

Culture Builds Community!

Engage

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**Shaping a
Multicultural
Strategy**

Métissage

Culture Days

Sask **Culture**

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Engage, published by SaskCulture Inc., is 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.

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Photo courtesy of Danica Lorier

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General Manager's Message

At SaskCulture's 2012 Gathering, *The Changing Face of Saskatchewan*, approximately 200 attendees discussed the importance of recognizing the changes taking place in our province and the important role culture plays in embracing those changes. Several speakers provided insight into the changes in the province, including the increasing number of Aboriginal youth, the increase in newcomers, and the aging Baby Boomer demographic.

SaskCulture's current Strategic Plan (to March 31/2015) includes an objective stating that by March 2014, 'SaskCulture and its network are inclusive, responsive and reflective of Saskatchewan's populations.' In setting this particular objective SaskCulture wanted to ensure that its network included Saskatchewan's many diverse First Nations, Métis, settlers from other lands that arrived early in the province's history, as well as new citizens from many different corners of the world arriving today.

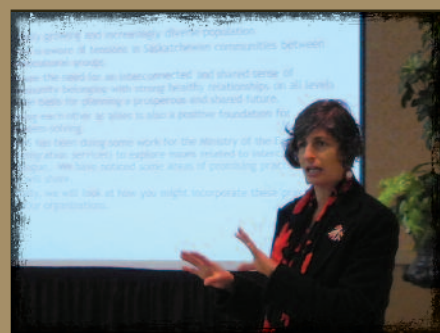
As we reflect upon the "changing face of Saskatchewan" and our aim to be inclusive, responsive and reflective of the changes in Saskatchewan, SaskCulture recognizes the need to have its own multicultural strategy as it moves forward. At this point, through our consultations with members and associated groups, we've identified a few ideas that must be considered for this strategy. They are listed as part of the next article, on page 4-6, as well as including a summary of comments from the SaskCulture gathering. These ideas take into account the complexity of understanding multiculturalism in this province, as well as its enormous impact.

This issue of *Engage* features stories that focus on multicultural, cross-cultural and/or intercultural activities currently supported through the cultural network. As well, I've provided some of the background and ideas on multiculturalism being shared within SaskCulture to help build some common understandings as we move forward on building a draft SaskCulture Multiculturalism Strategy that addresses the dynamic and "culturally vibrant" growth of this province.

Sincerely,

Rose Gilks

"This issue of *Engage* features stories that focus on multicultural, cross-cultural and/or intercultural activities currently supported through the cultural network."



Rhonda Rosenberg and Monica Goulet present about different aspects of multiculturalism at the 2012 SaskCulture Gathering.

Shaping a new Multiculturalism Strategy for SaskCulture

BY ROSE GILKS



Much has been said over the years about the term multiculturalism since it became a buzzword in the 1970's. Since 1971, the Government of Canada, as well as six of the provinces, have enacted multicultural legislation. In Canada, decision-makers responded in the early seventies to the multicultural reality found across Canada with an active multiculturalism policy and program area, which has seen positive responses in comparison to other countries. A report prepared for Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *The Current State of Multiculturalism in Canada and Research Themes on Canadian Multiculturalism 2008-2010*, by Will Kymlicka of Queen's University, talks about the role and function of multiculturalism policy.



In the report he states:

"If we put these findings together, they push us toward some clear conclusions. I believe that the 35-year debate in Canada between those who argue that multiculturalism promotes civic integration and those who argue that it promotes ethnic isolation can now safely be put to rest. These recent studies – all of which were produced from 2006 to 2008 – provide strong evidence that multiculturalism in Canada promotes integration and citizenship, both through its effect on attitudes, self-understanding and identity at the individual level and through its effect on institutions at the social level."

The report presents a series of studies from all sides of the question and demonstrates that the large majority of both the existing, broad population in Canada, as well as recent immigrants, feel very positive toward a "Canadian identity" and the acceptance of new, diverse cultures into the country. The report also addresses whether the European debate has affected the view of multiculturalism

in Canada, and concludes that multiculturalism remains a strong and positive force in the manner in which it is practiced in Canada. Kymlicka's report goes on to say:

"It is important to put multiculturalism in its historical context. In one sense, it is as old as humanity – different cultures have always found ways of co-existing, and respect for diversity was a familiar feature of many historic empires, such as the Ottoman Empire. But the sort of multiculturalism that is said to have had a "rise and fall" is a more specific historic phenomenon, emerging first in the Western democracies in the late 1960s. This timing is important, for it helps us situate multiculturalism in relation to larger social transformations of the postwar era."

UNESCO has adopted multicultural policies and programs since the 1960s in every aspect of how they work with, and understand, their culturally diverse universe. This is discussed in their *Multicultural Library Manifesto and Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (2001)*.

Many local groups offer programming designed to further an understanding of cultural heritage found in Saskatchewan, including Aboriginal cultures and those cultures that have immigrated here over the years.

The UNESCO Manifesto states:

“All people live in an increasingly heterogeneous society. There are more than 6,000 different languages in the world. The international migration rate is growing every year resulting in an increasing number of people with complex identities. Globalization, increased migration, faster communication, ease of transportation and other 21st century forces have increased cultural diversity in many nations where it might not have previously existed or has augmented the existing multicultural makeup.

“Cultural Diversity” or “Multiculturalism” refers to the harmonious co-existence and interaction of different cultures, where “culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature; lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs”. Cultural diversity or multiculturalism is the foundation of our collective strength in our local communities and in our global society.

