



## Heritage Saskatchewan Position Statement The Role of Heritage in “Moving Saskatchewan Forward”

### Introduction: Heritage and Quality of Life

*“Growing, vibrant communities. That’s the Saskatchewan Advantage.”*

-Saskatchewan Advantage Budget Address March 23, 2011

In the March 2011 Budget Address, The Honorable Ken Krawetz (Minister of Finance) spoke of how Saskatchewan’s current economic growth, coupled with our province’s enviable quality of life, creates “the Saskatchewan Advantage”: a lively, vibrant province with a bright future. This economic growth, further, is not an end in itself but rather a means to get at what matters: making Saskatchewan the best place in the world to live. This thought was echoed in the December 2011 Speech from the Throne:

*“Simply put, our vision is that Saskatchewan will be the best place in Canada—to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.”*

-Moving Saskatchewan Forward Throne Speech December 5, 2011

This position paper focuses upon an important building block to moving Saskatchewan forward and creating vibrant, healthy, attractive communities: **Saskatchewan’s unique heritage.**

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. Stories, places and traditions connect us with who we are and what we value. Our heritage is a gift to future generations.

Understanding our heritage ensures that future generations can learn from the past, build communities in the present, and ensure a prosperous, vital province in the future. Access to heritage creates a sense of identity and belonging and helps people feel that they are part of something that is larger than themselves. Because our heritage tells us where we come from, and therefore who we are, access to heritage helps build healthy communities.

*Identity plays a key role in healthy child development. When a child feels a sense of belonging to family, community and peers he or she is better able to deal with adversity.*

-Public Health Agency of Canada, “Aboriginal children: The Healing Power of Cultural Identity”

Access to heritage is a key component in enhancing a high quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan.

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

## **Saskatchewan's Economic Growth Boom: a Critical Time for Heritage Investment**

Our province's economy is growing. The Saskatchewan government has made a commitment to continue "moving Saskatchewan forward" through an action plan that includes improvements to quality of life (Throne Speech December 5, 2011) (Saskatchewan Party "Moving Saskatchewan Forward" 2011 Election Platform).

The 2010 release of Saskatchewan's first cultural policy in over 25 years, *Pride of Saskatchewan*, was a significant step forward for culture. As well, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF) received an increase in funding in the 2011-2012 Budget, with an increase in yearly funding from \$289,000 to \$504,000. We wish to commend the Saskatchewan Government and specifically, the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport, for their role in these much-needed investments in the cultural and heritage community.

We have made a good beginning. How, then, do we "move Saskatchewan forward" for heritage in the upcoming time of economic growth?

The growth boom is a critical time for investment in heritage. We are currently at a crossroads in Saskatchewan; we want the benefits of growth and development, but we also don't want to lose the quality of life that Saskatchewan is famous for. Investment in heritage supports quality of life in communities, making Saskatchewan a rich, diverse, and exciting place to live and raise a family. There are other reasons why investment in heritage is important now: without careful planning and investment, economic growth can have a negative impact on the livability of communities as demands for infrastructure and natural resources increase. Therefore it is important that investments occur that allow communities to determine what they value in terms of their heritage, and then work towards ensuring that that heritage is passed on to the next generation.

This time of economic growth also gives us the opportunity to make much needed investments in core heritage infrastructure such as provincial heritage institutions. Examples include Western Development Museums, Wanuskewin, and Saskatchewan Archives (to name but a few). The current economic boom could also provide opportunities to invest in aspects of our cultural heritage that are currently disappearing, such as languages.

Our province is on the brink of new growth and change, and it is up to us to ensure that we move forward into the future while still retaining a sense of what makes Saskatchewan special.

## **Government and the Heritage Community: Communication and Dialogue are Essential**

Government communication and dialogue with the heritage stakeholder community is a very cost-effective way to promote the preservation of Saskatchewan's heritage legacy and ensure "opportunity for a high quality of life for all" (Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Plan 2011-2012). Strong communications with heritage stakeholders serve to support and enhance the effectiveness of essential government investments in heritage.

An understanding of heritage is relevant to a broad range of human activities; therefore concern for heritage is the purview of all government, not just the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport (TPCS).

