FROM: CHILLIWACK ARTS &

CULTURAL CENTRE SOCIETY****

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**THRILLED ABOUT NEW HIRES**

 CHILLIWACK, BC—While final paint coats are meticulously applied, 10 new staff members have moved into the Chilliwack Cultural Centre, ready to make reality the community's arts and culture vision which began a decade ago. This dynamic and driven team will be led by Michael Cade, Executive Director, who brings extensive experience in theatre production and management to his role. Both Cade and his new staff are anticipating the scheduled September 19th opening week of celebrations to launch The Centre, building up to the “Red Carpet Affair” opening gala on September 25.

Staff members have started to prepare for the 2010-2011 season, all with the same goal in mind, to ensure The Centre is a huge success. Chris Reid and Jamea Lister excel in running the theatre's technical systems, KellyAnne TeBrinke brings coordination skills and marketing know-how to the team, Anna Stecca will ensure patrons are served promptly at the new Centre Box Office, Chrissie Hood organizes the books and keeps the office efficient, Theresia Reid serves organizations and individuals interested in booking space at The Centre, and Kelly Walton

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**NEW HIRES AT THE CENTRE**

coordinates cleaning, including janitorial supplies and staff. Additionally, the Marketing Manager and Technical Director have been appreciative of the work from three students from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV).

Being the first to greet you when you enter The Centre will be Anna Stecca, and the Centre's Box Office staff. Stecca, the Box Office Manager, is responsible for ensuring excellence in customer service. Most currently Stecca was the Box Office Manager for the Chemanius Theatre where performances were held seven times a week all year long. In other words, Stecca is up for the challenge and excels at trouble-shooting.

Assisting Stecca is David Russell, a former employee with the Chilliwack School District where he was the Coordinator for the BC Enterprise Student Information System (BC ESIS). During his time with the school district Russell managed the implementation of BC ESIS, which included staff training, migrating data to the new system and supporting new users. Russell continues to assist staff and work with systems under his new title, Box Office Assistant, ensuring staff are equipped for the September opening. “There is amazing entertainment coming to The Centre,” exclaims David, “I am very excited to be part of the start-up—people will be blown away.”

Theresia Reid, Booking Manager, is looking forward to serving the community arts groups, commercial, concert promoters, the business community, event planners, and individuals interested in booking space at The Centre. She is excited to focus on a new clientele, though

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**STAFF TO CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT**

looks fondly on her last role as Resident Stage Manager at Theatre North West in Prince George.

With a BA in Arts and a concentration in Theatre from Thompson River University, as well as a nomination for a Jessie award, Reid is a noted theatre professional, ready to coordinate all the details involved in renting arts and culture specific venues.

Kelly Walton, Building Maintenance Supervisor, started her first day at The Centre tallying the number of paper towel and soap dispensers needed. Walton’s goal for her job is to “create a safe, clean environment for both patrons and staff”. She comes from Gateway Property Management in Kamloops and as an artist herself, looks forward to getting creative after work. Walton specializes with acrylic painting on saw blades.

“We are so very lucky to have Anna, David, Theresia, and Kelly join our team” said Cade. “Their dedication to Arts and Culture is amazing, and I know that the community is going to be in very good hands while dealing with them. While our first round of hiring is mostly complete, we will be looking forward to adding new members to the team in the late summer.”

The centre’s staff offices are now within the building, located on City-owned land at The Landing, adjacent to existing sports and recreation facilities and Prospera Centre, and all staff are looking forward to the September opening.

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Owned by the City of Chilliwack, the new Cultural Centre houses two unique performance venues, an art gallery, music instruction studios, arts and crafts studios, meeting rooms, and offices, and the new home to the Chilliwack Academy of Music and the Chilliwack Arts Council. Other partners in the project include The City of Chilliwack, The Chilliwack Visual Artists Association, and The Chilliwack Players Guild.

*Chilliwack Cultural Centre highlights:*

* 597 seat performance theatre
* 168 seat recital hall / rehearsal space / dance studio / meeting space

Chilliwack Art gallery (22-foot high display area)

* 21 music instructional rooms
* Arts and crafts studios
* Storage and Archival Resource Room

For additional information and to arrange interviews, contact:

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