



November 13, 2009

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

New SaskCulture Inc. Board in place for 2009-2010

At its Annual General Meeting, held October 24, 2009, the SaskCulture Inc. membership elected six new directors to the SaskCulture Board and two existing directors were re-elected.

“The 2009-2010 Board has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming year,” said Peter England, SaskCulture President. “Thanks to a new five-year, lottery licence agreement signed with government, the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation can continue to support over 1,500 cultural groups that offer over 8,000 programs annually. As well, the increased collaboration among cultural leaders continues to provide opportunities to enhance the cultural delivery system to better meet the needs of Saskatchewan people for generations to come.”

New to the board this year are Harvey Knight from Prince Albert, David Cormican from Regina, Laurel Reimche from Estevan, Emmaline Hill from Regina, Brenda Shenher from Regina and James Ingold from Saskatoon. Bula Ghosh from Swift Current and Louise Oelke from Saskatoon were re-elected.

The new board members join returning directors: Peter England (President) of Saskatoon, Herman Slotsve (Past President) of Esterhazy, Jack Walton of Gravelbourg, Reggie Newkirk of Lumsden, Rod MacIntyre of La Ronge and Bob Friedrich of Regina. Biographies for each board member are attached.

These individuals help make up the 14-member Board of Directors. Each member brings a diverse range of cultural experience from areas such as arts, heritage, multiculturalism, cultural industries, as well as from the Métis and First Nations cultural communities.

SaskCulture Inc. is a community-run organization, which works with over 120 member organizations and other community partners, to build a culturally vibrant province, where all citizens can celebrate, value and participate in a rich, cultural life.

For more information on each board member, please see attached backgrounder, also available on the SaskCulture web site at http://www.saskculture.sk.ca/SaskCulture/board_bios.htm

- 30 -

Media Contact:

Diane Ell, Communications Manager,
SaskCulture Inc., (306) 780-9453
diane.ell@saskculture.sk.ca

**SASKCULTURE INC. BOARD BIOGRAPHIES
BACKGROUNDERS
2009-2010**

PETER ENGLAND, PRESIDENT

Peter England is an active conductor, adjudicator and clinician in Saskatchewan. He is a former teacher with the Saskatoon Catholic Board of Education, having retired in 1999 after 32 years in the classroom. The majority of that time was spent teaching at Holy Cross High School. Upon retirement, Peter was engaged by the University of Saskatchewan as a sessional lecturer in Music Technology and coordinator of UNIFEST. Peter has a wealth of volunteer experience serving on the boards of the Canadian Band Association, Saskatchewan Band Association, the Saskatoon Men's Chorus, the Heart of the City Piano Program, the Saskatoon Jazz Society and the Canadian Student Leadership Conference.

Prior to being elected President of the SaskCulture Board in 2008, Peter was a Member at Large for three years, including one year as Vice-President. He has served on various committees including the Audit Committee, Spending Plan Committee, Human Resources Committee, the Funding Review Committee, as well as the chair of the Eligibility Committee. He and his wife Shirley live in Saskatoon and have three grown children.

HERMAN SLOTSVE, PAST PRESIDENT

A retired teacher living in Esterhazy, Herman understands the value of cultural activity to communities in Saskatchewan. He has been an active citizen in his local community, volunteering for Music Boosters, the Artist in Residence Council and the Potashville Multicultural Council. Herman gained valuable leadership experience from his volunteer work at the provincial level, serving on the executive of the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan for seven years, including a one-year term as President. He has received numerous awards including Esterhazy Citizen of the Year Award and the Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award. During his teaching career, Herman held several positions in his local professional association and was a Student Council Advisor for 20 years. He was a founder of, and advisor to, Amnesty International, Multicultural Youth and SADD groups at Esterhazy High School.

Herman previously served on the SaskCulture Board of Directors from 1997 – 2004 and held the position of President from 2000 – 2002. After a two-year absence, he was elected in as President again in 2006 served another two years. He is currently serving a two-year term as Past President.

(in alphabetical order)

DAVID CORMICAN

David Cormican is a film producer, developer, actor and supporter of emerging cultural talent. He founded Year of the Skunk Productions in 2004, as well as creating the prestigious Canadian Short Screenplay Competition in 2008, which rewards writers with their first script fully produced as a film.

