

## **Building Communities Program Backgrounder**

- Saskatchewan's quality of life is supported by the vibrancy and diversity of the province's cultural, social and recreational activities.
- The Building Communities Program is investing \$100 million over three years to help communities increase cultural and recreational capacity.
- Submissions must be regionally significant and be supported through regional partnerships. They must demonstrate sustainability, accessibility and accountability.
- Submissions for support are eligible for up to 25 per cent of total allowable costs which will be based on a combination of eligible per capita contributions and total projected costs.
- The Program has two streams: Stream A – submissions where the total project is more than \$10 million; Stream B – submissions where the total project cost is between \$1 million and \$10 million.
- Submissions over \$10 million are eligible for \$50 per capita plus 15 per cent of total project costs.
- Submissions of between \$1 million and \$10 million will be eligible for \$75 per capita.
- In this first year of the program four significant projects were allocated funding in 2006-07 -- Lloydminster Common Wealth Centre (\$4,930,936), Swift Current Centennial Civic Centre (\$3,081,477.50), Wanuskewin Heritage Park (\$2,500,000), and Yorkton Gallagher Centre (\$4,074,356.65). An additional \$2 million was allocated to the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation Board.
- Further information is available at [www.cyr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.cyr.gov.sk.ca).

### **Mendel Art Gallery:**

The original Mendel Art Gallery was built in 1964, with an addition in 1975. It's open to the public, free of charge, 364 days a year. The current facility has a shortage of space, operational problems with collection and visitor flow, outdated mechanical and electrical systems, and no wheelchair accessibility.

Through this additional funding, the facility will be renovated and expanded. It will increase space by 1,542 square metres, approximately 60 per cent larger than the existing facility. The expansion will allow the art collection to grow, enable more major exhibits, improve visitor amenities, provide wheelchair access, programming spaces, art handling capabilities, administrative and staff work areas, integrate the conservatory, create a Joni Mitchell café and develop the site. The project will include school tours and studio, interpretative and family outreach programs.