Notions of multiculturalism are predicated upon the reality of the presence and continued existence of cultural diversity, as defined by race, ethnicity and religion. This diversity has been the reality of Canada since the inception of the country and before, and it continues to expand each year.”

The extent to which cultural diversity is increasing in Canada is highlighted in the Annual Report on the Canadian Multiculturalism Act by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

“Canadian society is becoming increasingly diverse, Canadians experience diversity every day, in their interactions with their neighbours or in the workplace, in the classroom or in their families, in the media or at sporting events. Diversity is a Canadian fact of life and is an integral part of our identity.”

“... According to the 2006 census, visible minorities, for example, accounted for 16.2% of Canada’s total population. Projections from Statistics Canada indicate that this diversity is likely to continue to increase in the future, with 29% to 32% of Canada’s population expected to belong to a visible minority group by 2031.”



Here in Saskatchewan...

Saskatchewan was the first province to enact provincial multicultural legislation in the form of the *Saskatchewan Multiculturalism Act*, first passed in 1974, followed by a new *Multiculturalism Act* enacted in 1997, “which reaches beyond the traditional definition to reflect the social justice issues of society today, such as racism and discrimination.” The purposes of the Act (section 3) are:

- to recognize that the diversity of Saskatchewan people with respect to race, cultural heritage, religion, ethnicity, ancestry and place of origin is a fundamental characteristic of Saskatchewan society that enriches the lives of all Saskatchewan people;
- to encourage respect for the multicultural heritage of Saskatchewan;
- to foster a climate for harmonious relations among people of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds without sacrificing their distinctive cultural and ethnic identities;
- to encourage the continuation of a multicultural society.

The purposes of the Saskatchewan statute on multiculturalism were reinforced in 2010 when *Pride of Saskatchewan* was released as the province’s cultural policy. Although the Act is not listed within the *Pride of Saskatchewan*, the language and purposes of the Act are included throughout the document. Similarly to the *Canadian Multicultural Act*, Saskatchewan’s cultural policy reaffirms the singular place of Aboriginal cultures, and goes on to describe the nature of multiculturalism in this province.

As we reflect upon the “changing face of Saskatchewan” and our aim to be inclusive, responsive and reflective of the changes in Saskatchewan, SaskCulture recognizes the need to have its own multicultural strategy moving forward. Inherent in that strategy are:

- Recognition that Saskatchewan’s First Nations and Métis cultures have an active part in the strategy but that their history and culture as founding peoples are distinct;
- Recognition that the multicultural strategy that SaskCulture will adopt is inclusive of Saskatchewan’s past history of peoples coming to the province (turn of century, pre- and post- World Wars immigration), as well as the increasing number of new residents arriving in the last ten years and into the future;
- Recognition that SaskCulture’s multicultural strategy will maintain the values and principles of the two Acts: *The Multiculturalism Act of Saskatchewan* and *The Canadian Multiculturalism Act*;



- That SaskCulture views multiculturalism as inclusive of many diverse cultures but also as the interaction between cultures intercultural activities;
- That SaskCulture's sees multiculturalism within a positive framework that contributes to Canadian society;
- That SaskCulture's Multiculturalism Strategy is inclusive of all organizations within SaskCulture's network, not just those organizations with a multicultural or ethno-cultural mandate;
- That the focus of SaskCulture's Multiculturalism Strategy will be the social capital building community and civil society; and
- That SaskCulture's Principles and Values, as defined in its Constitution (1997), speak to the importance of "multiculturalism" within the work of the organization.

Once SaskCulture has a draft of its Strategy complete, it will be consulting with its members and other key stakeholders on the policy and future directions. Although the Strategy is still in development, input was sought from those in attendance at the 2012 Gathering and the key themes surfacing from that session included:

- The need for more training and education;
- The need to understand all of the differences that make up our province;
- The need to give everyone a voice;
- Resources for more sessions like those at the conference as well as others – including Aboriginal myth-busting and the many differences in newcomers to the province;
- Increased public awareness and education of the importance for increased cultural understanding and acceptance;
- The importance of being inclusive of the north and rural Saskatchewan in the diversity of Saskatchewan;
- The importance of language to culture; and
- The need to ensure that our governments recognize that success needs to be measured by more than employment alone.

Multicultural dancers showcase traditional dances at cultural festivals.

Interactive workshop

helps students learn about

Métis traditions

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH

Gravelbourg's Camille Bell was invited by teacher Anita Clarke to Mossbank School where Bell spent a day presenting Métis traditions to elementary school children. "What a great way to learn about the Métis and their way of life!" exclaims Clarke. "The students are very fortunate to have the knowledge brought to them by a guest who is very passionate about Métis culture."

According to Clarke, Bell has a wealth of knowledge and passion with regards to Métis traditions and way of life.

Bell presented information about Métis dance and culture to the Grade 3-4 class. She filled the children's day with stories about the Métis, which included stories about fur traders, Métis marriage and how the Michif language has been lost over the years. The students also had the opportunity to learn about different Métis dances, which are a blend of European and First Nation's influences. The Grade 5



students joined in for the dance portion. "One of their favourite dances is the Lumberjack Dance," says Clarke.

Bell also demonstrated how to play the musical wooden spoons for the students, accompanied by the use of a wooden puppet that danced while she played. Bell shared the history of the wooden puppets and how they were used to entertain both young and old.

"This was a highlight for them as they were instructed on how to use the spoons to make music and were given an opportunity to practice this newly learned skill," says Clarke.

