

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The WDM proudly announces Joan Champ as new Executive Director

The Western Development Museum Board of Directors is very pleased to announce that Joan Champ will assume the position of WDM Executive Director, commencing July 2011.

Ms. Champ, a historian with a Master's degree in western Canadian history from the University of Saskatchewan, has worked in exhibits production at the WDM for the past ten years. Previously, she worked as a historian and heritage consultant on a wide variety of projects throughout the province.

Joan has had experience as a researcher and as an archivist. In her capacity as archivist at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre in Saskatoon from 1994 to 1998, she gained some insight into the world of archives. She served as the editor of *Saskatchewan History* magazine, published by the Saskatchewan Archives Board, in the late 1990s.

From 1999 to 2001, Joan was the CEO of Saskatoon Communities for Children, a joint planning mechanism working for the well-being for children and youth in the city region.

In 2001, Joan was hired as the Project Researcher for the Saskatoon WDM's "Winning the Prairie Gamble." By 2005, she was working as the Production Coordinator for this project at the Museums in Saskatoon, Yorkton, North Battleford and Moose Jaw.

In September 2010, Joan was appointed to the position of Exhibits Project Coordinator. In this capacity, she performed curatorial duties outside the scope of "Winning the Prairie Gamble," working closely with the Exhibits Coordinator in the planning, research, design, and production of selected WDM exhibits.

"I am honoured to have been selected to lead an organization that I feel so passionately about," Champ said. "There will be challenges ahead, but I am confident that with the ongoing support of Museum visitors, members, governments, sponsors, board members, volunteers and staff, we can steer the dynamic yet steady course that has always exemplified the operations of the WDM."

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