

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE NORTH

# Northern Arts Workshop

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March 21-23, 2023

Flin Flon, Manitoba

Report prepared by

**Trudy Schroeder, Arts & Heritage Solutions**

**March 31, 2023**



This report is a record of the gathering held at the Baker's Narrows Lodge in Flin Flon, Manitoba from March 21-23, 2023. The intent of the gathering was to develop a strategy to support and grow the arts and cultural sector in Northern Manitoba. The meeting was presented by University College of the North with funding support from Communities Economic Development Fund and Greenstone Community Futures.



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## Introduction

The idea for holding a gathering to further examine the opportunities and possible next steps for cultural development in Manitoba's north evolved from two places. The first was a response of University College of the North president, Doug Lauvstad, to the findings and recommendations of the March 31 report on A Cultural Strategy for the North which was a project prepared by Trudy Schroeder of Arts & Heritage Solutions through a contract with the Communities Economic Development Fund. The recommendations coming out of that report are the following:

### Identified Pillars for Cultural Development in Northern Manitoba:

1. Work with the strengths that have emerged in Northern Arts Development to this point. (ImagiNorthern and arts councils in the northern communities>)
2. Develop a system and supports to enable artists, organizations, and communities to obtain the support needed to advance their individual art form or organization
3. Look to all the support organizations and major arts organizations in Winnipeg and beyond that would want to assist in the implementation of a Northern Arts Strategy. All of them have ideas of ways in which they could assist in Northern Cultural Development.
4. Work with Travel Manitoba to align cultural development with cultural tourism opportunities.
5. Link with existing Northern Festivals and enhance the product and reach of artists.
6. Utilize all possible means to market Northern arts and cultural products and services to the world.
7. Ensure that the region has access to reliable internet services. (This is a priority for so many other Northern enterprises, but it has to be mentioned here as well.)
8. The strategy is a plan for incremental gains in the sector. It is intended to support strengths that have already emerged in the sector.
9. Note that this is a three to five year strategy to move the sector forward. Annual progress reviews should take place, and a subsequent strategy should be developed by 2026/7.

### Northern Manitoba Cultural Development Strategy, at March 31, 2022

Recommended Strategy Element	Responsibility	Timeline/ Cost/ Result
<b>Step 1: Cultural Inventory and Mapping Exercise, \$50,000</b> Implement the ImagiNorthern joint initiative to identify as many of the artists and arts organizations as possible. Establish an information and contact system to provide information about opportunities and plans. Personnel will be needed to assist with this process. Possibly the ImagiNorthern Champions could be involved in this process. This would	ImagiNorthern Team  Northern Champions  Summer Students  November Update: This	Ideally over the summer with the involvement of summer students and others who can assist with developing the program. To be completed by October 2022.   Cost: Between the ImagiNorthern Partners perhaps \$50,000 in staff time with

<p>include all visual artists, performing artists, Indigenous traditional and contemporary artists, designers, literary artists, and possibly culinary artists.</p> <p>Start with all known contacts of all arts councils involved and then use local communications through press releases, social media, radio, web-sites to draw out more information.</p>	<p>inventory work was conducted over the summer of 2022 by Inga Petri of Strategic Moves, and the results were recently circulated.</p>	<p>assistance of summer students, volunteers and interns. Seek employment grants if possible.</p> <p>Result: Current information on the artists, cultural organizations, venues and issues in the north.</p> <p>Greater effectiveness in reaching your arts community.</p>
<p><b><u>Step 2: Seek Provincial Business Development Funding for Urban Emporium Project: \$600,000</u></b></p> <p>Funding to provide stable seed funding to sustain and build on the Urban Emporium Project over three years.</p> <p>Longer term growth stability is needed at this point. While the start-up grants have been helpful, a longer period to grow the initiative is needed.</p> <p>Additional assistance of some e-commerce specialists, marketing assistance, development of the additional depots in communities outside Flin Flon, project staff.</p>	<p>Look North/ Province of Manitoba</p> <p>November Update: An application was sent to the Canada Council, and \$250,000 was recently awarded. A second application has recently been sent to the Province of Manitoba with a larger request. Status pending.</p>	<p>Recommend seeking this funding immediately to aim for significantly greater economic impact of Urban Emporium related to November/December 2022 holiday sales.</p> <p>Funding request: \$200,000 per year for three years or a one-time grant of \$600,000.</p> <p>Result: Significant benefits for the artists and artisans of the north. Stability and growth potential for the project. Depots established and equipment for mailing in additional communities.</p>
<p><b><u>Step 3: Planning Assistance for Centre of Art &amp; Environment. \$100,000</u></b></p> <p>This is a great project with large long term benefits. The model and idea has changed a number of times. Planning and vision development is needed to move forward with this project. Explore opportunities to partner with Grant McEwan University, Alberta for a cultural management program. Connect with University College of the North.</p>	<p>Cultural Consultant for Project Development and business planning.</p> <p>November Update:?</p>	<p>Timeline: When planning funding is secured. Ideally September 2022 or January 2023 to be completed by June 2023.</p> <p>Cost: \$100,000</p> <p>Result: Evolution of the concept to be one step closer to implementation.</p>
<p><b><u>Step 4: Indigenous Cultural Business Establishment</u></b></p> <p>Encourage Northern Indigenous businesses to provide services and goods for urban Indigenous market place.</p> <p>Work with Indigenous artists in every genre to</p>	<p>ImagiNorthern, local business chambers of commerce, Indigenous Business Development</p>	<p>Timeline: Should start as soon as possible.</p>