Plenty of discussion about the Métis way of life was also part of the students' day. Clarke said she believes Bell's

demonstrations had an impact on the students because they learned there are a variety of cultures and traditions in Canada, especially right here in Saskatchewan.

"The ultimate goal is that these students will learn to understand, accept and respect the idea that people and their customs, values and traditions can be very different from their own and they can live harmoniously with people from all cultures," she adds.

The workshop at Mossbank School was funded through the Multicultural Education Initiatives grant offered by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS). MCoS is supported by the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund.

Camille Bell shares traditional Métis dances with the students of Mossbank School.

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.

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New Deadlines!



The opening reception for Métissage included a guided walking tour between exhibition spaces led by a Métis fiddler.

Photos courtesy of the Institut français.



Métissage: collaboration increases reach

BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

Amazing connections can be made, and powerful ideas can blossom when organizations come together to work collaboratively on a project. Such is the case for Métissage, a multi-venue art exhibition and panel talk exploring the connections between Fransaskois, Métis and First Nations cultures in Saskatchewan.

"It's a medium that we had never worked with before to create a dialogue between the communities," says Frédéric Dupré, director of community engagement at the Institut français. "It was also a terrific opportunity to celebrate 2012 as the year of the Fransaskois."

According to Dupré the exhibition and subsequent panel talk were successful for a couple reasons. "Firstly, the quality of the art exhibited was amazing and it really made an impression on the public," he says. "Secondly, we were able to reach a lot more people with our collaborative community engagement efforts than when we've done it alone in the past."

For the Institut français, this exhibition is only part of an ongoing initiative to bridge

the Fransaskois and Métis communities. For the past five years, the Institut français has been coordinating efforts to connect communities, such as round table discussions, travelling theatre productions and now, this year, a visual art exhibition.

Michel Boutin, a "Canadien/Métis" artist from Prince Albert, SK, was one of the artists whose work was shown. "For me, the show was an interesting vision because I often feel caught in the middle between these two worlds," he says. "I am an Anglophile, but my ancestry is French Canadian. The exhibition led to serious discussions about the displacement I often feel." He adds, "The call for submissions certainly struck me as it is a topic very dear to my heart, it is remarkably close to the reality that I live in."

The exhibition, curated by Katherine Boyer, gallery and collection manager at the First Nations University of Canada, was compelling with many narratives and diverse perspectives intersecting. "The project started out on a much smaller scale and continued to expand over time," she



Leah Dorion



David Garneau,
Batoche Pattern I



Zoé Fortier,
Memère, Pepère



Anne Brochu-Lambert,
Community by the River



Michel Boutin, Spirit of Two Rivers

says. The process for curating the show began with a call for submissions over summer of 2011. As a curator, Boyer began to see themes emerge, such as community, land, people and spirituality. She used those themes to divide the work into groups that would be exhibited together in the four different locations (The Fifth Parallel Gallery, First Nations University of Canada Gallery, The University Club and the Institut français).

The opening reception for the exhibit was unique and included a guided walking tour between the exhibition spaces led by a Métis fiddler, Nathaniel Baker. At the last

stop, visitors enjoyed a performance by the Wambidi dancers – a contemporary First Nations dance group. "It was important to include the Wambidi dancers in this event, as they embody both traditional and modern aspects of First Nations culture," Boyer points out. "A live performance brought an entertaining twist to an exhibition opening."

The Métissage exhibition and panel talk were supported by SaskCulture's Métis Cultural Development Fund, The Saskatchewan Arts Board, the Institut français, the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada.



Robert Jerome



Michel Boutin, Raven Christ

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.



New Deadlines!

Artists included in the exhibition were: Allen Benjamin Clarke, Michel Boutin, Éveline Boudreau, Bob Boyer, Anne Brochu-Lambert, Leah Dorion, Joe Fafard, Sherry Farrell Racette, Zoé Fortier, Liza Gareau Tosh, David Garneau, Roger Jerome, Melanie Monique Rose, Allen Sapp, Sarain Stump, Scott C. Stonechild, Perrault and Sharon Pulvemacher.

Partnership connects newcomers with

a sense of community



BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

National Film Board screening of films that further emphasized the theme of multiculturalism and home.

Students were taught the basics of photography by professional Regina photographer Thomas Bartlett, followed by an exploration of downtown Regina, with cameras in hand. Kelly-Anne Riess notes that she was thoroughly impressed by the photography of the students. "The camera allowed the youth to see their new home, the city of Regina, with new eyes," she says. Kelly-Anne Riess then led the participants in writing about their experiences coming to Canada and the countries they had left behind.

The students then designed and decorated scrapbook pages that included their writing. Jessica Riess, a multi-media artist and sister of Kelly-Anne Riess, led participants in creating the scrapbook pages. "The students didn't know each other at the start of the day and were quite shy." She adds that, "by the end of the day, it was clear that working together had broken the ice and they fed off of each other for inspiration." By the end of the workshop, the students had created a scrapbook that included writing about their travels and new beginnings as well as their artwork. This scrapbook became the *Regina, My Home* publication.

Tamara Ruzic, executive director of SOHL, explains the significance of the project. "With the recent surge in immigration in Saskatchewan, it is imperative to support community building initiatives that promote cultural and linguistic understanding." She adds that, the *Our Home, Regina* project did just that, while simultaneously educating students on a variety of topics in a fun, friendly environment."

