



Title: CULTURAL POLICY		Number: 0116
Reference: Public Services Committee - July 29, 2003	Adopted by City Council: August 5, 2003	Supersedes: January 7, 1991
Prepared by: CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD		

STATEMENT

THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF CULTURE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP IN CULTURAL PURSUITS.

PURPOSE

Identify the role that the municipality and community will play in nurturing, promoting and preserving culture.

DEFINITIONS

CULTURE is a broad concept that comprises many spheres of activity. It is constantly evolving. In its broadest sense it can be defined as a way of life of people. It incorporates all the traits and elements that distinguish a given society as it evolves over time.

Culture refers to all aspects of the arts, and of heritage, and includes the values, beliefs, customs, languages and ways of life.

The **ARTS** encompass anything that results from a process of human creation/invention of an idea with aesthetic content and includes the visual arts, literary arts, performing arts, performance, communication arts, craft, architecture and multidisciplinary arts.

HERITAGE refers to the tangible and intangible aspects of our natural and cultural past. The emphasis is on cultural continuity from the past, through the present and into the future. Tangible aspects include, but are not limited to, buildings and structures, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, cemeteries, sacred places, monuments, artefacts, specimens and collections. Intangible aspects include but are not limited to beliefs, ideas, customs, language, religion, stories and many others.*

BELIEF STATEMENT

The City of Medicine Hat embraces an inclusive definition recognizing the heritage of the region, the ethnic diversity of the city and the contribution of the living arts to the community. The City believes that cultural pursuits:

- Foster cultural development and growth
- Improve the quality of life and the artistic growth of its citizens
- Provide the opportunity to enliven and energize life in the City of Medicine Hat
- Develop pride and community spirit
- Initiate cooperative endeavours and partnerships among its citizens
- Be accessible
- Contribute to economic growth and tourism

VISION STATEMENT

A vibrant and thriving cultural community.

* Modelled after the City of Moncton Cultural Policy with permission.