<p>qualify for and apply for funding sources available to assist with supporting the artists and art forms.</p> <p>Ensure there is a strong connection between the Urban Emporium and Indigenous artists and artisans.</p> <p>Starts with some research and meetings.</p>	<p>Organizations</p> <p>November Update:?</p>	
<p><b><u>Step 5: Convene meetings with Travel Manitoba, Travel Partners in the Tourism Sector:</u></b></p> <p>Develop a plan for ways to connect cultural tourism elements in tourism packages, festivals, etc</p> <p>.</p>	<p>Travel Manitoba and ImagiNorthern, With Northern Tourism Partners</p> <p>November Update: Travel Manitoba is planning a meeting for January 2023.</p>	<p>Timeline: Fall 2022 to plan for 2023 Tourism Season.</p> <p>Cost: Convening costs: Zoom Time and energy, but the benefits for the community and the tourist experience could be very large.</p>
<p><b><u>Step 6: Grant Writing Assistance for Northern Artists Particularly Indigenous Artists</u></b></p> <p>Help Northern artists, organizations, and collectives learn about, plan, and submit grants for Canada Council and Manitoba Arts Council Funding.</p>	<p>Grant preparation assistants.</p> <p>Might need to hire a staff person, or find resources through Creative Manitoba or Manitoba Arts Network</p> <p>November Update: This type of assistance has been identified for the territories. Can it be extended to Manitoba? Canada Council?</p>	<p>Start the information processes over the summer and fall. Assist with articulating projects, pulling together information.</p> <p>Timeline is ongoing.</p> <p>Results will not be immediate, but the long term impact could be very significant. The granting timeline is long and slow.</p>

Following the distribution of the report in April 2022, Doug Lauvstad identified the need to further develop the ideas and contacts identified in the report. He called Trudy Schroeder of Arts & Heritage Solutions to work on pulling together a plan for a meeting or conference on Northern artistic development, which was to take place before the end of June 2023.

Concurrently, regular on-line meetings of the ImagiNorthern group of workers in the cultural field in a number of northern communities along with Thomas Sparling of Creative Manitoba and Rose Anne Harder of Manitoba Arts Network was bearing fruit, and the group applied for a Canada Council Grant to further their work, and it became evident that an in-person opportunity to meet and share ideas and develop ideas for the next steps was needed.

The report that follows documents the process and proceedings of the Northern Arts Workshop which was held at Bakers Narrows Lodge in Flin Flon from March 21-23, 2023. A separate strategic directions report is being prepared by Inga Petri of Strategic Moves.

## Background

After many years of work by individual communities to develop arts and cultural programs and facilities in Northern Manitoba, the advent of improved meeting technology and improved contacts with cultural development organizations such as Creative Manitoba and the Manitoba Arts Network, made it possible for those working in the arts in Northern Manitoba to connect with each other and share information, program ideas, needs, and hopes for the future. Crystal Kolt and the Flin Flon Arts Council has several decades of dedicated and inspired work in the Flin Flon area that provides an inspiration for other communities.

The covid pandemic forced the cancellation of the annual Flin Flon pre-Christmas craft market, but it inspired the development of an on-line sales platform and a street front presence in Flin Flon known as the Uptown Emporium. The cancellation of many of the in person activities and programs in all communities also provided time and inspiration to use the new virtual meeting technologies to make connections with other Northern Manitoba Arts organizations. The connections made, inspired the start of the ImagiNorthern network of communities seeking to support cultural development in their home areas. The Arts Champions program was established to increase the visibility and connection of the arts in various Northern communities. Communities Economic Development Fund commissioned Arts & Heritage Solutions to conduct a study to develop a strategy for cultural development in Northern Manitoba. Funding was found to commission Strategic Moves to conduct a study identifying the status of arts and artists in Northern Manitoba over the summer of 2022. A Canada Council application was made to support the ImagiNorthern initiative and \$250,000 was awarded to the initiative. In a very short period of time, a significant number of initiatives came together to shine a spotlight on the potential and possibilities linked to cultural development in Northern Manitoba.