In the same year as he started this new Competition, he became the Head of Development for Minds Eye Entertainment where he currently oversees the development, financing and production of over 30 projects. Outside of his role with Minds Eye Entertainment, David has developed several other productions, but is best known for his performance work. He has been honoured with three nominations and one win (Calgary Fringe Film Festival) as Best Actor for his work in Gabrielle Nadeau's French-English drama *Quebec, Quebec*. Recently, David produced and started in the 34-minute thriller *Endless Night* (set to make its festival circuit debut mid-2009) and played opposite Rupert Friend and Clemence Poesy in the Minds Eye/Killer Films *Lullaby for Pi*.

David is a member of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists, Canadian Actors Equity, and Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association. He is an ambassador for Raindance Canada and is involved with the Myelin Project of Canada, Easter Seals Regina, a counsellor for ACTRA Saskatchewan and a board member on the Regina Downtown B.I.D committee, where he has been involved in the creation of the new downtown master plan. He lives in downtown Regina with his daughter. He was elected in 2009 for a two-year term.

ROBERT FRIEDRICH

Robert Friedrich has done considerable work at the national and international level to promote heritage, multiculturalism and diversity. He spent several years working in the Regina office of Canadian Heritage. He has been involved in many different projects: the development of a national youth project, called Youth Action Now, which focused on youth in the prairies and northern Canada; a project with the Saskatoon Police Service to create a model for police outreach to diverse populations and the provision of more culturally sensitive services; a United Nations project in Hanover, Germany, working with youth on issues of racism and xenophobia; the creation of a process to draft a memorandum of understanding on multiculturalism at a multi-party level here in Saskatchewan; and the national performance framework for Canadian Heritage's Multicultural Program.

Bob has received several awards for his work, including three Deputy Minister's Awards for Distinction from Canadian Heritage and the Betty Szuchewycz Award for contributions to multiculturalism in Saskatchewan from the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan.

Bob was elected in 2008 to serve a 2-year term on the SaskCulture Board.

BULA GHOSH

Bula Ghosh has worked as a literacy and ESL educator, both professionally and as a volunteer, since moving to Canada from India in 1981. She has a special interest in promoting diversity and multiculturalism, and has done so both through her teaching and through work with a number of organizations in both Yorkton and Swift Current. She has been actively involved in community building, and was instrumental in founding the International Women of Swift Current and reviving the South West Multicultural Association. She also worked with the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival to create an award in the multicultural film and video category.

Bula has volunteered on several boards, including Canadian Mental Health, Yorkton Open Door Society, Yorkton and District Multicultural Organization and Immigrant Women of Yorkton. She currently works as the Basic Education Program Coordinator/Counselor at Great Plains College in Swift Current.

In 2008, Bula was placed by acclamation into a one-year term on the SaskCulture Board. She was re-elected in 2009 for a two-year term.

EMMALINE HILL

Emmaline Hill grew up in a family with a passion for the arts. Over the years, she has continued to find ways to contribute to cultural development, supporting various activities in the communities where she has lived.

During her university years, she spent summers working for the Saskatoon Fringe Festival, Flatlands Music Festival and Globe Theatre's Lanterns on the Lake. In 2002, she earned a Bachelor of Music Performance at the University of Calgary and began working as an arts administrator first with the Calgary Multicultural Centre and later for StoryBook Theatre, a community children's theatre. While in Calgary, she served on the board of the Calgary Professional Arts Alliance and was deeply involved in the Civic Arts Policy Review, as well as participating in discussions that led to the creation of the Calgary Arts Development Authority. She is also an active member of the Canadian Conference of the Arts.

In 2004, Emmaline moved back to Regina and took a position in youth policy with the provincial government. She began, and continues, volunteering for CJTR, Regina's community radio station, and with the Allocations Committee of the United Way. She served as Vice Chair with the Al Ritchie Community Association for two years, and is currently serving her second two-year term on the Radius Communications Board of Directors.

She currently works as a management consultant with the City of Regina and remains knowledgeable about the arts in Regina, mainly as an avid audience member and through activities with her family. In 2009, she was elected to a two-year term on the SaskCulture Board.

JAMES INGOLD

James Ingold has a long-standing interest in historical study, a love of learning and purveying learned knowledge to others, particularly his deep interest in the heritage of Saskatchewan.

He is a graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts, with High Honours in History, and is currently enrolled in the College of Educations' secondary teacher's program. This past summer, he worked with the City of Saskatoon researching the city's heritage buildings for a Built Heritage database. He has also attended and presented at various historical conferences including the Keewatin Country Graduate Student History Conference. Through these experiences, he came to know more fully the diverse and stimulating heritage that pervades not only in Saskatoon but also throughout the province.

