

---

# News Release      Communiqué

---

CR111705

## Harper Government Invests in Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre

**MEDICINE HAT, Alberta, January 27, 2012** – Southern Albertans and cultural enthusiasts will once again have access to a variety of artistic experiences, thanks to support from the Government of Canada. This was announced today by LaVar Payne, Member of Parliament (Medicine Hat), on behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.

With this funding, the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre will present its highly anticipated 2012–13 and 2013–14 performing-arts series. These annual multidisciplinary series showcase artists and acts from across Canada and feature a variety of performances, from theatre and dance to children’s programming, as well as world, classical, popular and folk music.

“Our Government received a strong mandate from Canadians to invest in cultural programming offered by important artistic organizations like the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre,” said Minister Moore. “By supporting these activities, our Government is delivering on its commitment to strengthen our economy and support arts, culture, and heritage.”

“Investing in arts and heritage is central to the economic health of communities across Canada,” said Mr. Payne. “Thanks to this investment, the Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre will continue to foster exposure to the performing arts for residents of Medicine Hat. We are proud to support activities that showcase the talent of our artists and artisans.”

“The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre supports and gratefully welcomes the great strides that Canadian Heritage is making to develop the arts and culture in Medicine Hat,” said Paul Heywood, Director of Theatre Operations.

The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre is owned and operated by the City of Medicine Hat. Built in 2005 as one of Alberta’s Centennial Legacy Projects, it houses the Museum, the Art Gallery, the Archives, and the Theatres. The Theatre’s mandate is to present professional artists that challenge and celebrate the cultural fabric of Canada with an emphasis on new and emerging artists, audiences, and forums.

The Government of Canada has provided \$90,000 over two years (2012–14) through the [Canada Arts Presentation Fund](#) of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This program gives Canadians increased access to the variety and richness of Canada's culture through professional arts festivals, presentations of live professional performances, and other artistic experiences.



**For more information (media only), please contact:**

Sébastien Gariépy  
Press Secretary  
Office of the Minister of  
Canadian Heritage and  
Official Languages  
819-997-7788

Perry Boldt  
Regional Manager  
Communications  
Western Region  
Canadian Heritage  
604-666-5739

Media Relations  
Canadian Heritage  
819-994-9101  
1-866-569-6155  
[media@pch.gc.ca](mailto:media@pch.gc.ca)

(This news release is available on the Internet at [www.canadianheritage.gc.ca](http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca) under **Newsroom**.)