One of the ideas that emerged was the potential to create a conference or meeting to gather people interested and committed to this area of development to meet and develop a strategy to move forward for the benefit of Northern artists, Northern communities, and Manitobans as a whole. The development of the cultural sector in the north has benefits for employment, economic activity, tourism development, quality of life, and artistic productivity.

The cultural sector in Northern Manitoba is poised for significant growth and development, and it will be exciting to watch the developments over the next five years.

## Objective of Gathering

The specific objective of gathering was to develop a clear strategy and plan to create a network of support for Northern artists and arts organizations. This would require the participation of funding and support partners from all levels of government, arms-length funding bodies, the private sector, and individual donors. This would also require the cooperation and participation of Northern communities and their arts councils and arts organizations.

This gathering was generously supported through financial and organizational investment by University College of the North, and there were project funding grants from the Communities Economic Development Fund and Greenstone Community Futures. The members of the meeting planning committee were

- Doug Lauvstad, President of University College of the North;
- Trudy Schroeder, President of Arts & Heritage Solutions;
- Thom Sparling, CEO of Creative Manitoba; (he was also the key link with the ImagiNorthern group)
- Jennifer Nabess, Executive Assistant to the President of University College of the North; Special recognition is due to Jennifer for her excellent work on the many organizational needs for the preparation of the meeting.
- Inga Petri of Strategic Moves joined the planning group in January 2023.

## Attendees

The initial listing of potential attendees included people from a variety of organizations, regions, government departments, independent arts organizations, funding agencies, and private funders. Invitations were sent to all of these people in December 2022 with reminders in January 2023. The people who were able and willing to attend the meetings in Flin Flon proved to be an excellent mix of public sector representatives of different types of organizations, representatives of northern arts councils, and artists and community members. The overall balance was very good, with understandably a larger representation of Flin Flon community members able to participate due to the proximity and lack of additional travel expenses.



Column1	Column2	Column3	Column4
Andrew	Gallinger	MB Film & Music	<a href="mailto:andrew@mbfilmmusic.ca">andrew@mbfilmmusic.ca</a>
Andria	Stephens	Thompson	<a href="mailto:admin@mallofthearts.com">admin@mallofthearts.com</a>
Brooke	White	FDC Regional Economic Dev Corp	<a href="mailto:bwhite@flinflon.ca">bwhite@flinflon.ca</a>
Chantal	Rougeau	Canadian Hertiage	<a href="mailto:chantal.rougeau@pch.gc.ca">chantal.rougeau@pch.gc.ca</a>
Cheryl	Antonio	The Pas	<a href="mailto:antc@mymts.net">antc@mymts.net</a>
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Thom	Sparling	Creative MB	<a href="mailto:director@creativemanitoba.ca">director@creativemanitoba.ca</a>
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## Agenda Development

The meeting agenda was developed after quite a number of conversations about goals, participants, and desired results in groupings that started with Trudy Schroeder and Doug Lauvstad, then with the addition of Thom Sparling, and then adding Inga Petri in January 2023.

Trudy Schroeder prepared a draft meeting agenda in November that was shared and discussed with the ImagiNorthern conversation group and with University College of the North's President, Doug Lauvstad.

The following items were identified as key elements for a successful gathering:

- That gathering people concerned about arts development in Northern Manitoba in person was of primary importance for the cultural workers in the north,
- that bringing representatives of funding organizations and policy organizations to this meeting would be important,
- that adequate time for networking would be essential,
- that an inspiring key note speaker would be vital to success of the venture,
- that the facilitator for the planning and strategy must be someone with a strong knowledge of cultural development in the north, and excellent facilitation skills.
- that art and performances should be included in the schedule,
- that tours of Flin Flon's cultural centres should be included,
- that everyone in attendance at the gathering should have something that they personally could contribute to the implementation of next steps,
- that a clear sense of next steps and strategies for moving forward should emerge from the meetings.
- that the presence of elders and singers from the local Indigenous community would be appropriate and very welcome.

After many meetings, much discussion, and identification of the key note speaker and the planning facilitator, the agenda was finalized in early March. The agenda that we worked with for the meetings follows on the next pages.