Building a sense of home and place can sometimes be a daunting task for newcomers, especially youth. The Saskatchewan Organization of Heritage Languages (SOHL) and the Saskatchewan FilmPool Cooperative recently partnered to present a one-day workshop, entitled *Our Home, Regina*, which helped newcomer youth connect with their communities.

"The intention of the project was to bring together students to interact with those from other cultures and share their experiences, and also to help them establish a network of peers," says Kelly-Anne Riess, a best-selling author and one of the artists involved in leading the project. The workshop brought together newcomer youth from six different countries - Bangladesh, China, India and Nigeria - as well as youth from Canada and the United States, to participate in a multimedia project that explored a number of mediums including poetry, writing, photography and radio.

Gordon Pepper, executive director, Saskatchewan FilmPool, says, "the intent was also to enhance engagement of immigrant children with integral cultural institutions, such as the FilmPool and the Regina Public Library (RPL) and its' Film Theatre." The RPL's Film Theatre hosted a reception for the event, which included a

Participants of the *Our Home Regina* project were eager to share their thoughts on their new home.

Photo courtesy of Kelly-Anne Riess.



"We learned a lot from the students' impressions of Regina. They were very honest," she says. The project was an excellent example of how creative activities can break down barriers between people and cultures. Pepper also noted that, "this project was a concrete example of this idea in action."

It is the hope of both the Filmpool, as well as SOHL, that this project will grow to be more than a one-time endeavour. "We hope that this wonderful partnership will continue in future years," remarks Ruzic.

Funding for this initiative was provided through the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. To see a copy of the *Our Home Regina* publication, please visit www.saskculture.sk.ca.

Newcomer youth spend time getting to know each other and create scrapbook pages for the *Our Home Regina* Publication.
Photos courtesy of Kelly-Anne Reiss.

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A non-profit organization that uses creative media to empower young people, Youth Media Workshop approached the Saskatoon Open Door Society about a project that would expose students, aged 13 to 18, to different forms of media, including print and video. While previous workshops involved students from different ethnic backgrounds, as well as mixed backgrounds, this project specifically targeted the Burmese community in Saskatoon.

“It was a media project basically to do with creative expression,” says Artin Lahiji, who coordinated the project for Youth Media Workshop. “They worked on documentaries and were basically telling their story – how they ended up here and all the problems and obstacles they encountered. They expressed their feelings about what happened and the reasons they left their homeland.”

Through the use of translators, the instructors and students were able to communicate through the universal languages of technology and the media. Although their parents may not be as conversant in those languages, many were pleased with what the students accomplished in the program.

“Parents want their kids to get involved with technology because we are in the age where kids are exposed to the media in different ways,” suggests Anahit Falihi, manager, Settlement and Family Support, Saskatoon Open Door Society.

“The parents like these workshops because they like to get their kids involved with something that is more educationally directed. They want some direction for their kids.”

That direction was something the students received and enjoyed, particularly for one of the students. Lahiji adds “we recognize the value of young people from all cultures. We wanted them to have access to media practices to express themselves. That was our goal.

“It was very good. They really enjoyed communicating their ideas through the media. One of them is now interested in pursuing film studies in the future.”

The partnership program offered by Youth Media Workshop and the Saskatoon Open Door Society was supported through SaskCulture’s Capacity Building Grant.

Newcomers work with Youth Media Workshop to explore working with print and video as forms of personal expression.

Photo courtesy of Kelly-Anne Reiss.

Media workshop opening doors for newcomers to Saskatoon

BY PAUL SPASOFF

A creative workshop is opening doors to new media for newcomers to Saskatoon and helping them share their stories with the community.

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.

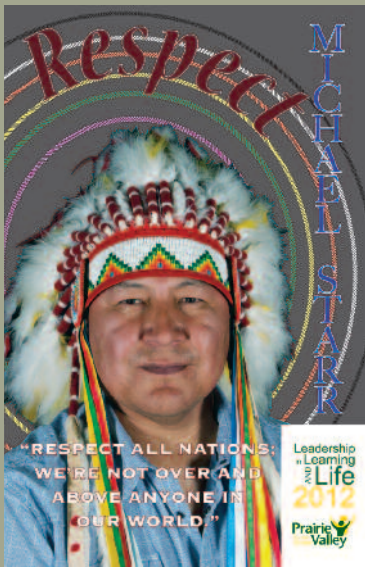
NEW DEADLINES: October 15, May 7

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Balcarres students recognize the role of First Nations and Métis people in their community

BY PAUL SPASOFF

In some communities, role models are merely people to be admired. While they also admire their role models in Balcarres, some students at Balcarres Community School are also preserving their role models for “posterity”.

Through the *First Nations Role Model Poster Project*, Grades 10 to 12 students in Michele Schwab’s classes are highlighting First Nations and Métis role models in the Balcarres area. This project is funded through a Treaty Smarts grant, which is offered by the Saskatchewan Arts Board in partnership with SaskCulture and the Ministry of Education.

“We applied for the grant so we could try and showcase First Nations and Métis role models in our community,” Schwab explains. “We wanted our kids to have some positive faces to identify with in terms of good role models. To actually see people they know from their own communities is important.”

First Nations role models are particularly important in the Balcarres area, which is located near the Little Black Bear, Peepeekisis, Okanese and Starblanket First Nations. The posters are based on the seven sacred teachings of the Aboriginal way of life – love, respect, courage, honesty, wisdom, humility and truth.

The final product is a collaboration with the Graphic Communications Program at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAS) in Regina, but the students have plenty of work to do before it gets to that stage.