James is also a musician, who plays guitar either solo or with a band at a number of different musical events including the Prairie Arts Festival Jawbreaker. He is a member

of SaskMusic and an alumnus of the Festival of Words Sage Hill Teen Writing Experience. In addition, he is a regular attendee of Saskatoon Swings “Swinging on the Saskatchewan” and rarely misses large events like the Saskatchewan Jazz Festival or Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan.

In 2009, James was elected by acclamation to a two-year position on the SaskCulture Board.

HARVEY KNIGHT

Harvey Knight has extensive and varied background in creative arts, as a painter, musician and writer. He finds that his experience, skills and background are rooted in two worlds, both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Being a member of a musical family, he has grown as a manager and music promoter, obtaining knowledge and experience of the music industry and the prominent gala music events including the Juno Awards. Through his company Many Worlds Music, he assisted with the recording performance and video development of successful artists including Canadian Aboriginal Awards winners Eekewol and Mils and Juno Award winner Chester Knight. His literary experience ranges from co-authoring an anthology of shorts stories entitled *Achimoona*, to editing, designing and publishing other works in collaboration with other writers. As an audio-videographer for the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College, he recorded and archived a wealth of stories and songs by traditional Indigenous elders in the early 1970s.

He continues to give back to his own community. Back in 2001-2004, he coordinated an annual music festival at Muskoday First Nation. In 2007, he served on the Prince Albert Aboriginal Music & Arts Festival Board and coordinated live musical showcases at Turks Coffee House in Prince Albert during the same year. He has taught Indigenous knowledge and worldview as a sessional lecturer for First Nations University of Canada and been involved in coordinating a number of culture camps for elders, youth and post-secondary students.

Knight is currently employed as a community Planner for Muskoday First Nation and serves as President of the Muskoday Organic Growers Cooperative Ltd., a non-profit workers collective that produces and markets certified indigenous organic potatoes. He is married with three children who are grown up and have families of their own. In 2009, he was elected to serve a two-year term on the SaskCulture Board.

ROD MACINTYRE

As a working artist, Rod MacIntyre has maintained an active interest in the policies and goals of organizations related to various aspects of the arts. He began his artistic career as a poet, worked for 20 years as an actor, playwright and director, and since 1991 has focused primarily on fiction writing and editing. Rod lives in La Ronge and is a passionate defender of the emerging artist and of cultural phenomena that are unique expressions of place.

He has held membership in Canadian Actors' Equity and was on the founding board of the Playwrights Union of Canada and the Saskatchewan Playwrights' Centre. He is an active member in the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (SWG) board and has twice sat on its board. He was the Saskatchewan Writers Guild's representative on CanCopy's (now

Access Copyright) national board and is also a member of the Writers' Union of Canada and a former director of the Writers' Guild of Canada. He served a term on the board of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association and on the Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society's Festivals Committee.

Appointed to the SaskCulture Board in 2007, Rod served one year and then in 2008, was re-elected for a two-year term.

REGINALD NEWKIRK

Reggie is well-recognized in Saskatchewan for his work to promote culture, diversity and the protection of human rights. After graduating with a BA in history and philosophy, Mr. Newkirk worked with Napi (Blackfoot) Friendship Association in Pincher Creek, Alberta and served on the Provincial and National Association of Friendship Centres. Through his volunteer activities and work experience he builds awareness of effective board governance and promotes a comprehensive vision of culture that includes facilitating positive relations and unity of thought and action. A skilled trainer, facilitator, and “big picture” thinker, he is also a passionate advocate for culture. He places a special emphasis on young people in the areas of multicultural policy, music and arts.

He has served in numerous capacities in the human rights field with the federal, provincial and territorial Human Rights Commissions. He currently serves as a board member for the Regina Jazz Society and is a member of RCMP Commanding Officer’s Committee on Diversity Management, Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, the Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association and is a “critical friend” of the Sakewew High School in North Battleford. He currently runs his own consulting company, Parity Consulting, from his home in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, through which he offers a wide range of training and workshop programs.

Originally elected in 2005, Reggie has served three terms on the SaskCulture Board of Directors. In 2008, he was re-elected by acclamation for another two-year term.

LOUISE OELKE

Louise Oelke has an extensive background working and volunteering with a diverse range of people from many different cultures. Born and raised in northern Saskatchewan, she is of Métis ancestry and speaks fluently in Cree language. She values accessibility, inclusiveness, equal opportunity and democratic processes and is committed to the work that she takes on.

