

Heritage Saskatchewan MLA Reception May 11, 2011
Speaking Notes
MC – Kristin Enns-Kavanagh
5:30 PM

Good evening.

Ministers,
Honorable Members, and
Distinguished Guests.

I am Kristin Enns-Kavanagh, President of the Board of Directors for Heritage Saskatchewan. Please allow me to welcome all of you to our reception this evening.

I extend a sincere thank you to all the honorable members who accepted our invitation tonight. We have over 25 MLAs here from both the government and the opposition. Your support and interest speaks volumes about how important Saskatchewan's heritage legacy is to the people of this province.

A special thank you is extended to the Honorable Bill Hutchinson, Minister for Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, along with Deputy Minister Wynne Young and Associate Deputy Minister Lynne Gallagher, for their attendance this evening.

Minister Hutchinson and his staff have been very supportive and helpful to Heritage Saskatchewan since our inception, and we thank them for that and for their attendance here this evening. Since we've started, as well, we've already had one great success story: we've seen an increase in support for Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, the main source of funding for heritage work in the province. We'd very much like to thank the Ministry for all their hard work in making that come to pass.

And we'll hear about that again a little later.

Welcome, as well, to any other Deputy Ministers in attendance.

I'd like to acknowledge Reggie Newkirk, President of the Board of SaskCulture. Heritage Saskatchewan receives its funding through SaskCulture and the Lotteries Trust System, so we'd like to thank them and also congratulate them on their launch, this past Monday, of plans for the second annual Culture Days, a national event coming this September that will celebrate community participation in cultural and heritage activities.

There are several members of our Heritage Saskatchewan Board here tonight. I'll ask them all to wave as I mention their names, and please feel free to approach them this evening:

Joe	LeClair
Sandra	Massey

Anne Reinhardt
Gary Seib
Terry Sinclair

I'll introduce as well Ingrid Cazakoff, our CEO.

We have several members of the Board of Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation here tonight, including: Vice-Chair Jennifer Hoesgen, and Board Members Don Telfor, Claude-Jean Harel, and Ross Harrington.

Thank you also to SHF for the use of their photo screen this evening, showcasing photos of a number of projects that they have funded.

Also in attendance are representatives from Tourism Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Arts Board, Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, Nature Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Archives Board, and Museums Association of Saskatchewan.

Some of those organizations are also member organizations of Heritage Saskatchewan, and we have many other Heritage Saskatchewan members present as well.

Welcome to you all, and thank you for your support!

I'd like to thank Olivia and Yvonne from *oh my! solutions*, our event planners, for all their hard work.

At this time, the Honorable Bill Hutchinson, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport, has kindly agreed to say a few words. Please help me welcome Minister Hutchinson.

Thank you, Mr. Minister.

This reception provides an opportunity for MLAs and members of the heritage and cultural communities to connect around something that is common to all of us: our pride in being from Saskatchewan.

As our attendance here tonight shows, Saskatchewan's heritage legacy is so much more than "old things". It is the living, vibrant identity of the Saskatchewan people. Our province's natural beauty, our languages and cultural traditions, AND our shared history are all part of this legacy, but the whole is so much more than the sum of its parts. Our identity as the people of Saskatchewan is the purview of all government, not simply the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.

Stories, places and traditions connect us with who we are and what we value. I encourage everyone, tonight, to share stories about the aspects of Saskatchewan that mean the most to you. In doing so, I hope you'll enjoy connecting (or re-connecting) with heritage that inspires you. I also hope you'll be reminded of why it's so important that we protect our heritage legacy for the future.

Pride in our heritage contributes to a high quality of life for both individuals and communities. People want to live in communities that are unique, special, and vibrant; such communities are also attractive to business and tourism. When we understand the obstacles that communities have successfully overcome in the past, it gives us hope and engenders optimism that we can meet the challenges that face us today.

Therefore, government support of Saskatchewan's heritage legacy is an important part of building a prosperous, vital province and a bright future for our children.

As I mentioned earlier, since Heritage Saskatchewan's inception, we've already had one great success story: we've seen a 74% increase in support for Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, the main source of funding for heritage work in the province.

The need for government support for heritage is not finished, however. Many other institutions that do great work in safeguarding and promoting Saskatchewan's heritage also need support if they are to stay effective and relevant. To move forward, we need to continue to build strong, collaborative relationships with government, where Heritage Saskatchewan can help decision makers stay connected with the voice of the heritage community.

As well, we need the voices of MLAs like yourselves during budget deliberations, arguing that support for heritage is an investment in the health of communities, an investment in people, in the economy, and in the future. This investment helps ensure that, like all of us here tonight, the generations to come will understand what it means to be proud to live in Saskatchewan.

Thank you once again for your support in attending tonight. Please mingle and enjoy the food and conversation.

Our refreshments tonight are provided by two local businesses, Gilmour's Corner for the hors d'oeuvres and wine and chocolates from Parenteau's Gourmet Foods.

Thank you all once again for coming. Enjoy your evening.