Many Government ministries rely on an understanding of heritage in order to achieve their strategic goals. Examples include the Ministry of Education's work on implementing Treaty education curriculum in all schools (Education Mandate Letter June 2010), the Ministry of Environment's work to promote and adopt

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

innovative new tools in environmental management (Environment Mandate Letter June 2010), or the Ministry of Justice's support of a pilot program on cemetery care and maintenance. Section 3 of the Supplementary Materials contains a list of strategic government outcomes that are supported by heritage and the ministries to which they pertain.

Regular communication and dialogue with agencies such as Heritage Saskatchewan serve to keep Ministries strongly connected with trends and needs in the heritage community. Stakeholder dialogue promotes community buy-in for programs and initiatives, and provides opportunities for government and stakeholder organizations to partner on initiatives that might not be possible for any one agency working alone. It ensures that planning for resource allocation is strongly informed by an understanding of the needs of the heritage community. With this type of planned approach, arguments for additional resources can be made not only for the immediate fiscal year, but for government's longer term planning cycles.

The Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport (TPCS) and Heritage Saskatchewan have made a start by engaging in work such as initiatives and communications regarding Heritage Week. Opportunities such as these allow partners to connect over a mutual project, strengthening communication networks and opening the lines of dialogue.

One way that communication and dialogue could improve the state of Saskatchewan's heritage can be found in the example of Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF). In a previous position paper regarding SHF, (January 21, 2011), Heritage Saskatchewan recommended that a full review process be implemented to address SHF mandate, budget, and governance structure in order to better meet the needs of the heritage community; and that baseline funding for the SHF be increased to 2.25 million annually, arriving at that level of funding by 2013-2014 through gradual increases over the next three years.

Heritage Saskatchewan understands that a review process has been implemented and that the consultants' report should be forthcoming in the near future. The upcoming completion of the review process is an excellent opportunity to engage in heritage stakeholder communication and dialogue. We commend the TPCS Ministry for their contribution towards the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation review process and would encourage that the results be communicated to the broader heritage community, and in particular to those organizations who were involved in the consultation process.

As mentioned above, SHF has also been given an increase to their operating budget in the 2011-2012 budget. Consideration needs to be given to continuing increases of this nature in the next fiscal budget and subsequent years. For SHF, the demand for heritage investment continues to exceed the dollars available. The current allocation, expanded as it is, only allows for about \$345,000 for projects, once non-salary operations, technical support, and Claybank are deducted. This amount is still not enough to fully fund as many eligible projects as are submitted, and the result is, as in the past, that only portions of any given project can be funded. This also compromises SHF's ability to fund a range of projects that truly reflects Saskatchewan's diverse heritage.

## **Conclusion**

Saskatchewan's current economic boom is a critical time for investment in our province's shared heritage. To move forward, we need to both invest in heritage and build strong, collaborative relationships between government and heritage stakeholders. By doing so, we can build upon effective communication between all

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

stakeholders, including all government ministries, to raise awareness of heritage and how it contributes to the Saskatchewan being the “best place on earth to live work and raise a family.”

*“Development may be the pumping heart of a city [or province!] but heritage will always remain its soul”*

- David Lung (Heritage Hong Kong 2007)

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

## References

Baeker, Greg. *Rediscovering the Wealth of Places*. Canada by Municipal World, Inc. Online video clip. Web 10 August 2011.

Heritage Hong Kong. *Heritage Conservation Position Paper*. Hong Kong: LC Paper No. CB(2)1646/06-07(01), 2007. Web 6 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. Ministry of Finance. *The Saskatchewan Advantage 2011-2012 Budget Address*. Web 11 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport. *Ministry Mandate Letter June 29 2010*. Web 14 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport. *Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Plan 2011-2012*. Web 16 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. Ministry of Education. *Ministry Mandate Letter June 29 2010*. Web 14 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. Ministry of Environment. *Ministry Mandate Letter June 29 2010*. Web 11 Jan. 2012.

Saskatchewan. *Speech from the Throne 2010*. Web 09 Aug. 2011.

Saskatchewan. *Speech from the Throne 2011*. Web 11 Jan. 2012.

Saskatchewan Party. *Moving Saskatchewan Forward 2011 Election Platform*. Web Jan. 2012.

