



For immediate release
March 7, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT: BRIDGING FROM ISOLATION TO COMMUNITY

WHAT: International Women's Day Event: *Bridging from Isolation to Community*

Part 1) Meet at the Mackenzie Art Gallery at 1 p.m. to view the exhibit, *Soliloquy*, by Shirin Neshat, a dual projection video installation, followed by group discussion.

Part 2) At approximately 2:45 p.m. everyone is invited to board a chartered bus which will take us to the Albert Street Bridge for the International *Join Me On The Bridge Movement*, portion of the event. At the bridge, we will be connecting with each other with red colored scarves to show freedom and empowerment. At 3:15 we will re-board the bus to return to the Mackenzie Art Gallery. Event will finish approximately at 3:30 pm.

WHEN: Saturday, March 8, 2014 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Part 1) MacKenzie Art Gallery, 3475 Albert Street, Regina SK
Part 2) Albert Street Bridge (between Regina Ave & College Ave)

WHO: 1) **Project Partners:** Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Regina Immigrant Women Centre, Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, Government of Saskatchewan - Status of Women Office, University of Regina, Life Long Learning Centre - Intercultural Grandmothers Uniting, and SaskCulture.
2) **Event target audience:** Women from a variety of backgrounds and organizations.

WHY: International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

In 1975, during International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on March 8. Two years later, in December 1977, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace to be observed on any day of the year by Member States, in accordance with their historical and national traditions.

About the theme: *Bridging from Isolation to Community*

"We felt that the art exhibit "Soliloquy" and the International "Join Me on the Bridge movement" define every woman. Isolation is one side of the bridge and community is the other. We come across the bridge to join community which leads to individual and group empowerment. The scarves represent our connection as women. All women use a scarf in one form or another. They are the connecting links like the bridge," explains Neelu Sachdev, Executive Director, RIWC. "What is your bridge?! Join us on the Bridge to connect and celebrate freedom and empowerment!"

About the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS)

The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan is a charitable, non-profit organization committed to promoting, fostering, improving and developing multiculturalism in the cultural, economic, social and political life of Saskatchewan while working to achieve equality of all residents. We support member organizations in a variety of ways, including workshops, investments in their activities that implement our mission, aims and objectives, networking and information, and being the lead voice on multiculturalism in the province.

We also support anti-racism and multicultural education activities in schools. We celebrate and raise public awareness of significant dates such as Saskatchewan Multicultural Week in November, Black History Month in February, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21st, Hispanic Heritage Month in April, Asian Heritage Month in May, National Aboriginal History Month in June, and Celebrate Canada from June 21st to July 1st. For more information, please visit www.mcos.ca and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

About the MacKenzie Art Gallery (MAG)

The MacKenzie Art Gallery is located in the heart of Regina's expansive Wascana Park. From ambitious beginnings at what is now the University of Regina, the MacKenzie of today is Saskatchewan's largest public art gallery and one of Canada's most beautiful. An interactive hub of cultural activity, the Gallery provides award-winning educational programs, unique community events and free public tours for people of all ages.

The MacKenzie spans over 100,000 square feet of space on three levels including an exhibition floor with eight environmentally controlled galleries and a state-of-the-art art conservation lab. The Vault is home to more than 4,500 works of art in the treasured MacKenzie Permanent Collection. For more information please visit, www.mackenzieartgallery.ca

About the Regina Immigrant Women Centre (RIWC)

The Regina Immigrant Women Centre (RIWC) is a non-profit community based organization which provides programs for the education, integration, enrichment and empowerment of immigrant women and their families. More than 700 women access programs in English Training, Pre-Employment, Settlement Advising and Family Support each year. The Centre is located conveniently near bus access in downtown Regina. One of the most popular programs is the Drop-in Conversation Literacy classes which provide a chance for participants to socialize as well as to improve their speaking skills.

The Centre is always looking for volunteers to work with newcomers in the Drop-In program. For more information, visit www.reginaiwc.ca.

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