLEASE NOTE: The fiscal year of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation differs from that of SaskCulture Inc.

Overview

Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation is a partnership of SaskCulture Inc., Sask Sport Inc. and the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association Inc. (S.P.R.A.). Through a license agreement with the provincial government, these partners administer funds generated from lottery ticket sales to support volunteer-driven sport, culture and recreation organizations and activities for people of all ages and abilities throughout the province.

The partners share responsibility in the overall governance and policy direction of their respective Sections of the Trust. As well, partners jointly deliver programs that support all three areas of sport, culture and recreation.

The Trust fund provides funding to over 12,000 sport, culture and recreation groups in more than 1,000 communities, rural municipalities, First Nations, and non profit organizations.

Culture Section of the Trust

As Trustee for the Culture Section of the Trust (CST), SaskCulture supports cultural activities offered by a variety of different cultural organizations and groups throughout the province, as well as SaskCulture itself.

The 2010/11 fiscal year of the Trust saw funding levels continue to surpass expectations with lottery ticket sales totaling a record \$205 million. This provided the CST with a net of over \$20.7M for distribution, which included a total contribution in excess of \$2.9M to the Community Grant and Community Development Funds. The revenue level allowed SaskCulture to provide increases to all of the operational-based grants.

The stable revenues in the 2010/11 fiscal year enabled SaskCulture to continue pre-funding the CST to allow all beneficiaries of lottery funding the confidence that funding is in place as they mobilize their strategies and plan for the future.

The maintenance of lottery funding levels depends on continued efforts by beneficiary groups to promote Saskatchewan Lotteries and encourage lottery ticket sales. Beneficiary groups also play an important role as advocates in support of the benefits of sport, culture and recreation to Saskatchewan communities. The continued support of volunteer organizations in Saskatchewan through the lottery license agreement is based on recognition of the importance of sport, culture and recreation to community life.

Guiding Principles

SaskCulture ensures that arms-length adjudication processes are used to support all funding decisions assigned to the Trustee for the CST. Funding committee members are guided in this work by the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund Agreement and SaskCulture's Cultural Policy.

The Trust Fund Agreement emphasizes support for accessible sport, culture and recreation opportunities through initiatives that provide for:

- enhanced quality of life of Saskatchewan people through the provision of quality sport, culture and recreation programs;
- services that improve the economic and social viability of communities and the province;
- equitable program opportunities for all Saskatchewan residents, regardless of age, gender, geographic location, or economic or social circumstances;
- engaging Saskatchewan people through sport, culture and recreation so that they are proud of and informed about the province;
- facilitating involvement of volunteers in sport, culture and recreation through effective volunteer management practices;
- improving physical activity and health outcomes for Saskatchewan people; and
- ensuring openness and accountability for the use of public funds.

SaskCulture's Cultural Policy is the tool that it uses to set the policy framework for funding decisions. The Cultural Policy places emphasis on:

- cultural impact;
- participation and access;
- organizational effectiveness; and
- high standards of accountability.

The SaskCulture Cultural Policy supports cultural activity that is in line with SaskCulture's Ends. The Ends speak to greater accessibility and inclusiveness, both of which support the Guiding Principles of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund and the public interest priorities of the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

SaskCulture's 14-person volunteer Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the development of the spending plan for the CST and determines the amount of funding to be allocated to each funding block annually. This work is done by the Board between January and March of each year in accordance with the fiscal year of the Trust.

Annual Global Funding for Eligible Organizations

The majority of the Culture Section funds (about 47%) are distributed to Eligible Organizations through the Annual Global Funding (AGF) program, which has been in place since 1984. The AGF program supports the annual operations of cultural organizations identified on the Minister's Eligibility List.

AGF is a multiyear operational grant which provides organizations with a broad base of financial assistance, while allowing a high degree of freedom as to how funding is spent. The flexibility of this grant program has been instrumental in fostering the growth of many diverse Eligible Organizations.

AGF supports a tremendous infrastructure that empowers Saskatchewan's volunteer driven cultural community to deliver a wide selection of activities throughout the province. Over 1,500 eligible member organizations are active in communities throughout the province. AGF finances the base of operations that has enabled many of these organizations to leverage additional grant and corporate funds. AGF also supports the continued stability of Eligible Organizations operations which enables successful long term programs and partnerships.

SaskCulture Operations

This funding includes an annual operating grant to SaskCulture itself, as well as support to some ongoing, or new, initiatives that benefit the entire system. SaskCulture has 14 full-time staff positions.

Global Functions

This fund gives SaskCulture the capacity to respond to significant opportunities and build partnerships that will benefit the cultural community as a whole. This past year, Global Functions supported Creative Kids, Culture Days, the 2010 Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards, Youth Heritage Fairs, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Northern Spirits, and bonding and liability insurance for eligible organizations.