Louise is very committed to the Aboriginal community of Saskatchewan. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for eight years, is President of Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan and is a committee member of Urban Aboriginal Strategy and for CLASSIC – free legal services for low income individuals. She also volunteers for Folkfest, Victoria Day Festival, North American Indigenous Games, Fringe Festival, and Back to Batoche Days.

She currently works for Central Urban Métis Federation Inc as the Director of Housing and Director of Infinity House, a Saskatoon woman’s shelter where single mothers and their children reside and work towards a safe, enriched environment for themselves and their children. Louise served on SaskCulture’s Multicultural Initiative Fund Committee in 2006-2007 and was elected to the Board of Directors (Member-at-Large) for 2007-2009, and re-elected in 2009 for an additional two-year term.

LAUREL REIMCHE

Laurel Reimche has spent her entire working life in libraries, first in the public library sector and now in a school library, where the promotion of culture and cultural diversity is a natural part of the service. She has considerable experience working on committees and various boards.

For the past 20 years, Laurel has worked as a teacher-librarian at the Estevan Comprehensive School. To support her strong belief in promoting libraries, books and reading, she spearheaded the organization of an annual “Book Festival Day” where students have the opportunity to attend readings by Saskatchewan authors, and the community can attend these readings at a banquet later in the day. Prior to working in Estevan, she worked in the regional public library system, including Yorkton Public Library and Palliser Regional Library Headquarter in Moose Jaw. In 1985-1989, she was the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Library Association. She holds a Library Technician Certificate from Kelsey and a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Regina.

She is an active member of the Saskatchewan School Library Association and an institutional member of the Canadian Library Association. She is also a member of the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, Estevan Art Gallery and Museum, and served on the committee that founded the Saskatchewan Youth Readers Choice/Willow Awards. She and her husband, mystery writer Scott Gregory Miller, live in Estevan.

In 2009, she was elected to the SaskCulture Board for a two-year term.

BRENDA SHENHER

Brenda Shenher has worked in the arts and entertainment industry in North America for the past 25 years. Her career path and education has taken her into areas of music, film, journalism, photography and costume design. She believes that from her years of experience in various disciplines she would bring an informed and all encompassing vision to support the growth and development of policies that would benefit all of the province’s various cultural strands.

Brenda began her career working for MCA Records and Perryscope Concert Productions, promoting such touring artists as Rod Stewart, Tina Turner, The Clash, Kiss, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, Willie Nelson and more. During this time, she also worked as a photographer and journalist for *New Music Express*. She went on to film school and produced and directed experimental and alternative films for three years before earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature and a Bachelor of Education Degree in the early 1990’s. During this time, she worked as an Editorial Fashion Shoot Producer and launched her career as a Costume Designer. Since this time, she continues to work as a costume designer on international, national and provincial productions including the international mini series *Diamonds*, and several American productions. Her work on “Corner Gas” garnered her a Gemini nomination for Best Costume Design in 2004.

In all areas of her life and craft, Brenda considers herself an educator. Throughout her career, she works tirelessly to train new people to the challenges and joys of this

profession. Brenda lives in Regina and intends to pursue an inter-disciplinary Masters Degree in film and education in the near future. In 2009, she was elected to serve a two-year term on the SaskCulture Board.

JACK WALTON

Jack believes that good things come from accessible creative opportunities and that community is the product of individual participation. For over 30 years, he has worked in the arts, cultural industries and cultural tourism and has been a volunteer advocate for their development and sustainability.

Jack's career includes production in film, television, theatre, music and festivals, as well as working as a musician, composer, writer, journalist, project consultant and facilitator. He has served as President of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Association and founding Chair of SaskFilm and the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival, as well as Chair of the Saskatchewan Museum Funding Review and Saskatchewan Festivals & Events. In the past, he has served on the boards of the Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Cultural Exchange Society, Tourism Saskatoon, Tourism Industry of Saskatchewan, Canadian Association of Festivals & Events, Canadian Conference of the Arts, Gravelbourg Summer Solstice Festival and Gravelbourg & District Museum and as member of the Saskatchewan Cultural Tourism Task Force. He is currently the Artistic Director & Producer of the Gravelbourg Community Arts Centre.

Originally elected in 2006, Jack served a two-year term, and in 2008, was placed by acclamation in an additional two-year term on the SaskCulture Board.