

**JOANNE CROFFORD,
Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation**

**REPORT TO THE CULTURAL COMMUNITY ON THE
MINISTER'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF THE ARTIST**

- The Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Status of the Artist has met twice so far. The first meeting was largely an orientation but the committee did agree to a process for prioritizing status issues to be discussed at the next meeting.
- The second meeting of the committee was held on December 6th & 7th. The committee had an excellent discussion around priorities and several issues emerged
- As a foundational piece in moving towards a formalization of a Saskatchewan Artists Code, there was discussion on a definition of "professional artist." At this stage, the primary purpose in defining "professional artist" would be to clarify to whom Status of the Artist measures will ultimately apply.
 - While no final agreement was reached, there was general agreement that the definition should be designed to include and benefit all artists who live and work in Saskatchewan. It was therefore agreed that the definition should not include a qualitative assessment of the artistic work of artists.
- Priority issues that were discussed by the committee, but about which no conclusions were reached were:
 - How will the committee ensure inclusiveness in its deliberations in relation to the holding and sharing of traditional knowledge? The committee will consult with Aboriginal artists and the Aboriginal advisory committee of the Saskatchewan Arts Board to get guidance on the issues.
 - How do we negotiate or establish industry standard rates for compensation for professional artists? The committee will be conducting research over the next number of weeks and will discuss the issue further in the coming meetings.
 - How can the committee encourage the employment of more Saskatchewan artists by government, broadly defined (including crown corporations, boards, agencies and commissions of government)? The committee is researching current government procurement practices, particularly those related to Saskatchewan First purchasing. Included in the research will be current practices relating to copyright, capital construction, etc.
 - How can the committee encourage safe workplace practices for artists? The Department of Labour has advised that it would be willing to explore the establishment of an Arts Sector committee through Occupational Health and Safety. The committee will be meeting with representatives from Occupational Health and Safety to obtain more information on the committee process and determine the implications of such a move.

- The committee will also be identifying other longer term issues that they will explore to ensure an adequate foundation for future resolution is prepared. Issues so far included in this category are:
 - critical taxation issues
 - a visibility campaign for artists and the arts sector that will include a discussion of how artists and the public can become more familiar with Status of the Artist issues.
 - long term benefits for artists such as pension
- Another meeting of the committee is scheduled for January.