Communities of Interest (COIs)

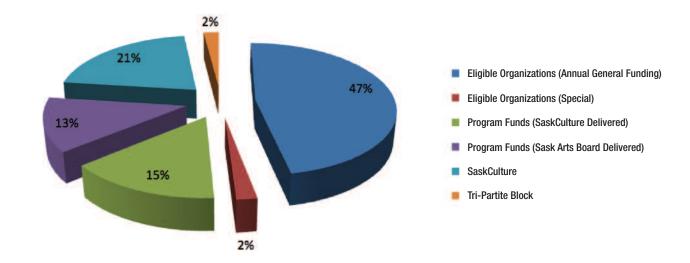
In order to contribute to an effective SaskCulture that is fully representative of, and informed by the cultural community as a whole, SaskCulture contracts services or provides support through the appropriate mechanisms to engage its COIs. These funds include ongoing support for the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance as the mechanism for the Arts COI, support for Heritage Saskatchewan and the First Nations and Métis Advisory Circle.



Laura Hale taught groups around the province how to make wire words during Culture Days in 2010.

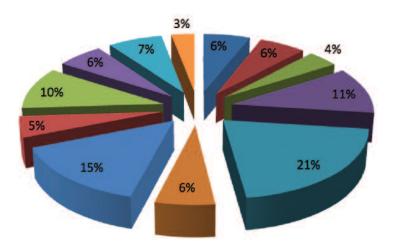
Report on the **Culture Section** of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

	CATEGORY	2010/11	2009/10
Eligible Organizations	Annual Global Funding	5,723,451	5,527,776
	Special Funding (eligibility related)	270,000	
Program Funds Block	Delivered by SaskCulture:		
	Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant	225,000	206,000
	Capacity Building Grant	200,000	257,500
	Métis Cultural Development Fund	150,000	128,750
	Multicultural Initiatives Fund	385,000	257,500
	Museum Grant Program	707,000	570,750
	Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning	225,000	0
	SUBTOTAL	1,892,000	1,420,500
	Delivered through SAB partnership:		
	Creative Partnerships	527,850	458,350
	ArtsSmarts/Treaty Smarts	154,450	77,250
	Festivals Grant Program	344,340	259,560
	Gallery Grant Program	200,850	200,850
	Media Arts Grant	236,900	236,900
	SAB Program Delivery	87,550	87,550
	SUBTOTAL	1,551,940	1,320,460
SaskCulture Block	SaskCulture Operations	1,512,120	1,050,600
	Communities of Interest	479,000	401,434
	Global Functions	617,000	406,192
	SUBTOTAL	2,608,120	1,858,226
Tri-Partite Block (Culture's share)	Administration Centre	142,000	137,763
	Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations	53,543	51,984
	SUBTOTAL	195,543	189,747
	TOTAL	12,241,054	\$10,316,709



2010/11 General Funding Block

2010/11 Program Funds Block



- Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant
- Capacity Building Grant
- Métis Cultural Development Fund
- Multicultural Initiatives Fund
- Museum Grant Program
- Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning
- Creative Partnerships / Innovations
- ArtsSmarts / TreatySmarts
- Festivals Grant Program
- Gallery Grant Program
- Media Arts Grant
- Sask Arts Board Program Delivery

Report on the Culture Section of Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation

Funding Programs

Funding programs administered by SaskCulture

Visit www.saskculture.sk.ca for program details and 2010/11 grant recipients.

Aboriginal Arts and Cultural Leadership Grant

The Aboriginal Arts & Culture Leadership (AACL) Grant aims to develop Aboriginal arts and culture leadership at the individual, group and community levels. The program builds capacity in Aboriginal communities through the development of arts and culture leaders. This creates cultural opportunities aimed at enhancing skill development, personal growth and positive lifestyles. It will also increase the number of Aboriginal people with the skills and training to work with and support cultural programming. Finally, it will develop the organizations and cultural leadership needed to assess community needs, to build community linkages and to effectively plan and implement cultural programs.

Métis Cultural Development Fund

Established in February 2001, in recognition of the need for support to be directed to the Métis community, this program supports community-based cultural activities and initiatives that preserve and pass on Métis culture and traditions. This fund is administered in partnership with members of the Métis community, and promotion by Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Multicultural Initiatives Fund

Established in 1999, the Multicultural Initiative Fund (MIF) supports ethno-cultural, multicultural, First Nations and Métis initiatives, projects and activities aimed at the advancement of multiculturalism in Saskatchewan. Multicultural activities are supported in the areas of cultural identity, intercultural understanding and issues related to social justice and harmony. MIF supports programs that increase access to cultural activities for Saskatchewan people, particularly in areas not already supported through conventional funding systems.

Museum Grant Program

This program, which transferred into the lottery delivery system from government in 1991, provides operational support to museums

throughout the province. The program supports and promotes the advancement towards operational excellence in Saskatchewan museums and supports the work of over 100 community museums throughout Saskatchewan each year. The Museum Grant Program complements the training programs and standards developed by the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.

Capacity Building Grant

Established in April 2008, this grant supports the building of capacity within cultural organizations to respond to emerging needs in the cultural community, and to support new initiatives/opportunities outside of the current operations of the applicant. Its intent is to complement, rather than replace or duplicate, existing support to culture.

Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning

New for 2011, the Municipal Cultural Engagement and Planning grant is intended to encourage both urban and rural municipalities, and First Nations bands, to invest in cultural engagement and cultural planning. The matching grant aims to support Saskatchewan municipalities to explore and plan for the creative and cultural potential of their community, and supports partnerships that promote cultural vitality, creativity and economic sustainability.

Funding programs administered by Saskatchewan Arts Board, on behalf of SaskCulture

For information on these grants, visit www.artsboard.sk.ca

SAB Program Management

This business line contains costs associated with SaskCulture's partnership agreement with the Saskatchewan Arts Board (SAB), both in the areas of adjudication and support to the programs delivered by the SAB on SaskCulture's' behalf. These include:

ArtsSmarts/TreatySmarts

SaskCulture, SAB and the Ministry of Education work together on this program to offer arts and education grants to schools, artists and community partnerships for innovative projects in any art form that bring K-12 students and professional artists together. TreatySmarts encourages teachers to employ the ArtsSmarts model to inquiry-based projects related to treaty knowledge and concepts.

Creative Partnerships

These funding programs provide opportunities for public access to the arts and responds to community needs for development in the arts by engaging Saskatchewan artists to work and reside in communities for a period anywhere from six months to two years. It has grown from the Artist in Residence program that placed an artist in a particular residency/community, to expanding the term residency to a range of different hosts, which include schools, health and justice institutions, businesses, municipalities and First Nations reserves. The program is divided into two separate grants: the Partnerships Explorations Grant provides the applicant with the opportunity to complete a community assessment to determine its needs; while the Partnership Innovations Grant covers different artist/applicant collaborations.

Gallery Grant Program

Resources are pooled with the SAB's Professional Arts Organization fund, to provide gallery funding to 11 not-for-profit art galleries and two artist-run collectives annually to support their operational costs.

Festivals Grant Program (SaskFestivals)

This program provides funding towards administrative and artistic costs for Saskatchewan cultural festivals. Over 30 Saskatchewan festivals, celebrating the arts, multiculturalism and youth, are supported each year.

Media Arts Grant

Transferred from a member funding program of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association in 2008, the Media Arts Grant provides operational support to non-profit community based film, video and new media organizations throughout the province.



Culture Days Animateur Darlene Williams gets children dancing during her workshops at Back to Batoche, leading up to Culture Days in 2011.

Shared Funding Initiatives with Sask Sport and S.P.R.A.

Community Grant Program (CGP)

The CGP provides funding to community, non-profit, volunteer organizations in support of sport, culture, and recreation programs. The Culture Section of the Trust contributes \$1,821,470 (35%) towards the \$5,204,200 amount allocated for the Community Grant Program.

CGP funding is available to all communities in Saskatchewan including First Nations band councils, northern settlements and municipalities (cities, towns, villages, organized hamlets, and RMs). In total, 310 rural municipalities, 148 towns, 312 villages, 13 cities, 34 northern communities, and 79 First Nations are eligible for this funding. These communities allocate funding to their own local sport, culture and recreation priorities. A portion of the grant must be used to increase participation of under-represented populations. The CGP funding also includes an allocation of \$180,000 to six communities for the Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program which focuses on funding support for Aboriginal programming in those urban centers.

Community Development Fund (CDF)

The CDF provides funding to facilitate community development through enhanced access to sport, culture, and recreation programming throughout the province. The Culture Section of the Trust contributes \$1,093,290 (30%) towards the total of \$3,644,300 allocated to the Community Development Fund. The CDF supports annual funding to the seven rural Sport, Culture and Recreation Districts, as well as funding for the Northern Community & School Recreation Coordinator Program (NC&SRCP) in Northern Saskatchewan. New this year, the CDF also supports the Dream Brokers program in Regina and Saskatoon. The NC&SRCP employs over 20 people in the North to coordinate sport, culture and recreation programming. The Dream Brokers program employs three people in each of Regina and Saskatoon to remove barriers to the participation of inner city children to sport, culture and recreation programming.

Administration Centre

The Administration Centre for Sport, Culture, and Recreation provides a professional business support system to over 250 non-profit sport, culture, and recreation organizations in Saskatchewan. Its services include payroll for 400 employees, group pension and benefits, accounting, office space for 60 organizations, a full-service print shop and postal service. The Centre generates over \$1.8 million in selfhelp revenue annually with its Trust grant being less than 25% of its total budget. The level of support for each Section of the Trust is determined by the percentage that their member organizations use the centre. The current usage for culture is 25%.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN)

The FSIN receives an annual funding grant to enable direct support for sport, culture and recreation initiatives. 70% of the combined annual contribution from Sask Culture, SaskSport and S.P.R.A. must be used to directly support sport, culture and recreation programs.



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SaskCulture Inc. receives financial assistance from:



St. Antoine de Pardoue, Church of Batoche Photo by Dennis Garreck