



CANADIAN ARTISTS REPRESENTATION / LE FRONT DES ARTISTES CANADIENS

210 - 1808 SMITH STREET, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN S4P 2N3  
PHONE (306) 522-9788

312 - 220 3RD AVENUE SOUTH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN S7K 1M1  
PHONE (306) 933-3206

## **RESPONSE TO THE SASKATCHEWAN ARTS STRATEGY TASK FORCE REPORT**

**MARCH 1991**

### **Summary**

CARFAC SASK affirms the value of the process of consultation with the arts community which resulted in the Report.

We are in agreement with the vision statement, and the fundamental values which have been so clearly articulated in the Report.

We recognize the barriers identified in the report must be overcome in order for progress to take place.

We believe the recommendations and suggestions for structural re-organization should be received by the arts community as a starting point for discussion, negotiation and implementation within the arts community. While we have some concerns regarding structure, we believe the specific recommendations addressing structure must now be assessed and clarified by the parties affected to determine workable, achievable action plans.

We have identified urgent priorities and recommendations which we feel should be implemented without delay.

CARFAC SASK calls upon the government and the arts community for immediate action.

## FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

We feel that the statement of fundamental values which underlie the Report is of great importance, and we hope that these values will guide the future development of the cultural sector:

- the fundamental value of the arts and artists in Saskatchewan
- the economic impact of the arts
- the role of the artist as an active participant in the community
- the significant contribution of Aboriginal art and artists
- the role of the amateur practitioner of the arts as well as the professional
- the central role of women in the arts
- the healthy diversity of the Saskatchewan arts community
- the importance of the audience and its critical awareness
- the public's right to access and participation in the arts
- financial stability for artists and arts organizations
- the principle of arms-length funding supported by tax-based dollars

## VISION STATEMENT

CARFAC SASK believes that the SASTF Report's vision statement expresses clearly our hopes for the future of the arts in Saskatchewan.

## BARRIERS TO PROGRESS

CARFAC SASK believes that the twenty barriers identified in the report are major obstacles to the successful realization to the vision statement. That these barriers continue to exist after years of study and negotiation is troubling. We believe that immediate and concerted action must be taken by all parties to reduce and eliminate these barriers.

We have identified additional barriers:

- low economic status of the individual artist, lack of opportunities to develop, market and distribute artworks or productions
- volunteer burnout
- problems in maintaining communication and dialogue make objective assessment, planning and co-operation difficult

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

### **Government's Role**

CARFAC SASK believes that the implementation strategy outlined for government action is appropriate and should be pursued without delay.

In particular, we urge immediate action on the following implementation steps:

- 4...establishment of an advisory group
- 6...agency participation to develop action plan & schedule
- 7...agency participation in implementation

We are encouraged by the steps which have already been taken toward the development of Status of the Artist legislation.

### **Community's Role**

CARFAC SASK believes that the arts community has a responsibility to continue dialogue in order to develop strategies and action plans from the recommendations. We believe that the necessary resources to facilitate this process must be made available to the arts community.

## **URGENT NEEDS**

CARFAC SASK calls upon the government to implement the following recommendations immediately:

- (1) That the Government of Saskatchewan support the adoption of the Canadian Artists' Code, and using it as a basis, enact comprehensive legislation on the status of the artist as it relates to areas under provincial jurisdiction.
- (55) That the budget of the Saskatchewan Arts Board be increased immediately by \$1 million to alleviate the crisis in the professional sector and that an additional \$1.5 million be allocated for the professional arts in 1991.
- (100) That the Government of Saskatchewan use the SASTF Report as a basis for the development of a provincial policy for the arts and that this policy continually be evaluated and revised.

## **THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

CARFAC SASK is agreed in principle with the recommendations of the SASTF Report.

In our discussions, it has become clear that many of the specific points of the Report's recommendations will be the subject of discussion and debate within the arts community. We recognize that the recommendations are the beginning of such a process...not the end result. As we have stated earlier, we believe that a process of dialogue and decision within the arts community must determine the final outcome.