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**Saskatoon-Wanuskewin**

# The Government of Canada Supports Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival

**For Immediate Release**

**March 13, 2008**

**SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN** – Children and adults from all over Saskatchewan will celebrate and participate in productions involving puppetry, masks, storytelling, theatre, and music thanks to an investment from the Government of Canada in the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival.

The 20th edition of this unique festival will take place in Saskatoon from June 4 to 7, 2008, and will offer young people culturally diverse programming, Aboriginal artistic expression, artistic productions from within and outside Saskatchewan, and works by emerging artists.

On behalf of the Honourable Josee Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages, Maurice Vellacott, Member of Parliament (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin), today announced that the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival will receive up to \$62,500 in federal funding.

“The Government of Canada is committed to supporting initiatives that make diverse, high-quality artistic experiences accessible to Canadians in all parts of the country,” said Minister Verner. “We are proud to support organizations like the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival that provide genuine amusement for Canadians of all ages.”

“For the past two decades, the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival has energized the community by providing a diverse program of cultural and educational activities that are designed for children, but can be enjoyed by the entire family,” said Mr. Vellacott. “I am pleased our Government continues to support initiatives that enrich the lives of children and give them the opportunity to expand their cultural horizons and let their creativity run free.”

“We are delighted to receive the support of the Department of Canadian Heritage to help us celebrate our festival's 20th anniversary,” said JoAnne James, Executive Director of the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival. “The children of Saskatchewan are the big winners!”

The Government of Canada has provided this funding through the Arts Presentation Canada Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This program gives Canadians increased access to the diversity and richness of Canada's culture through professional arts festivals, presentations of live professional performances, and other artistic experiences.

This news release is available on the Internet at [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca) under Media Room. For more information, please contact:

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