Sigma Analytics. *Heritage and Museum Market Study*. Museums Association of Saskatchewan in association with Saskatchewan Culture, Youth & Recreation, 2006.

Sincavage, Rhonda. April 2011. Building Community Through Historic Preservation: Not Your Grandmother's Preservation. Online video clip. YouTube. Web 10 August 2011.

Smale, Bryan, et al. *Leisure and Culture a Report of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) Report Highlights*. Canadian Index of Wellbeing, 2010. Web 10 Aug. 2011.

Pocius, Dr. Gerald L. *Issue Paper on Intangible Heritage*. Department of Canadian Heritage Branch. Heritage Policy Branch, 2002.

Public Health Agency of Canada. *Aboriginal children: The Healing Power of Cultural Identity*. Web 10 August 2011.

UNESCO. *Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage*. Web 30 August 2011.

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

## Heritage Saskatchewan Position Statement January 2012

### **Supplementary Materials Section 1: Summary of Key Points and Recommendations**

- Heritage, which includes our province's natural beauty, our languages and cultural traditions, and our shared history, is essential to community quality of life.
- Investment in heritage is critical during this time of economic growth, because retention of heritage resources (regardless of form) is important to ensure that Saskatchewan residents enjoy the benefits of growth without losing a sense of their unique heritage.
- We urge government to take advantage of the economic boom to increase funding for Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation (SHF) and core heritage institutions like Western Development Museum (WDM), Archives, and Wanuskewin.
- Government dialogue with heritage stakeholders, through Heritage Saskatchewan, is an important and cost-effective way to support Saskatchewan heritage. Concern for heritage is the purview of all government, not just the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture, and Sport.
- Heritage Saskatchewan is looking forward to the release of the report on the findings of the recent review conducted for Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation.

---

# Heritage Saskatchewan

---

## Supplementary Materials Section 2: Backgrounder on Heritage Saskatchewan

Heritage Saskatchewan (HS) is the new collective voice of all those who value heritage in Saskatchewan. Heritage Saskatchewan provides a place to bring together the diverse heritage community in the province to collaborate, build on common strengths, and advocate for common issues. Our vision statement, developed through extensive consultation with the heritage community, states: “*Heritage is a valued and dynamic legacy that contributes to our sense of identity, creates an understanding of our past, is used to build communities in the present, and informs our choices for the future*”.

Heritage Saskatchewan is funded through our members and through SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. We represent a broad and diverse heritage community within the province. We currently represent 39 non-profit organizations, 12 Associate members and 65 individuals. It should be noted that the community we serve is a great deal larger than the list of names shown here since many of the organizations that we represent contain a broad membership of their own.

### 39 Organizational Voting Members:

Avonlea Heritage Museum  
Biographies Regina  
City of Regina, Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee  
City of Saskatoon, Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee  
Claybank Brick Plant Historical Society  
Clayton McLain Memorial Museum  
Gabriel Dumont Institute  
Grand Coteau Heritage and Cultural Centre  
Heritage Regina  
Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery  
Kindersley & District Plains Museum (2010) Inc.  
McCord and District Museum  
Meewasin Valley Authority  
Melfort & District Museum  
Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Museums Association of Saskatchewan  
Nature Saskatchewan  
Nipawin Heritage Society Inc.  
Prairie West Historical Society  
Prince Albert Historical Society  
Regina Plains Museum  
The Saskatchewan Archaeological Society  
Saskatchewan Architectural Heritage Society  
Saskatchewan Archives Board  
Saskatchewan Association of Professional Archaeologists  
Saskatchewan Council for Archives & Archivists  
Saskatchewan Genealogical Society

Saskatchewan German Council  
Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society  
Saskatchewan Library Association  
Saskatchewan Pharmacy Museum Society Inc.  
Saskatchewan Railroad Historical Association  
Saskatchewan Youth Heritage Fair Association  
Saskatoon Heritage Society  
La Société historique de la Saskatchewan  
The Saskatchewan Association of Architects  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress - SK Provincial Council  
Vintage Power Machines Inc.  
Western Development Museum

### 12 Associate Members:

City of Saskatoon  
Heritage Collaborative Inc.  
Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport - Parks Service Branch  
Parks Canada - South Saskatchewan Field Unit  
Saskatchewan Arts Alliance  
Saskatchewan Arts Board  
Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame  
Tourism Saskatchewan  
Town of Kindersley  
Town of Shaunavon  
Town of Wolseley

### 65 Individual Voting Members

## Supplementary Materials Section 3: Investing in Heritage Supports Strategic Outcomes Within Government

The following is a selected list of strategic outcomes from the TPCS Ministry 2011-2012 Plan and the current Ministry Mandate Letters for Ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan. All of these outcomes are supported by an understanding of Saskatchewan's heritage, be it history, the natural environment, languages, or cultural traditions.