## Final Agenda for the Northern Arts Workshop, March 21-23, 2023



### MEET & GREET | Bakers Narrows Lodge | MAR 21

5:00pm – 6:00pm

#### Cocktail Reception

Gather with Northern Manitoba's arts community and speakers and facilitators from Manitoba, Ontario and the Yukon.

Interactive: Participants will be asked to pin their photo/name to their home location on a map. This map will be part of the conference proceedings throughout the working session.

Featuring live performance.

6:00pm - 7:00pm

#### Dinner and Networking

During this dinner, each participant will have a chance to introduce themselves at their table and to the group.

7:00pm - 8:00pm

#### Keynote Speaker

##### Jesse Wente, Canada Council for the Arts

Jesse Wente is a husband and father, as well as a writer, broadcaster, speaker and arts administrator. Born and raised in Toronto, his family comes from Chicago and Genaabaajing Anishinaabek and he is an off-reserve member of the Serpent River First Nation.

Jesse Wente, chair of the board of the Canada Council for the Arts since 2020, may be best known for his two decades as a columnist for CBC Radio's Metro Morning. In 2018, Jesse was named the founding director of the Indigenous Screen Office. He received the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto in 2021 for his volunteer contributions and was recently appointed a Senior Fellow of Massey College. His first book "Unreconciled: Family, Truth and Indigenous Resistance" is a national bestseller and was picked as one of best books of 2021 by Chapters-

Indigo, Apple Books and The Globe and Mail. Jesse recently won the Kobo Emerging Writers Prize in Non-Fiction.

In this inspiring keynote, Jesse will share his perspectives of the power of the arts in Northern communities and representing Northern experiences and perspectives to the world. He will outline Canada Council for the Arts' strategic commitment to Northern communities and outline the opportunities for Northern Manitoba artists and arts organization. Q&As will follow the keynote.

8:00pm - 9:00pm

### **Socializing and Live Performance**

## **SETTING THE STAGE | Bakers Narrows Lodge | MAR 22**

7:00am – 8:00am

### **Breakfast**

8:00am – 8:10am

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Elder Margaret Head-Steppan**

White Bear Woman Cultural Advisor/Elder with her nicapin

Margaret works for the Flin Flon Friendship Center and the Flin Flon School Division as the in-house Elder and Cultural Advisor focusing her efforts on cultural community connections. Margaret has had the good fortune of working with all ages of people within the northern communities.

Margaret is a certified Life Skills Coach with many years of experience in the Traditional Holistic methods that are specifically designed to address the needs of the First Nation's people by using the Traditional Holistic methods that are specifically designed to address the needs of the First Nation's people by using Traditional First Nation Perspective and Holistic Teaching Model of the Medicine Wheel.

This teaching model will address and broaden the context of the First Nations Traditional Teaching and the old ways of life for the First Nations Cree people and how to maintain living a healthy and balanced lifestyle. For the past 35 years, Margaret has walked the Good Red Road and has journeyed into learning traditional healing methods of the old ways of the Cree People.

The 4 Sacred medicines are used in everyday life and in our ceremonies. All of them can be used to smudge with, through sage, cedar, and sweet grass also have many other uses. For the Cree Elders say that the Spirits like the aroma produced when burning tobacco and the other medicines. Also, they are used to reflect and enhance the Tradition Belief System and Values of the Cree people.

Margaret's goal is to continue working towards the truth and reconciliation that will create balance and harmony for the next 7 generations.

8:10am – 8:30am

## **Welcoming and Introductions**

**Minister Obby Khan, Minister of Sport, Culture and Heritage and Doug Lauvstad, UCN President**

8:30am – 8:50am

## **Live Performance**

9:00am – 10:00am

## **Artists & Arts Organizations in Northern MB**

### **Inga Petri, Strategic Moves**

During 2022, Inga undertook a baseline study of the Northern Manitoba Arts Scene. In this presentation, Inga will share highlights of findings and insights generated from the 282 participating artists and 27 arts organizations. The data highlights both the strengths of what exists already and reveals with greater clarity the needs of artists and arts organizations to seize the opportunities to grow and strengthen the sector and bring more Northern Manitoba artists to national and international attention.

Inga is a nationally recognized speaker, facilitator, researcher and strategist with an extensive experience in diverse sectors – from the performing arts, festivals, museums and arts services organization to government, international trade promotion and technology companies. Living in Whitehorse, Yukon since 2015, she maintains a high pace of work in service of clients from the Yukon to Nunavut and across all 10 provinces. Her work thrives at the intersection of research, strategy and marketing, and is often digitally powered.

