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## **New NWT Arts Council Members Announced**

**YELLOWKNIFE (April 11, 2011)** – Four highly qualified Northwest Territories (NWT) residents – Margaret Nazon of Inuvik, Vivian Edgi-Manuel of Fort Good Hope, Barb Tsetso of Fort Simpson, and Leela Gilday of Yellowknife – have been appointed to the NWT Arts Council by Minister of Education, Culture and Employment Jackson Lafferty.

“The impressive credentials and artistic talent of these individuals will help the NWT Arts Council to meet its mandate of promoting and supporting the abundance of artistic talent that exists in the Northwest Territories,” says Minister Lafferty.

Established in 1985, the Council exists to promote the arts in the NWT. It makes recommendations to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment on financial contributions to NWT residents for creative artistic projects. Since its inception, the Council has supported over a 1,000 artists, arts organizations and festivals in the NWT as they pursue creative, artistic activities in all artistic disciplines.

Members are selected for their expertise and abilities in the arts from all five regions of the Northwest Territories – the South Slave, Beaufort-Delta, Dehcho, Sahtu and North Slave. The appointments are for 1 and 2 year terms ending in 2012 and 2013, respectively.

To review the appointed members, see the backgrounder below.

### **For more information, contact:**

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

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## Backgrounder

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**Margaret Nazon**, of Inuvik, is an established fibre artist. She also has extensive past administrative and teaching experience as the manager of Nor Art International Gallery in Yellowknife, traditional arts instructor at Aurora College in Inuvik, and a sewing instructor in Tsiigehtchic. Ms. Nazon's appointment brings experience in teaching and working with Beaufort-Delta regional artists.

**Vivian Edgi-Manuel**, of Fort Good Hope, is currently an economic development officer with the K'asho Got'ine Charter Community. In her current position, Ms. Edgi-Manuel assists traditional artists and craftspeople in her community to develop funding proposals and promote their artistic projects and activities. Her appointment brings experience in working with Sahtu regional groups and individuals.

**Barb Tsetso** is the adult educator at the Aurora College Learning Centre in Fort Simpson where she coordinates traditional arts training programs. Her appointment brings direct work experience in developing and promoting arts and learning activities with community groups and individual artists in the Dehcho region.

Award-winning northern singer/songwriter **Leela Gilday** of Yellowknife also joins the NWT Arts Council. Ms. Gilday works directly with the arts every day through her career as a professional musician. Her appointment brings cultural industry experience as a recording artist, community experience as a performer, and arts jury experience from the Alberta Arts Council and Canada Council for the Arts.

**Laurie Young**, of Fort Smith, is the manager of the Northern Life Museum and Cultural Centre and continues her term as the Arts Council representative for the South Slave region. Ms. Young is a practicing visual artist and founding member of The Artists of the South Slave Society (TASSS). As Chairperson, she brings experience as a member of the Council and ensures continuity of Council functions.

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