An understanding of Saskatchewan's dynamic heritage legacy helps government Ministries to:

- Work to support a growing and vibrant cultural sector by implementing the new provincial cultural policy, Pride of Saskatchewan(**TPCS**)
- Enhance tourism (**TPCS**)
- Continue working with the Ministry of Environment and other stakeholders to conserve significant natural and cultural resources in Saskatchewan's provincial parks (**TPCS, Environment**)
- Increase funding to the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation to enhance their granting capacity for heritage projects that seek to conserve, research, interpret, develop and promote Saskatchewan's diverse heritage resources (**TPCS**)
- Develop and implement a provincial strategy for First Nations and Métis learners that focuses on attendance, literacy and student performance, bridges the gap in graduation rates at the secondary and post-secondary levels, and expands workforce participation (**Education, FNMR**)
- Implement the Treaty education curriculum in all schools (**Education**)
- Develop curriculum that includes environmental education, conservation and sustainability for all schools (**Education, Environment**)
- Through the Consular and Diplomatic Corps, develop and deliver programs that enhance Saskatchewan's profile, including hosting an annual International Saskatchewan Day in Ottawa (**Education**)
- Continue to strengthen and effectively participate in the relationship with La Francophonie and the community that promotes the FranSaskois throughout Canada (**Education**)
- Implement a results-based environmental regulatory model to improve protection of the environment, including modernizing key legislation and regulations. Promote and adopt innovative new tools in environmental management including an "environmental code" for Saskatchewan (**Environment**)
- Moving towards a patient and family-centered health care system by implementing key recommendations of the 2009 *Patient First report* [of which an understanding of culture plays a key role] (**Health**)
- Developing a Mental Health Strategy to articulate a future direction for provincial mental health services [a sense of identity and belonging in communities is a factor in mental health](**Health**)
- Continue to strengthen relationships with municipal partners, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities [municipalities are responsible for a great deal of tangible heritage, including cemeteries](**Municipal Affairs**)

## Supplementary Materials Section 4: Access to Heritage Supports Quality of Life

*Participation in leisure and culture activities, whether arts, culture, or recreation, contributes to the wellbeing of individuals, communities, and societies. The myriad of activities and opportunities that we pursue and enjoy today all contribute to our overall life satisfaction and quality of life. They help to fully define our lives, the meaning we derive from them, and ultimately our wellbeing.*

-Canadian Index of Wellbeing, Leisure and Culture Report Highlights (Smale 2010)

Saskatchewan is famous for the quality of life enjoyed by its citizens. Part of what contributes to that quality of life, and what makes Saskatchewan communities strong, is being able to take pride in our past, our cultural heritage, and our beautiful natural environment.

People want to live in communities that are unique, special, and vibrant; such communities are also attractive to business and tourism.

*Business and investment follow people, not the other way around. Having communities that have rich cultural heritage assets, unique identities...these are the kinds of communities that people want to work and live and invest in.*

-Greg Baeker, “Rediscovering the Wealth of Places”

Access to heritage creates a sense of identity and belonging and helps people feel that they are part of something that is larger than themselves. Because our heritage and culture tells us where we come from, and therefore who we are, access to heritage helps build healthy communities.

