



Newfoundland and Labrador  
**Arts Council**



The Prince Edward Island Council of the Arts  
Conseil des Arts de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard

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## **Atlantic cooperation in the arts**

**October 25, 2012 (St. John's, NL)** – The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council (NLAC) recently hosted a multi-day meeting for Atlantic public arts funders, including the New Brunswick Arts Board, Arts Nova Scotia, the Prince Edward Island Council for the Arts, as well as the NLAC. Each organization was represented by the Executive Director and the Chair. The focus of the meetings was to put finishing touches on an innovative memorandum of understanding (MOU).

The MOU acknowledges a unanimous desire to foster a vibrant and contemporary artistic presence throughout Atlantic Canada which includes collaborating on initiatives that benefit artists and citizens of the Atlantic region. With a total of eleven resolutions, the memorandum outlines a shared desire to initiate strategic pan-Atlantic arts projects, represent the region under a single voice when appropriate, develop common Atlantic Canadian positions on national issues concerning the arts, and to coordinate research and analysis of arts activities, policies and programs which affect or concern the Atlantic Provinces.

The committee will work towards realizing these and other resolutions made. Meetings will be hosted in rotation throughout the Atlantic Provinces. "It was a great pleasure for the NLAC to host these important meetings at which a historic agreement was established, we look forward to continuing the dialogue and working with our Atlantic counterparts," said Tom Gordon, Chair of the NLAC.

"By working together we believe we can provide our artists with increased opportunities and our region with more presence on the national stage," said Candace Stevenson, Chair of Arts Nova Scotia.

Tim Borlase, Chair of the New Brunswick Arts Board (artsnb), is "delighted to celebrate the first of several exciting initiatives that APAF will be working towards as a group: an Atlantic Conference on Aboriginal Arts and an Atlantic region professional artist exchange among Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. We're off to a very positive start on efforts that will reap benefits for arts and culture in the Atlantic Region."

Greg Doran, Chair of the Prince Edward Island Council of the Arts, echoed his counterparts' sentiments, and he went on to add that he was "excited to see this group come together. It has been a long time coming, and the benefits are endless. We all have much to share with and learn from each other, and APAF will be the platform that will allow the fruits of this collaboration to flourish."

The MOU on Atlantic cooperation in the arts was officially signed at the NLAC office on August 21, 2012 and will be reviewed in 2015.

### **Media Contact:**

Joshua Jamieson  
Communications Officer

Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council

(709) 726-2212 or long distance toll free 1 (866) 726-2212 (NL only)

[jjamieson@nlac.ca](mailto:jjamieson@nlac.ca)

[www.nlac.ca](http://www.nlac.ca)

*The NLAC is a non-profit Crown agency created in 1980 by The Arts Council Act. Its mission is to foster and promote the creation and enjoyment of the arts for the benefit of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. The Council is governed by a volunteer board of 13 appointed by government, reflecting regional representation of the province. This includes 10 professional artists who provide sectoral representation of the arts community; one community representative (with an interest in the arts); one business representative (with an interest in the arts); and one representative of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation (non-voting). The NLAC receives an annual grant of \$2.1 million from the Province to support a variety of granting programs, program delivery, office administration, and communications. It also seeks support from the public and private sector. It supports the following artistic disciplines: dance, film, multidiscipline, music, theatre, visual art, and writing.*