Upon choosing their role model, Schwab’s students got to work researching their subjects, conducting interviews and taking photographs. After coming up with a preliminary sketch, they partnered up with students in the SIAS program to design and print their posters.

The end result is a professional product. Two years after the program first started, that product is starting to pile, up with 48 role model posters completed to date.

“It’s all based on who the kids believe are role models,” says Schwab. “You take the time to honour people that are important and do good things.

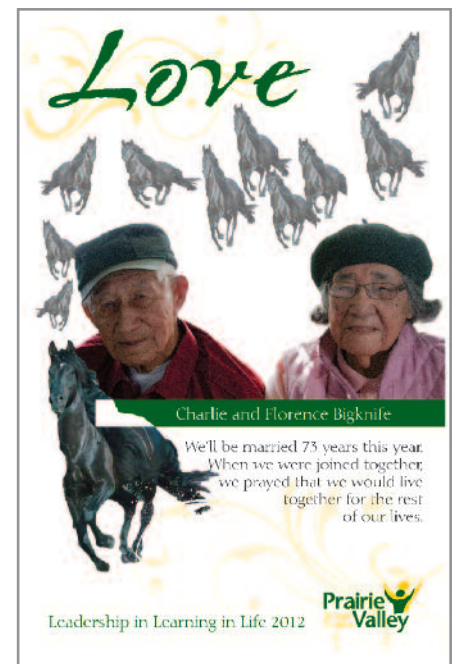
“Some of the role models have been peers. Some are people in the community that have done exceptional things. We’ve also covered most of our chiefs.”

Once the posters are completed, they are displayed in the school and throughout the community, including the local band offices and health centre. The posters are also on display at SIAS.

“What most of the kids got from this project was the fact that there are some really significant leaders and role models right here in our communities,” Schwab says. “The other thing the kids really get is that most role models that you see out in the media are predominantly white people. The opportunity to specifically showcase First Nations role models is important. This is a really nice way for us to showcase the positives, dispel the stereotypes and showcase some fantastic First Nations people out there and the wonderful things they do.”

What started as an idea with the Prairie Valley School Division’s First Nations and Métis Consultant has grown into something much larger. Schwab believes there are opportunities to expand it outside her community and school division.

“It’s really a great project and every year the kids look forward to it,” she says. “It’s so well received. It’s morphed itself into something way bigger than we originally thought. We’re not sure where it’s going from here, but it is a big deal.”



Role Models Poster Project showcased First Nations and Métis community leaders and their important contributions. Two of the posters are shown here.



Animateurs

Key in Culture Days Success

BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

Since Culture Days began in 2010, SaskCulture has hired artists from various disciplines to travel across the province to contact local community planners, libraries, museums and artists to help brainstorm ideas and build community support for Culture Days.

"It was certainly an adventure to experience the passion of Saskatchewan as it exists in the talents, tales and heritage of communities," says Danica Loré, a storyteller and 2012 Culture Days Animateur. She adds, "Volunteers were amazing wherever I went and I believe in the heart of Culture Days in Saskatchewan. We are a province with so much to share."

Along with Loré, the Culture Days Animateurs in 2012 were children's entertainer Sylvia Chave, musician Vincent Houghtaling and actor/musician Erroll Kinistino. Each Animateur focused on a particular area of the province.

Culture Days, held the last weekend in September each year, is a collaborative, pan-Canadian movement that aims to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement by all people in the cultural life of their local communities.

One of the main goals of Culture Days is to encourage community organizers to offer interactive cultural activities. As artists, Animateurs are experienced in engaging audiences and are eager to share their passion for creativity. They are able to help organizations brainstorm and plan interactive activities.

This year, Animateur Sylvia Chave wrote a customizable Culture Days song called the *Dream Team Song*. People were able to download the song, music and lyrics and write their own verses. "I think the song was a wonderful vehicle to engage people," says Chave. She adds, "Music really does create community. Watching all the kids creating their own actions and lyrics was one of my favourite moments, I never got enough of it."

(Left) Animateur Danica Loré tries walking on stilts at Ness Creek Music Festival. (Right) Culture Days Animateurs and SaskCulture staff meet up at the 2012 Gathering. Left to Right: Danica Loré, Michelle Brownridge, Vincent Houghtaling, Sylvia Chave, Diane Ell, Erroll Kinistino.



Culture Days in Numbers

231

Cultural Activities

that took place across the province

151

Activity Organizers

61%

of activities featured
Interactive Elements

54

Saskatchewan
Communities

that held activities

22,000+

People Participated

in Culture Days activities throughout
Saskatchewan during the weekend



Lorer approached her term as an Animateur with a storytelling perspective. Her workshop was entitled *Words, Webs and a Story Unwinds*. She would begin by explaining how an entire story can grow from only one word, then, pass out ribbons and beads with one word on them.

Participants were asked if they could think of a story about the word on their bead. After the stories were shared, the ribbons were weaved together to create web of intersecting stories. "The stories that grew out of the activity were remembered tales from childhood, memories and original and creative pieces born on the spot," she says.

Both Houghtaling and Kinistino engaged several areas of the province. Houghtaling focused on the southern part of the province participating in several events including the Windscape Kite Festival in Swift Current, the Festival of Words in

Moose Jaw and the Spiralling Forces Festival in Regina. Kinistino shared the Culture Days opportunity with First Nations leaders. "I really enjoyed the opportunity to travel throughout the province, make new connections and tell them about Culture Days," says Kinistino.