*Identity plays a key role in healthy child development. When a child feels a sense of belonging to family, community and peers he or she is better able to deal with adversity.*

-Public Health Agency of Canada, “Aboriginal children: The Healing Power of Cultural Identity”

## **Supplementary Materials Section 5: Investing in Heritage Supports the Strategic Outcomes of the “Pride of Saskatchewan” Provincial Cultural Policy**

Adequately resourcing heritage in Saskatchewan, and improving communications around heritage, supports the following strategic outcomes of Saskatchewan’s Cultural Policy:

- Saskatchewan's people, including First Nations and Métis, preserve their cultural heritage
- Provincially significant cultural assets are protected
- Fewer “at risk” historic places and sites
- Communities and organizations have the knowledge, expertise and resources to manage cultural resources and deliver high quality products and programs
- Municipalities and communities promote and conserve their cultural heritage to attract business, promote tourism and to create a distinctive community character
- A symbiotic relationship exists between tourism and culture in which the vibrancy of one sector strengthens the other

## **Supplementary Materials Section 6: Communication and Partnerships with Heritage Agencies Support TPCS Ministry Actions (Ministry Plan 2011-2012)**

Engaging in partnership building with the heritage community supports actions outlined in the TPCS Ministry Plan (2011-2012) such as to “work with tourism partners to develop the tourism potential of Saskatchewan’s cultural, heritage, ecological and museum attractions.” Ongoing dialogue with the heritage community can certainly inform strategies to “identify ways to strengthen practices in heritage conservation.”

Another desired action is to “work with the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation to implement changes from consolidating Saskatchewan’s heritage legislation to reduce fragmentation and create efficiencies in program and policy coordination.” Broad consultation with heritage stakeholders beyond SHF would be helpful for such an important topic as legislative review for heritage. A strong, existing network of stakeholder partners such as Heritage Saskatchewan would make consultation of this nature easier because communication networks and strategies are already in place when they are needed, and the Ministry can draw on the Heritage Saskatchewan network to help coordinate consultation.

Finally, strong partnerships within the heritage community provide access to a broad range of information not only on the needs of a diverse community, but on the measures of success that can be observed within that community. The 2011-2012 TPCS Ministry Plan uses information such as numbers of newly-designated properties as a measure of “level of activity related to heritage resource identification, preservation and protection.” While valuable, such statistics do not evaluate levels of activity within the broad, diverse range of Saskatchewan heritage: levels of language and natural heritage preservation, cultural traditions, or other types of heritage (both tangible and intangible). Consultation with a broad range of heritage stakeholders, through agencies like Heritage Saskatchewan, provides a more accurate measure of levels of activity across the wide spectrum that is Saskatchewan’s heritage legacy.

## Supplementary Materials Section 7: Intangible Heritage (UNESCO 2011, "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage")

Communities desire to do good work in order to preserve their heritage. This heritage includes “tangible” aspects of our heritage such as buildings and landscapes, but it also includes the broad range of Saskatchewan’s diverse “intangible” heritage: stories, oral traditions, the languages we speak, our family events, and our beliefs and practices (to name just a few). This concern is one shared both nationally and internationally, leading many countries around the world to establish mechanisms to document and safeguard intangible heritage.

*“We all participate in ongoing forms of intangible heritage, a heritage that gives us a sense of who we are and- as we shape that intangible heritage today- where we are going”*

Dr. Gerald L. Pocius, “Issue Paper on Intangible Heritage”, 2002

### Intangible Cultural Heritage is:

- **Traditional, contemporary and living at the same time:** intangible cultural heritage does not only represent inherited traditions from the past but also contemporary rural and urban practices in which diverse cultural groups take part;
- **Inclusive:** we may share expressions of intangible cultural heritage that are similar to those practised by others. Whether they are from the neighbouring village, from a city on the opposite side of the world, or have been adapted by peoples who have migrated and settled in a different region, they all are intangible cultural heritage: they have been passed from one generation to another, have evolved in response to their environments and they contribute to giving us a sense of identity and continuity, providing a link from our past, through the present, and into our future. Intangible cultural heritage does not give rise to questions of whether or not certain practices are specific to a culture. It contributes to social cohesion, encouraging a sense of identity and responsibility which helps individuals to feel part of one or different communities and to feel part of society at large;
- **Representative:** intangible cultural heritage is not merely valued as a cultural good, on a comparative basis, for its exclusivity or its exceptional value. It thrives on its basis in communities and depends on those whose knowledge of traditions, skills and customs are passed on to the rest of the community, from generation to generation, or to other communities;
- **Community-based:** intangible cultural heritage can only be heritage when it is recognized as such by the communities, groups or individuals that create, maintain and transmit it – without their recognition, nobody else can decide for them that a given expression or practice is their heritage.