

April 29, 2020

Dear SaskCulture Member:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of SaskCulture Inc. (the "Board"), I am very pleased to inform the membership that we have completed our executive search for a new Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") to replace long-time CEO, Rose Gilks, who informed us that she wanted to retire by the spring of 2020. With the support and expertise of the David Aplin Group, the Board conducted a rigorous search for the position. We received over 180 applications that was reduced to 18 solid candidates with the final selection process taking us from 18 to 6 candidates for interviews, and 2 final candidates for repeat interviews – all of which were conducted remotely.

As of May 15, 2020, Dean Kush will become the new CEO of SaskCulture. Dean brings a wealth of experience to this position, including his 10 years of experience within SaskCulture, initially as Program Manager and for a longer period of time, as Associate CEO. Dean is from small-town Saskatchewan and is passionately committed to living a culturally vibrant life within the province. Many know him from his career as a songwriter and performer; however, Dean also has extensive experience in the area of inclusion and diversity in the fields of English as a second language, settlement, international recruitment and immigration. His experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors gives him a solid background in many of the cultural issues of interest today and in the future. With Dean already being an integral part of the SaskCulture staff team, the Board is confident the organization will move forward effectively and efficiently with his leadership and passion.

How SaskCulture moves forward in the short term, and in the long term (the five-year time frame of the new strategic plan), is very different today than it was six weeks ago when we completed the new strategic plan. The Covid 19 pandemic has caused significant impacts to everything we do and how we do it. Given that, SaskCulture would like to speak with you, the members, about how we can best support you over the short term. To that end, we are planning to host a Members' Zoom Forum to update you on the new strategic plan as well as our thoughts on how SaskCulture can work with you to address the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The initial session will be held on **May 6, 2020, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** If there is an excess of 70 registrations we will hold a second identical session on May 7th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There will be a blank section within the registration form for you to submit questions that you would like us to answer during the Forum. To register for the Forum please complete the registration form using the following link: <https://saskculture.wufoo.com/forms/r1tcoeiy1ovzlzj/>.

A Zoom meeting invitation with the link to join the session will be sent to you a day or two in advance.

SaskCulture's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") was scheduled for Friday, June 11, 2020 in Regina. Without the ability to have an in-person AGM the Board has opted to defer the AGM by three months to September 11, 2020. As we get closer to that date we will know whether or not a public gathering of the size of SaskCulture's AGM is possible. If we have to change plans we will provide you with that information well in advance of the meeting. The Annual Report for the year ending April 1, 2020 will be ready by June 11, 2020 and will be posted on the website as of that date. A hard copy of the annual report plus the detailed audited financial statements will be mailed to members three weeks in advance of the actual AGM.

In closing, on behalf of the current and past Boards of SaskCulture, as well as all the Board Chairs, and staff I would like to thank Rose Gilks for her 22 years as the CEO of SaskCulture, and prior to that five years in the role of Funding Manager. Rose has been with SaskCulture from the beginning and she leaves with a wealth of knowledge and a track record of success that has propelled SaskCulture to an organization that is the envy of the country. Rose can, and should, be proud for what she has done to make Saskatchewan more culturally vibrant. We cannot thank Rose enough for her dedication, service and legacy.

Sincerely



James Rose
Chair

C.c. Rose Gilks, CEO
Dean Kush, Associate CEO
SaskCulture Inc. Board of Directors

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