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Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation**

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

January, 2003

- At its January meeting the Ministerial Advisory Committee on the Status of the Artist discussed several issues relating to status of the artist and welcomed a presentation from Bob Ross, Manager Workplace Safety (South) with the Occupational Health and Safety Division, Saskatchewan Labour.
- Regarding the issue of occupational health and safety, the committee discussed the need to make more information available to artists, most like through their industry organizations. Saskatchewan Labour already has a good deal of good information available relevant to artists as well as educational programs and safety training opportunities. Systems need to be developed to ensure awareness in the arts sector of existing resources. The committee will consult with the arts sector on this issue to determine the best means by which to achieve this goal.
- One of the issues that has broad implications for "status of the artist" is employment designation. While the CCRA issue is a federal tax issue, it was suggested that it has implications as a provincial labour question. Indeed, a number of provincial statutory tools for workers are invoked only when workers are designated as employees. The committee continues to research and discuss this issue.
- The committee received research surrounding the issue of "public art" and programs in three urban jurisdictions that support the purchase of art for public places in capital development projects. Program policies provided to the committee offered a range of options, where from 0.5% to 1% of capital project budgets was mandated for the development of public art. Research on this issue continues.
- The Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation prepared research for the the committee on procurement. The committee viewed a document on the review of the provincial procurement policy for Executive Council Communications (one of the primary vehicles by which artists obtain work from government). While Government has a "Saskatchewan First" procurement policy and has clearly indicated a desire to abide by industry standard rates for artists, further research is needed in this issue.
- The committee reviewed the Quebec Status of the Artist Legislation with particular attention to the regulatory organizations that were formed out of the Legislation. The committee is particularly interested in mechanisms within the legislation for setting industry standards and monitoring artist contracts.
- The committee has requested information on the Net Income Stabilization Account. This federal government program is designed to help farm producers stabilize their income. The committee has discussed the issue of income stabilization and security for artists including researching models that exist in other countries.

- The committee expressed a need to analyze in greater depth what already exists in terms of systems and supports for artists that have impacts on compensation and benefits both provincially and nationally. A matrix or model that that will give a breakdown of what is currently provided and identify where gaps might lie will be prepared for the February meeting.
- The committee has developed a framework for its work that will allow for monitoring its progress and structuring its final report. That framework has been delineated in essentially three broad directions: Promotion; Income Security; and Education/Training (Professional Development).
- Monthly meeting dates have been set for the committee until May 2003.

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