

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ESPLANADE INCREASES ACCESS TO CULTURE

Free Admission Passes Available at the Library

MEDICINE HAT, AB – The Esplanade Arts and Heritage Centre is excited to announce a new partnership with the Medicine Hat Public Library. Starting today, library patrons in Medicine Hat will be able to check out a Community Access Pass to the Esplanade's Art Galleries and Museum.

"The partnership project will provide opportunities for families who may find admission costs a barrier for participating in Esplanade exhibits and programs," says Carol Beatty, Manager of Cultural Development at the City of Medicine Hat. "We've already removed one financial barrier by offering free admission to the galleries all day every Thursday, but we realize many families can't come on a weekday, so we're pleased to overcome one more barrier with the Access Pass program."

There are four Community Access Passes in circulation which are available on a *first come, first served* basis. The Access Passes can be signed out for the same 7-day borrowing period as DVDs and CDs, and will be available at the Library's Information Desk.

One pass allows one family (two adults and up to four children) free access to the Esplanade galleries during regular operating hours, as well as complimentary coffee in the Esplanade café during the visit for which the pass is used. Patrons with a current Medicine Hat Public Library card may sign out one community access pass per week.

"I am very excited about our new partnership with the Esplanade," says Rachel Sarjeant-Jenkins, Chief Librarian at the Medicine Hat Public Library. "Libraries, museums and galleries are in the business of promoting culture, lifelong learning, and access to information. This innovative partnership will open new doors to learning and entertainment for our library users."

The Medicine Hat Public Library is open:
Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.,
Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and
Sunday 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Esplanade Galleries are open:
Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and
Weekends Noon to 5 p.m.

Visit www.esplanade.ca or www.mhpl.info for more information.

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For further information or interviews, please contact:

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