Lorer hopes that she will have left a lasting impression with the communities she visited during her time as an Animateur. "I think I have planted a few seeds and that Culture Days will continue to grow in this province. My own heart will always be grateful for the experience of being a Culture Days Animateur," she remarks.

For more information about Culture Days, visit www.culturedays.ca

You can hear Sylvia Chave's *Dream Team Song* by visiting www.saskculture.sk.ca



Wanuskewin draws a crowd Culture Days



“Culture Days at Wanuskewin Heritage Park was a great success this year. We were expecting around 100 people, but throughout the day over 500 people visited the park,” says Cameron McRae, visitor services manager, Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Wanuskewin took the opportunity of Culture Days to partner with several organizations to provide a fun-filled day of activities for patrons. The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, University of

Saskatchewan, St. Mary/Oskayak Dance Troupe and the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan all played a role in hosting activities throughout the day.

The day began with a behind the scenes trail walk with archaeologist Dr. Ernie Walker, exploring various historical archaeological sites. The sites included numerous habitation sites: four bison kills sites, a tipi ring and a boulder alignment. As well, Wanuskewin staff led a behind-the-scenes art gallery tour, and the St. Mary/Oskayak Dance Troupe performed



Photos courtesy of Cameron McRae.

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BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

traditional First Nations and Métis dances. There were also flint-knapping and beading demonstrations and dream catcher workshops held throughout the afternoon. The day concluded with a free bannock bake in the tipi village.

"Culture Days was a great experience for those who came to visit the park," says McRae. "People had the opportunity to be exposed to First Nations and Métis cultures and traditions and there was ample time for discussion with staff and volunteers," he adds.

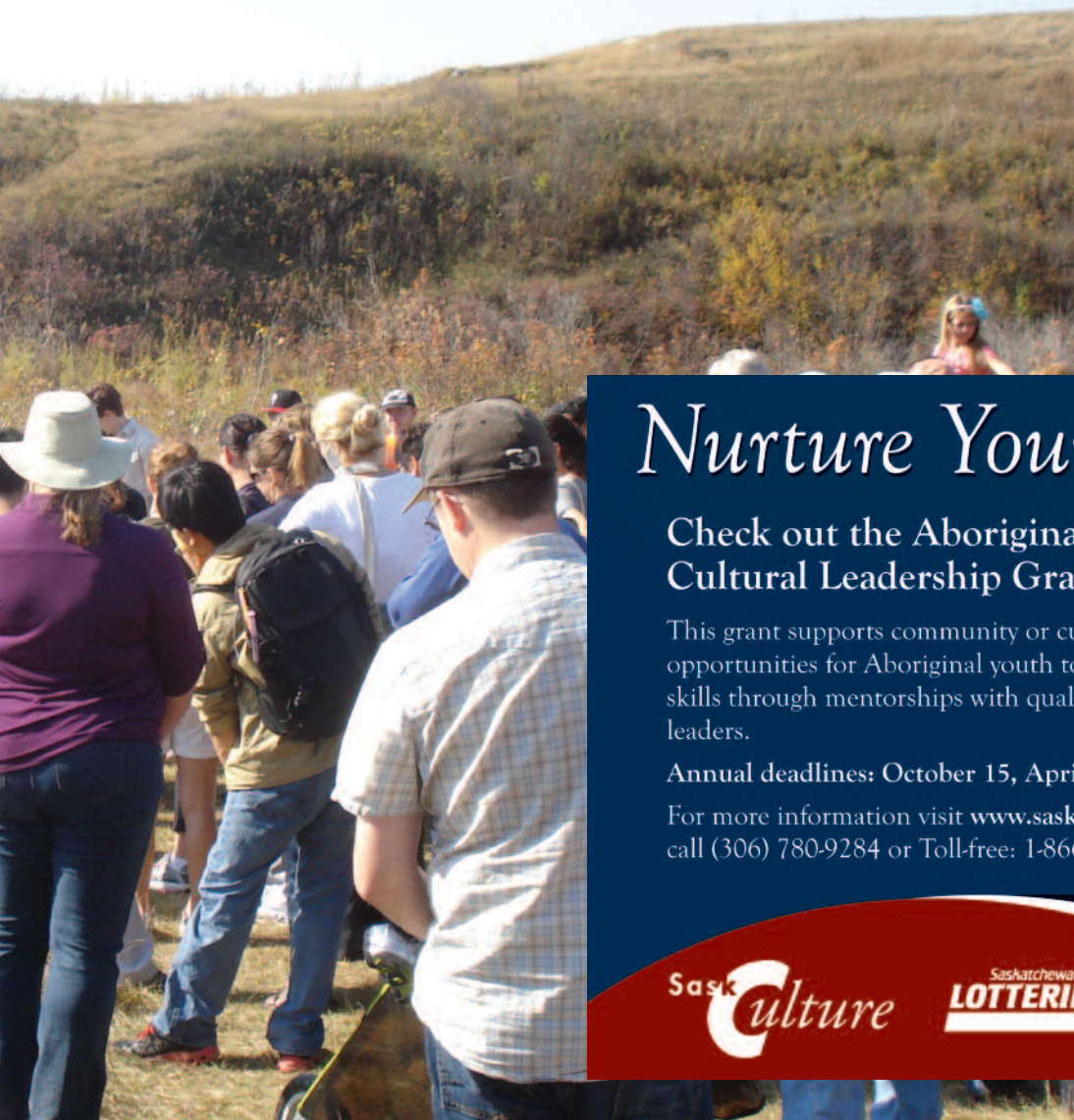
Wanuskewin received a Culture Days grant from SaskCulture to assist with programming. "Because of the grant, we were able to offer free admission to the park all day," says McRae. "It allowed us to increase our accessibility and reach a whole group of people who had never been to Wanuskewin."

