
News Release Communiqué

CJM082841

The Government of Canada Supports Wanuskewin Heritage Park Redevelopment

SASKATOON, April 8, 2009 – The Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, today announced funding for Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority for its Building Renewal Project.

Located just three kilometers north of Saskatoon, Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a designated place of national and provincial historic significance. Its heritage value resides in a unique and outstanding collection of archaeological sites including tipi rings, a medicine wheel, and several campsites demonstrating that First Nations have gathered here for more than 6000 years. First Nations value this place for its great spiritual significance and for its associations with the survival and continuity of their culture as a major gathering place. Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a flagship tourist destination for the province and one of the top 30 Aboriginal heritage sites in Canada.

“The Government of Canada’s support for Wanuskewin Heritage Park is a great example of our commitment to helping organizations that contribute to the cultural vitality and quality of life of their community,” said Minister Moore. “Wanuskewin Heritage Park offers a glimpse into the past and helps us understand and appreciate First Nations heritage and culture. By investing in facilities like this one, we are ensuring that all Canadians can experience and understand our shared heritage.”

“Wanuskewin is deeply appreciative of the support from the Government of Canada,” said Lloyd Beazley, Board Chair of Wanuskewin Heritage Park. “Their commitment to the rich First Nations heritage at this site and to assisting us with our ongoing renewal and renovation project will help ensure that Wanuskewin Heritage Park remains the Aboriginal heritage centre destination of choice for the depiction and interpretation of Plains Indian culture and heritage.”

The redevelopment of Wanuskewin Heritage Park includes a new addition on the south side of the building, new permanent and temporary exhibit areas, new theatre and art gallery spaces, new indoor and outdoor programming sites, and upgrades to the powwow grounds and other outdoor locations.

The Government of Canada has provided funding of \$2,213,000 through the Cultural Spaces Canada Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This program contributes to improved physical conditions for artistic creativity and presentation or exhibition. It is designed to improve access for Canadians to the performing, visual, and media arts, as well as to museum collections and heritage exhibitions.

Information:

Deirdra McCracken
Director of Communications
Office of the Minister of
Canadian Heritage
and Official Languages
819-997-7788
deirdra.mccracken@pch.gc.ca

Francine D. Lefebvre
A/Director
Regional Communications
Prairies and Northern Region
Canadian Heritage
Tel.: 204-983-4367
Cell: 204-229-5283
francine.lefebvre@pch.gc.ca

Media Relations
Canadian Heritage
819-994-9101
1-866-569-6155

(This news release is available on the Internet at www.pch.gc.ca under **Media Room**.)