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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Access Copyright Foundation awards \$100,000 in Professional Development Grants

The Access Copyright Foundation (ACF) is pleased to announce the latest recipients of its Professional Development Grant program. A total of \$100,000 was awarded to 59 creators, arts professionals and publishers. Please see the attached backgrounder for a full listing of Professional Development Grant recipients.

The *Access Copyright Foundation Professional Development Grants* provide access to specialized training and continuing education for writers and visual artists and for arts professionals employed or contracted by Canadian publishers and arts organizations.

ACF is partnering with the Saskatchewan Arts Board to administer the grant process. Grant recipients were adjudicated by a panel of professional artists who have the knowledge, skills and abilities to make objective and informed decisions. The jury members were: Toronto graphic designer Tania Craan, Vancouver publisher Nancy Flight, and Toronto author Antanas Sileika.

This is the Access Copyright Foundation's first year of awarding grants in three areas: Professional Development, Research, and Events. Applications for Events Grants will be accepted as of September 1, 2011. Events Grants are available to organizations that support Canadian creativity through events that aim to deepen appreciation and enjoyment of Canadian culture. The application form will be available on the ACF website in September at www.acfoundation.ca. Applicants hosting events between September 1 and November 1, 2011 must email a notice of intent to apply within one week of the event. The deadline for Events Grants is November 1, 2011.

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About the Access Copyright Foundation

The Access Copyright Foundation promotes and supports Canadian culture by providing grants intended to encourage the development and dissemination of publishable Canadian works. The Foundation endeavours to make a modest but important contribution to the Canadian cultural community, while also broadening public awareness of the creative vitality of Canadian writers, visual artists and publishers. For more information, please visit www.acfoundation.ca

About the Saskatchewan Arts Board

The Saskatchewan Arts Board serves the people of Saskatchewan through programs, services and partnerships designed to build a strong and vibrant arts sector. Its main goals are accessibility, sustainability and growth, awareness and acceptance, and development and life-long learning. Established more than 63 years ago, the Arts Board is the first agency of its kind in North America. In the decades since then, it has continued as a leader in the country, and it continues to build on this strong tradition to meet ongoing opportunities for public investment in the arts community. For more information, please visit www.artsboard.sk.ca

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