Plans are already under way for next year's Culture Days events. "Fall is a great time to have people come out to the park," comments McRae. "We are excited to continue to partner and expand our programming with other organizations, building upon the success of this year's activities."

Wanuskewin exists to help increase awareness, sensitivity and knowledge of the Northern Plains Indigenous cultures to both First Nations and non-First Nations visitors. Partnership, respect, tolerance, teaching, learning and understanding are the values upon which the heritage park was founded.



Photos courtesy of Cameron McRae.



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.

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Tours helping newcomers Discover Saskatoon

BY PAUL SPASOFF

Museums. Art galleries. Historic sites. These three places are common sites on many cultural tours. In Saskatoon, leisure centres, government offices and food stores are the sites to discover instead.

Since the fall of 2010, the City of Saskatoon has been hosting Discover Saskatoon – a tour that uncovers the unique sites and history of Saskatoon. With funding from the federal and provincial governments, the tours are held twice a year in collaboration with Saskatoon’s Newcomer Information Centre and the University of Saskatchewan for newcomers to Saskatoon.

“The primary intent of the tour is to get people familiar with the leisure centres,” says Smita Garg, coordinator, Immigration Community Resources, City of Saskatoon. “People coming to Saskatoon may not be familiar with the concept of a leisure centre. A municipal government providing

recreation and leisure services is a new concept to many people because it doesn’t happen in all countries.”

“It gave me and other newcomers useful information and better understanding about Saskatoon”

... unnamed tour participant.

Five tours have taken place since they first began, with approximately 40 people participating each time. A sixth is planned for early 2013. While the concept has stayed the same, the route and activities change each time.

“I work closely with the leisure centre staff



“The primary intent of the tour is to get people familiar with the leisure centres.”

- Smita Garg



Newcomers explore Saskatoon by bus, stopping at various cultural and leisure centres along the way.

Photos courtesy of Smita Garg.

to have an interactive session,” says Garg. “That way they also get a taste of an activity that is organized at the leisure centre.

“It’s awesome to see people participate in these activities. Sometimes you will see two or three women in hijabs and they are doing aerobics. We’ll see a professional engineer that’s come and all of a sudden he’s doing Zumba. It’s such a great sight.”

A staff member from Leisure Services accompanies Garg on the tours to answer any questions, such as the cost of the programs and how to register for them. Given that the participants come from varied backgrounds, it is important to point out the rules and expectations of the facilities.

With the close proximity of some leisure centres to public libraries, tour organizers also have an opportunity to highlight these facilities. Although the city services are the focus of the tour, they are not the only attractions.

“The tour was very awesome. I learned a lot about the city. I visited a lot of areas but today I came to know the history of the city”

... unnamed tour participant.



Garg also takes time during the tours to point out the main agencies serving immigrant families in Saskatoon, as well as important provincial and federal government offices. Shopping malls and ethnic food stores are other popular points of interest on the tours.

“Most importantly in the tour we try to incorporate a little bit of history,” Garg says. “We need to make people aware of some of our history to create a sense of pride in the city they’ve come to.”

The Discover Saskatoon tours were born out of an immigration initiative by the City of Saskatoon about six or seven years ago.

In addition to creating Garg’s position, it also called for the creation of an immigration action plan with a mandate to make Saskatoon a welcoming community for newcomers.

From this work eventually evolved the idea of the leisure centre tours. They were based on a model in British Columbia and adapted to meet the needs of Saskatoon. To supplement the tour, a newcomers guide has also been developed.

“Thank you for making us feel a part of the culture”

... unnamed tour participant.

With the influx of international students at the University of Saskatchewan, the September tour is particularly popular on campus.

“We started thinking about how we can get these international students to begin to feel that this is home,” Garg explains. “The feedback has been tremendous because what it does is empower the students.”

The Discover Saskatoon tours are supported by SaskCulture’s Municipal Cultural Planning and Engagement grant and by the City of Saskatoon.

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: February 15

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

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New Deadline!



In *Café Daughter*, ten-year-old Yvette helps out at her parents' café. Because of her skin colour, Yvette encounters problems at school. In the hope of making her daughter's life easier, her mother suggests Yvette should never tell anyone she is part Cree.

According to Peeteetuce, the story is about one individual who faced isolation, discrimination and racism, and who went on to overcome all of those barriers to make some very large accomplishments in her life.

"This particular play is about fighting loneliness, it's about fighting isolation and discrimination. It's about overcoming those things that will often be seen as barriers and can often detriment your own personal development and finding success in your life," says Peeteetuce.

He adds that he believes *Café Daughter* is a story that speaks to all audiences.

Inspiration is not the only reason why the SNTC will be showcasing this play. *Café Daughter* fulfills SNTC's mandate and vision to foster the creativity and development of Saskatchewan arts and artists, he says.

The play is by Saskatchewan writer Kenneth T. Williams and features actress Rose Kristin Friday, who like Dr. Lillian E. Quan Dyck, are both from the Gordons First Nation.

"This is a truly Saskatchewan story for us," says Peeteetuce. "With those three artists involved, it makes this play uniquely Saskatchewan."

Café Daughter will run April 19 – 28, 2013 at 914 20th Street West in Saskatoon.

For more information, please visit the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's website at www.sntc.ca.

Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company's upcoming production to focus on empowering multicultural themes

BY SHAUNNA GRANDISH

This upcoming spring, the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) will be showcasing a touching and inspirational story about a young girl discovering her cultural identity.

Café Daughter is a one-woman show about a young girl, Yvette Wong, who grew up in Saskatchewan during the 1950's and 60's. Yvette is from a unique heritage; her mother is Cree and her father is Chinese. The play is inspired by the life of Dr. Lillian E. Quan Dyck, who is a well-known neuroscientist and a current member of Canada's Senate. She is also a member of Saskatchewan's Gordons First Nation.

"We wanted to tell an empowering story," says Curtis Peeteetuce, artistic director, SNTC.

Photo courtesy of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.

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



Creative Kids celebrates a successful year!

BY CHRISTIE NENSON, FUND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR, CREATIVE KIDS

What an exciting year it has been for Creative Kids! Thanks to the generous support of our donors, sponsors and volunteers, we were able to raise over \$208,000 for the PotashCorp's Colour a Kid's Life campaign. All of those funds will go directly to supporting kids facing financial barriers to participation in Saskatchewan communities. Kids like Alyssa* whose piano teacher sent us this letter:

I am a local piano teacher writing to tell you about my student Alyssa. Alyssa attended four classes of piano competition at the Regina Music Festival this year and received the first place award from all four classes! She takes initiative and is highly self-motivated. She has a bright future in the field of piano performance. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to Creative Kids for your support for Jessica. Your financial sponsorship is making her dream a reality! Your work is greatly appreciated by our community.

Since 2010, Creative Kids has provided over \$450,000 of funding to more than 1,700 children in over 100 different Saskatchewan communities. These kids, like Alyssa, are now part of our rich Saskatchewan cultural network. Creative Kids is proud to be able to connect a whole new generation to creative arts and culture activities.

We were also proud to introduce the *Creative Kids Holiday Gift Catalogue*. People were able to give the gift of music, theatre, dance, art or culture to a Saskatchewan child wishing to connect with their creative passions.

For each donation made, a beautiful card specific to the donation made was mailed out to keep, or to give as gifts.

For more information about the Creative Kids please call our office toll free at 1-855-277-9469.

*The name of the Creative Kids recipient is not included to protect her privacy.



Creative Kids provides children and youth with financial barriers the opportunity to participate in art and culture activities in their communities.

We cannot do it solo.

Contact us for more information or to make a donation

www.creativekidssask.ca
toll-free 1-855-277-9469



Art as a Catalyst for cultural connections

BY MICHELLE BROWNRIDGE

Art and creativity can be a powerful tool to bring people together and help them to learn from one another. This concept is something that the MacKenzie Art Gallery (MAG) in Regina has recognized and has been working with for several years. Each year, the MAG leads a program that has been very successful in bridging First Nations, Francophone and newcomer students. Up to this point, the project has involved students from Kahkewistahaw First Nation, École Monseigneur de Laval (a French language school) and ten other community schools.

"It is such a positive program," says Wendy Winter, gallery educator, MAG. "It's so rewarding to watch the students get to know each other and really open up." She adds, "By the second or third visit to the gallery, it's often as if they come without any inhibitions at all and they are really able to have fun."

Students involved in the program have the opportunity to come together at the MAG to tour exhibitions with gallery facilitators and engage in discussion and interactive,

Youth involved in the MacKenzie Art Gallery's bridging project work with artists to learn new artistic techniques.

Photos courtesy of Wendy Winter.



collaborative art projects. Workshop leaders are brought on board to work with students to instruct them in many different mediums including creative graffiti, photo transfers and sculpture among other things. The groups of students meet several times a year.

Field trips have often been a component of the program with students travelling from École Monseigneur de Laval to Kahkewistahaw First Nation. For some students, either visiting a First Nation or meeting a Francophone person is a first, and a great opportunity for learning.

"The project helps to bring Aboriginal cultures into schools that may not know a lot about them in a very personal and positive way," says Winter. Students from Kahkewistahaw also have the opportunity to learn about Francophone culture. Winter notes, "It's about encouraging the students to interact and connect with someone they might not ordinarily have a chance to meet in their everyday school life."

A couple of years ago, Winter began to notice a changing demographic at Laval. "There were a growing number of newcomers whose first language was French. The MAG saw this as another

opportunity to bring together multiple cultures in a learning environment. With the addition of a newcomer perspective to the program, the MAG was able to extend its ideas of collaborative learning even further. "It is sometimes easy for newcomers to pick up on and adopt negative stereotypes of Aboriginal people that are unfortunately so prevalent in our society," says Winter. "We hope that through our program, we can play a part in eliminating these misconceptions."

The culmination, of all of the hard work by students and workshop instructors, is an exhibition of all of the collaborative artwork produced throughout the duration of the program MAG. All of the participants are invited to come together once more for an exhibition reception to celebrate their efforts, connections made and the amazing art that was created along the way. "It is a great opportunity to have a part of the program that is open to the public," says Winter. "When people come into the gallery and see the exhibition, it is an opportunity to see the changes that are happening in our communities from the perspectives of youth from many different backgrounds."

"For some students, either visiting a First Nation or meeting a Francophone person is a first, and a great opportunity for learning."



Students involved in the program come together at the MacKenzie Art Gallery to tour exhibitions with gallery facilitators and engage in discussion.



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Participant in the MacKenzie Art Gallery's bridging project paints a mural in graffiti style.

Photo courtesy of Wendy Winter.

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