

## **The Banff Centre Mandate**

The Banff Centre is a public, board-governed, specialized Arts and Culture Institution operating under the authority of the *Post-secondary Learning Act* of the Province of Alberta.

The Banff Centre provides non-parchment programs in the arts and creativity, and in leadership development, mountain culture and the environment.

As a specialized Arts and Culture Institution, drawing participants from Alberta, across Canada and globally, The Banff Centre is Alberta's nationally and internationally renowned centre of excellence in creativity and the arts.

The Banff Centre's core area of specialization is the Arts, offered at the professional, post-graduate level. Programs are characterized by applied research, independent study, creation, collaboration, production, performance and dissemination of new work.

Arts programs are offered in a range of Performing, Visual and Literary Arts including, but not limited to: Music, Audio Engineering, Theatre Production and Design, Dance, Opera, Aboriginal Arts, Painting, Digital Film and New Media, Photography, Ceramics, Printmaking, Sculpture, Poetry, Narrative and the Spoken Word. As an organization specializing in creativity, The Banff Centre embraces innovation in all its disciplines.

Banff Centre programs draw on the multidisciplinary strengths of the peer creative community which distinguishes it as a centre of excellence in Alberta, Canada and the world.

As with the Arts, the balance of program areas at The Banff Centre focuses on creative approaches. Leadership Development offers innovative programs drawn from arts disciplines and the natural environment which support the development of leaders in Aboriginal communities, and in the public, private and social sectors.

Programming in Mountain Culture and the Environment fosters the development of creative solutions to global environmental and sustainability concerns, through programs and symposia that explore issues relating to mountain areas and communities in Alberta, Canada and internationally. Mountain Culture programs utilize the arts, for example writing, film and photography, to explore mankind's relationship with the world's mountain places.

The Banff Centre also conducts applied research and fosters innovation in a variety of program areas, both independently and in partnership with other institutions and the private sector.

The primary delivery mechanism for programs at The Banff Centre is through on-site programs, summits, think tanks and conferences supported by a variety of services including the Library and Archives with its specialty fine arts collections. Participants

are also provided with room and board, medical and counseling services, and recreational facilities and programs. The Banff Centre partners with other post-secondary institutions, cultural organizations and the private sector.

The Banff Centre offers a retreat venue for educational and professional development focused conferences, many of which are enhanced by access to the Centre's programming expertise.

The Banff Centre provides cultural, educational and recreational resources to our participants, as well as to our employees, the Bow Valley and Alberta. By providing diverse cultural and learning opportunities for Albertans and others, the Centre enriches and advances the quality of life in the local community and throughout Alberta.

The Banff Centre also offers a dynamic international learning environment contributing to building careers and skills in the arts and across all sectors, developing leaders for the Alberta economy and Alberta's Aboriginal communities. The Banff Centre develops leaders for cultural industries throughout the world. Through the dissemination of creative ideas and new work, The Banff Centre ensures that its innovative programs contribute to building the knowledge economy and to the development of culturally vibrant communities.

Approved by the Board of Governors October 31, 2008