

June 16, 2008

Premier establishes council on arts and culture

Edmonton... The search is underway for an 11-member council that will help guide the implementation of *The Spirit of Alberta* - Alberta's Cultural Policy.

"Involving Albertans and working with communities on an on-going basis will help set *The Spirit of Alberta* up for success," said Ed Stelmach, Premier. "We are seeking out Albertans who have their fingers on the pulse of the cultural community and can act as liaisons between government and Alberta's cultural stakeholders."

The Premier's Council on Arts and Culture, which will fall under the ministry of Culture and Community Spirit, will be tasked with:

- acting as provincial champions for culture and helping to build a greater awareness and appreciation of its social and economic benefits,
- providing advice on cultural initiatives designed to address the policy's four goals: Access, Capacity, Excellence and Cultural Industries; and
- facilitating and enhancing partnerships that strengthen Alberta's cultural community and preserve our cultural legacy.

The Spirit of Alberta broadly recognizes culture, and includes the arts, our heritage, the natural environment and recreation. Council members will be selected based on their knowledge and expertise in these areas.

"The successful implementation of this policy relies on solid partnerships and innovative thinking," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. "This council will play a significant role in establishing and maintaining these critical partnerships and providing strategic advice."

Council members will be appointed to one, two or three-year terms and will meet at least twice each year. Members will be paid an honorarium for attending meetings; and travel expenses will be reimbursed as required. To apply for a position on the council, Albertans can visit www.jobs.alberta.ca and enter in competition number 49578. **The closing date for this competition is July 4.**

The Spirit of Alberta is a policy to ensure all Albertans have access to culture in their communities, and that our artists and cultural industries can thrive. It provides a framework for decision-making related to the support, growth and development of culture. For more information on *The Spirit of Alberta* visit www.culture.alberta.ca

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