



NEWS RELEASE

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Saskatchewan Celebrates Archives Week

Regina, Saskatchewan – In recognition of the important contributions made by archives and archivists, the government of Saskatchewan has proclaimed February 4-10, 2008 as Archives Week in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA) is proud to support and coordinate this third annual, province-wide initiative to draw the public's attention to the understanding and use of archival and historical records.

The week's activities highlight how archival records are crucial in supporting today's knowledge-based economy and help preserve our public memory and sense of identity. Archives are the personal and public records of individuals and organizations, conserved to get the full story. These records can take the form of family photographs, private diaries, maps, or medical charts, debate transcripts or postcards, together contributing to an understanding of times past.

Saskatchewan's archival repositories contain unique records that preserve our province's memory and identity by documenting both the ordinary and extraordinary parts of our past. Archivists are the trained professionals and dedicated volunteers who select, preserve, describe and assist the public in locating records of historical value in their repositories.

The Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists is planning a number of activities during the week.

On February 4th, CBC Radio's "Blue Sky" will feature an **Archives Phone-In** discussing archival issues relating to digitization and electronic records. **Celebrity Readings** from archival records in Saskatchewan will take place in both Saskatoon (February 5 at the Saskatoon Public Library) and Regina (February 7 at the Saskatchewan Archives Board). An **Archival Film** night is slated for February 8 in Regina at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and a **Genealogy Open House** will take place on February 9 in Regina at the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

On Sunday, February 10, an '**Archives Road Show**' will be part of the Saskatoon Heritage Festival at the Western Development Museum in Saskatoon. Representatives from a few of Saskatchewan's archival organizations will be at the festival to assist visitors with questions about archival research, resources available at local archives, taking care of personal and family archives, and archives in general.

Other events are planned in various local communities across the province to raise awareness about preserving local history; information on all Archives Week in

Saskatchewan Celebrations can be found at
http://scaa.sk.ca/about_archives/archivesweek2008.html

The Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists, representing institutional and individual members across the province, provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas among those interested in archives. It encourages the development of a cooperative archival system in the province of Saskatchewan, advocates for the preservation, conservation and accessibility of Saskatchewan's archival heritage, and develops and promotes national archival standards and best practices. Since 2006, the SCAA has been recognized as a Provincial Cultural Organization that is eligible to apply for annual funding from the Culture Section of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation. More information regarding archives and the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists and its activities can be found at its website: <http://www.scaa.sk.ca/>

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