

# Culture Days

CELEBRATING ARTS + CULTURE FROM COAST TO COAST

## What is *Culture Days*?

*Culture Days* is a collaborative pan-Canadian initiative that aims to raise the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement by all Canadians in cultural activities in their communities. *Culture Days* includes all areas of culture: arts, heritage, multicultural, ethno-cultural, First Nations and Métis cultures, and creative industries.

During three days each September, participating cultural groups are encouraged to provide opportunities for the public to learn more about their particular cultural activity. Cultural groups, who want to attract new audiences or engage more participants, can open their doors for a few hours or more to provide free, interactive cultural experiences or demonstrations that are open to the public as part of this nationally promoted *Culture Days* initiative.

Cultural activities can be as simple as holding an open house for a few hours, providing demonstrations for school groups, offering opportunities to learn about a particular cultural heritage, or having cultural workers open up their studios. Others might want to give guided tours, hold a workshop, or give a public performance. The opportunities to promote cultural activity in Saskatchewan are endless!

## Why do we need *Culture Days* in Saskatchewan?

Saskatchewan's cultural community has been looking for an opportunity to work together to promote the value of arts, culture and heritage activities to the people of Saskatchewan.

*Culture Days* provides that opportunity! If we work together we can highlight Saskatchewan's vibrant culture – and encourage residents to explore new cultural activities, volunteer and celebrate culture in their communities.

We can help the people of Saskatchewan understand:

- the importance of cultural activity to their community's quality of life;
- the different cultures, cultural workers and artists that make Saskatchewan home;
- the many opportunities available to participate in cultural activity in communities throughout the province;
- the economic impact of culture and cultural industries in Saskatchewan; and
- the benefits of being involved in cultural activity for an individual's well-being.



## Who is involved in *Culture Days*?

Anyone who wants to be can be involved! Any cultural group, individual artist or cultural worker who wants to provide one or more **free, interactive, engaging** cultural experiences that are **open to the public** during the third week of September, can register their event(s) in the *Culture Days* database at [www.culturedays.ca](http://www.culturedays.ca).

This year, *Culture Days* will take place **September 24-26, 2010**.

Each province has established its own Provincial Task Force to help guide the provincial *Culture Days* program. Nationally, a *Culture Days* Steering Committee is guiding the national *Culture Days* public awareness campaign (from June to September each year), which includes the development of *Culture Days* resources, a *Culture Days* web site and database, as well as the coordination of national sponsorships.



## What will *Culture Days* in Saskatchewan look like?

A Provincial Task Force has been formed to coordinate and promote *Culture Days* in Saskatchewan. SaskCulture, along with the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, are helping to lead the initiative. After initial discussions, the Task Force sees *Culture Days* in Saskatchewan as an opportunity to:

- spark people's interest by promoting the vibrant culture in Saskatchewan communities;
- motivate Saskatchewan residents to try a new cultural activity or visit a cultural attraction;
- be inclusive of all areas of culture: arts, heritage, multiculturalism, ethno-culturalism, First Nations and Métis cultures and cultural industries;
- encourage collaboration of cultural groups and other community partners;
- create and leave a legacy of strong connections between citizens, cultural workers, artists and their communities; and
- highlight Saskatchewan's culture to the rest of the country.

## How do groups or individuals get involved?



- ▶ Identify an activity that you or your organization could promote to the public during *Culture Days*;
- ▶ Ensure the activity is free, open to the public and provides an interactive engagement experience;
- ▶ Register your event at [www.culturedays.ca](http://www.culturedays.ca) (beginning March 2010)

If you want to find out more:

Contact Diane Eil at SaskCulture by calling 306-780-9453 or [diane.eil@saskculture.sk.ca](mailto:diane.eil@saskculture.sk.ca)