Inga has been putting digital conversations in the arts on the agenda since 2011, when she led the seminal *Value of Presenting: A Study of Performing Arts Presentation in Canada* (© 2013, CAPACOA). She has a long record of collaboration with our sector including co-writing *Digitizing the Performing Arts: An Assessment of Issues, Opportunities and Challenges* (© 2017, CAPACOA). From 2019 to 2021 she led *Making Tomorrow Better: Taking Digital Action in the Performing Arts* ([digitalartsnation.ca](http://digitalartsnation.ca)), a national initiative that reached more than 3,000 participants with 84 workshops and conference sessions.

10:00am – 10:25am

## **Break and Networking**

## **STANDING IN THE FUTURE | Bakers Narrows Lodge | MAR 22**

10:30am – 12:00pm

## **Standing in the Future**

This round table conversation will highlight the remarkable stories of ingenuity, success despite the odds, and visions for a strong, vibrant arts sector from across Northern Manitoba.

Speakers will briefly outline how the work they are doing today can serve to set the foundations for the future. Each will share their vision for advancement of their work and the arts sector. They will draw back the curtain on the obstacles and barriers they face and what they do to work around them. And they will identify what would help them accelerate the impact their work has in the local community and the region.

Facilitated by Thom Sparling, Creative Manitoba, we will hear from:

- ImagiNorthern – Karen Driedger
- Uptown Emporium – Crystal Kolt
- Community Arts Engagement – Rose-Anne Harder
- The Champion Network – Kristy Janvier
- Creative Manitoba – Thom Sparling
- Churchill – Roy Mexted & Kyle Dingwall
- Thompson – Andria Stephens
- Flin Flon – Lyn Brown
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation – Darryl Bauer
- The Pas – Cheryl Antonio

Participants will have a chance to ask questions and share their observations and personal experiences throughout the session.

12:00pm – 1:15 pm

### **Lunch and Networking**

1:20pm – 2:30pm

### **Funding Panel**

**Facilitated by Thom Sparling**

Provincial and federal funders in arts and culture as well as economic development share important information about their programs and services.

Funding agencies represented include:

- PrairiesCan
- Canadian Heritage
- Canada Council for the Arts
- MB Film & Music
- MB Arts Council

The panel will be a high-level exchange of information about the funding landscape and the opportunities in general, for organizations who are trying to get a better sense of the big picture, connect the dots, identify gaps, etc. We will discuss who they fund, how their funding programs are designed and what their priorities are in terms of funding decisions.

2:30pm – 3:00pm

### **Break and Networking**

## **CREATING THE FUTURE | Bakers Narrows Lodge | MAR 22**

3:00pm – 4:45pm

### **Planning Session Part 1**

**Facilitated by Inga Petri**

This planning session will be facilitated by Inga Petri and centre on developing a shared vision and action plan for a vibrant arts future in Northern Manitoba for the next 20 years.

Participants will work in small groups to imagine what an awesome, vibrant, healthy and economically viable arts future looks like in the North. The conversations will be brought back to the full group for further conversation.

4:45pm – 5:00pm

**Closing Remarks, Thom Sparling**

**Closing Prayer, Elder Margaret Head-Steppan**

5:30pm – 6:30pm

**Dinner and Live Performance**

**CREATING THE FUTURE | Communities | MAR 23**

7:00am – 8:00am

**Breakfast**

8:00am – 8:30am

**Walk About**

**Facilitated by Inga Petri**

This outside time is meant as a period of reflection on the workshop so far and to bring back something from the walk that reminds you of the work we have done so far.

8:45am – 9:30am

**Reflections from Day 1**

**Facilitated by Thom Sparling**

Participants share their reflections on the work so far, based on the item that have brought from their walk.

9:30am – 11:15am

**Planning Session**

**Part 2 Facilitated by Inga Petri**

Participants will be led through an individual and small group exercise toward action planning and defining tangible steps and organizational stewardship for the Northern Manitoba arts community.

11:15am – 11:45am

**Break and Networking**

11:45am – 1:00pm

**Lunch**

1:00pm – 5:00pm

**Tours of Flin Flon**



The Flin Flon Arts Council has designed several guided tours and pop up performances with networking opportunities.

5:30pm-7:00pm

**Closing Dinner**



Crystal Kolt and Thom Sparling looking forward to the start of the gathering.

