November 20, 2009

**Long-term plan report for cultural facilities available online**

*Regional talks yield information for planning*

*Edmonton*... Input gathered across the province about Alberta’s arts, culture and heritage facilities will be used in planning for the coming years.

Culture and Community Spirit undertook a cultural facilities review to better understand current usage and needs and to identify emerging trends. As part of this review, Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, hosted six regional dialogues in June 2009 to hear first-hand from more than 160 provincial representatives.

When looking at the trends and issues facing the cultural sectors across the province, a number of themes emerged, including: space needs and gaps; the need for multi-use or multi-disciplinary spaces; aging infrastructure; the importance of partnerships for new development; shifting demographics; the uses and challenges of new technology; and the growing role of municipalities in cultural facilities planning.

The input is summarized in the *Regional Cultural Facilities Dialogue Report*, available on the department website, [www.culture.alberta.ca](http://www.culture.alberta.ca).

The Government of Alberta is committed to the development of a well-managed, fiscally robust and sustainable cultural sector. Financial assistance for cultural facilities is provided through a number of community investment programs to deliver affordable and high-quality cultural experiences to Alberta’s rural and urban communities.

-30-

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**
Parker Hogan
Communications
Alberta Culture and Community Spirit
780-427-2395

To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.