## Summary of Sessions

### Tuesday Evening, March 21, 2023, Introductions and Welcome:

Thom Sparling of Creative Manitoba welcomed participants to the gathering of those with an interest and hope for development and strengthening of the cultural sector in Northern Manitoba. Meeting participants were welcomed to introduce themselves with a very short summary (less than 30 seconds) of who they were and what their interest was in the meeting. President of University College of the North, Doug Lauvstad welcomed all the participants and talked about the importance of the meeting and the connections that would be made over the days of the gathering.

### March 21, 2023

### Key Note Speaker: Jesse Wentz



Jesse Wentz's presence and contribution to the significance of the gathering went far beyond his words and presentation at the start of the conference. As Chairperson of the Canada Council for the Arts, he will have a role in the selection of the next CEO of the Canada Council for the Arts as well as in the forward movement of the Canada Council's commitment to supporting Indigenous artists and communities in its current strategic plan.

He spoke eloquently and persuasively about the role of the Canada Council in supporting the cultural development in northern and remote areas of Canada. There was time for some questions from the participants, and this elicited interesting and provocative responses from Jesse Wentz.

### March 22, 2023

### Presentation on current status of art activity in Northern Manitoba, Inga Petri

In the summer of 2022, Inga Petri of Strategic Moves conducted a study into the makeup and location of artists and arts organizations in Northern Manitoba. This study comes at an excellent time to establish base line information on the arts community in Northern Manitoba.

## Funders Presentations

An excellent representation of funding and support bodies for the arts and cultural sector was in attendance at the meeting. Each organization made a short presentation of its programs and priorities.

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Funding Programs</b>
Canadian Heritage	Chantal Rougeau	Arts Presentation Program (Festivals and performing series) Cultural Spaces Program (capital) Canada Cultural Investment Fund (Strategic Initiatives, Endowment, Incentives, Endangered Arts Organizations)
Canada Council for the Arts	Odile Joannette	Many funding programs for organizations and artists:  Creating Knowing and Sharing: The Arts and Cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis Peoples  Explore and Create Arts Abroad Arts Across Canada
Manitoba Arts Council	Randy Joynt, CEO	All individual and organization grants for Manitoba artists and organizations.
Manitoba Film & Music	Andrew Gallagher	Manitoba Film Tax Credit Music
PrairiesCan	Kristina Braun	PrairiesCan has a mandate to help with diversification of the prairie economy. They have a range of programs to assist with the development of enterprises that assist with economic growth in the region. <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/prairies-economic-development.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/prairies-economic-development.html</a>

## Community Representatives Presentations:



Group	Presenter	Programs
ImagiNorthern	Karen Driedger	Convening arts councils in Northern communities.
Uptown Emporium	Crystal Kolt	Flin Flon retail shop for sale of local arts and crafts products. On-line sales platform, sales and shipping capacity. Desire to grow to other communities with depots, a sales and shipping capacity, shared web-site and on-line sales capacity.
Manitoba Arts Network	Rose-Anne Harder	Network to support artistic organizations, arts councils, individuals in all Manitoba communities outside Winnipeg. Visual arts exhibitions, showcases, conferences, training, networking, community concert series.
The Champion Network	Kristy Janvier	Established within the past several years is a network of artists in communities
Creative Manitoba	Thom Sparling	Creative workforce development and training, research, networking, co-working space, mentorship programs,

		connection.
Churchill	Roy Mexted & Kyle Dingwall	Music opportunities Link with Churchill tourism Facilities needed
Opaskwayak Cree Nation	Darryl Bauer	Many fine artists reside in the community. Connections and arts materials are needed to help the artists thrive.
The Pas	Cheryl Antonio	The Pas has festivals, artists, and arts events of different types. Facilities and sustained programs will be a benefit to the communities. University College of the North Campus
Thompson	Andria Stephens	Mall of the Arts North Forge, Makers Space University College of the North Campus
Flin Flon	Lyn Brown	Flin Flon announced that Crystal Kolt would be leaving the Flin Flon Arts Council to take on a role with the City of Flin Flon. What a great announcement to make at this meeting.

## Strategic Exercise

Participants were asked to describe a vibrant, healthy, and economically viable Northern arts sector. People worked in table groups filling large sheets of paper with ideas and sharing those ideas with the larger group.

There was much celebration of the growing connection between regions and programs, the potential for growth in the programs and initiatives offered to the community. The work that Crystal Kolt has done in Flin Flon over the past two decades is seen as an inspiration for other communities. With significantly improved tools for connecting remote communities, there is much hope and expectation of benefits from the collaborative work that has been done over the past year and a half.

## March 23, 2023

### Nature exploration

Participants walked outside and gathered items that expressed their sense of the possibilities and opportunities for the arts and cultural sector in Northern Manitoba.

## Strategy development

Participants spent the morning discussing options and opportunities and then working on individual strategies for the work that they could contribute to the overall development of the cultural sector in the North. These individual strategy commitment documents were collected by Inga Petri who will be developing these into a strategy document coming out of the conference. People were encouraged to write their personal strategy down twice and also to share their capacity to help with the group.

## Priorities identified

There was much discussion of the importance of the next steps for the group as a whole, and the next steps for the organizations and individuals involved. Among the ideas that emerged were the following:

- To build on the ideas and progress made at this meeting.
- To establish a baseline and record progress.
- To strengthen ImagiNorthern.
- To be sure that people are clear on the role and expected outcomes of the Champion program.
- To see some clear benefits and sectoral progress related to the grants received from the Canada Council and the Province of Manitoba. (At the end of this year, how has the arts community in the North been strengthened because of the investment?)
- To further develop communication mechanisms and sharing of ideas and strategies in the Northern Communities.
- To connect with individual artists in the region to ensure that they are aware of the opportunities and support available to them.
- To build the capacity, reach, and financial viability of the Uptown Emporium program.
- To become aware of the facility assets and needs in each community.
- To further refine the knowledge of artists in the North through training programs and information on performance or showcasing opportunities.
- To build stronger relationships and programs with other Manitoba arts organizations.
- To look to other jurisdictions in the North for examples of successful development of artistic and cultural assets.
- To continue to build on the relationships between the communities with the support organizations in Manitoba and beyond.
- To encourage and support Northern artists and arts organizations in applying for funding and support from the arts funding organization, economic development entities, municipal governments, private sponsors.
- To build on the connections that University College of the North has in nine Indigenous communities in the North.
- To see further outreach and connections utilizing the arts organizations, festivals, and government programs that already exist in the North.
- To connect with and build on tourism assets and support mechanisms.
- To assist with providing the first step opportunities that make it possible for artists to qualify for grants from the Manitoba Arts Council and the Canada Council.



- To encourage municipalities to make a commitment to cultural development. (Using the example of Flin Flon and its recent addition of a municipal employee with specific responsibilities for cultural and arts issues.
- To celebrate success of Northern artists and ensure that there is awareness of the excellence and achievements of Northern Manitoba artists and arts organizations.
- To build connections between artists and the organizations.
- To make sure that artists and arts workers are paid fairly for their work.

## Next Steps

### Chart of Areas for Strategic Activity

Area		Responsibility and Leadership
Connections	Continue to build on connections and awareness. Make several key goals for coming year, and deliver strong outcomes.	ImagiNorthern, Creative Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Network, University College of the North, Manitoba Arts Council, Community Arts Councils
Communications	Establish a regular and easy form of communication between conference participants that does not require significant maintenance or updating from any particular organization.	Jennifer Nabess shared the contact list of participants in the workshop. A Facebook group was established and all participants were invited to join.
Meetings	ImagiNorthern to continue monthly meetings.  Possibility of a follow up meeting of this group next year at the same time.	Creative Manitoba  University College of the North
ImagiNorthern	Connections, joint programs, shared programs, artist development programs, concert series, festival development, facilities inventory and gap analysis, community engagement, communications.	Members of ImagiNorthern
Uptown Emporium	Build the network of artists who are able to sell their products through Uptown Emporium. Build the reach and viability of this program.	Flin Flon Arts Council



	<p>Further connect to other regions in the north.</p> <p>Develop sales locations in other areas.</p> <p>Become financially viable.</p> <p>Dream big.</p> <p>Create an ambitious business plan.</p>	
Northern Champions	<p>Be very clear about the role and deliverables of this program in every region.</p> <p>This is a key opportunity for some amazing results in the coming year, but activities and expectations must be clear and focused for optimal results. Take time early to imagine what the impact can be.</p>	ImagiNorthern and Northern Champions
Facilities	<p>Do an inventory of existing arts and cultural facilities in Northern Manitoba.</p> <p>Where are the gaps? How can this be rectified? What role could the arts depot program play?</p> <p>Can more makers spaces be established? Where and how?</p> <p>How can University College of the North utilize its facilities and training capacity to assist in this work?</p> <p>Can tourism and recreation spaces be better utilized for artistic development and programs?</p>	<p>ImagiNorthern</p> <p>Consultant project or ImagiNorthern</p> <p>North Forge, Mall of the Arts</p> <p>University College of the North</p> <p>Travel Manitoba, ImagiNorthern</p>
Other		

## Strategic Opportunities for University College of the North

First of all, a large expression of thanks is due to University College of the North for identifying the need for a gathering of the Northern cultural community, for finding resources and people to plan and implement the meeting, and for welcoming people to this very productive and ground breaking gathering of people with a passion for the arts as community and economy building powers. This event would not have happened without the vision, commitment, and investment of University College of the North.

- Determine if it is possible to host a follow up meeting to this meeting next year.
- The organization and most of the funding for this meeting have come through the University College of the North. This has been a very generous contribution to furthering the development of the arts in the North. The next gathering may have to have a different financial structure if funding is not as readily available.
- Build on the relationships that have been established through the March meeting in Flin Flon.
- Develop an arts training program at the college. Weekend workshops, short term programs, arts management courses for the arts champions.
- Use the college facilities to display the works of Northern artists and craftspeople.
- Utilize the colleges training and outreach links to nine Indigenous communities to make contact and build trust within Indigenous communities.
- Collaboration with North Forge, ImagiNorthern, Creative Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Network

## Follow Up To Meeting

The organizing committee of Doug Lauvstad, Trudy Schroeder, Thom Sparling, Inga Petri and Jen Nabess met on-line on March 30, 2023 for a debrief session. Everyone was very pleased with the way this inaugural meeting worked out. Much appreciation was expressed for the organizing work that Jen Nabess did to organize the invitations, the logistics, the connections with the hall, flights, timelines, information and registration. This was a big part of ensuring that the meeting went well.

The meeting location in Flin Flon was also seen to be a very good fit for the event with good spaces for accommodation of out of town participants, a good meeting space, good meals, and helpful staff.

The presentation sessions and facilitation by Inga Petri was also much appreciated. Her presentation on the current status of the artistic community in Northern Manitoba was a great opening to the working part of the meeting.

Jesse Wente was a very good choice for the key note speaker. His knowledge of the Canadian arts community, his important role in the Canada Council for the Arts, and his dedication to the advancement of the Indigenous population in politics and the arts was very appropriate for this meeting, and many people expressed appreciation for his presence and contribution to the proceedings. People were also very happy to have informal opportunities to discuss the role of the Canada Council and upcoming priorities of the Council.

Thom Sparling, with his knowledge of the ImagiNorthern group and the Manitoba funders, was an excellent choice for meeting MC.

Both Trudy Schroeder and Inga Petri will be preparing conference reports. Inga's report will concentrate on the strategies and next steps emerging from the sessions she facilitated. Trudy's report will cover the conference as a whole with some recommendations for future steps.

## Acknowledgements and Thanks:

- University College of the North: Doug Lauvstad, President;
- Jennifer Nabess, Meeting Coordinator
- Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) for financial support of the meeting.
- Greenstone Community Futures, for financial support of the meeting.
- Creative Manitoba: Thom Sparling, MC, Conference Planning and Agenda Development
- Arts & Heritage Solutions: Trudy Schroeder, Conference Planning and Agenda Development
- Strategic Moves: Inga Petri, Presenter, Facilitator, Conference Planning and Agenda Development.
- Canada Council: Jesse Wente, Chair; Odile Joannetta
- Flin Flon Arts Council: Crystal Kolt and the many volunteer drivers, artists, participants.
- Town of Flin Flon: Warm welcome and participation from the Mayor George Fontaine and staff.
- Bakers Narrows Lodge: A very good, beautiful, and hospitable location for this gathering.
- All the participants, funders, artists, and supporters who came with a spirit of openness and eagerness to learn and connect.

## Arts & Heritage Solutions

This report on the Northern Arts Workshop was prepared by Trudy Schroeder of Arts & Heritage Solutions. Trudy has been involved in cultural development and arts organization leadership for more than thirty years. She holds an MBA, a BA, an ARCT, and has been awarded the Order of Manitoba for her contribution to the cultural life of the province.

Arts & Heritage Solutions has been providing planning and project management support for the cultural sector since 1996. Projects include feasibility studies, cultural policies, cultural policy reviews, development of operating plans, fundraising, organizational assessments, facility plans, and economic development strategies utilizing the arts.



## Photos

Odile Joannette working in front of the Manitoba map.







Baker's Narrows Lodge provided meetings spaces and lodgings for out of town participants. An example of the cottages.



The main lodge which contained the meeting space and dining area.









Jennifer Nabess, meeting coordinator.



Crystal Kolt of Flin Flon Arts Council and Thom Sparling of Creative Manitoba





Kyle from Churchill , Odile Joannette from the Canada Council, and Jesse Wentte from the Canada Council.









