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## MINISTRY OF CULTURE SUPPORTS ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### *Funding Will Help Cultural Programs In Schools And Community*

RAINY RIVER FIRST NATIONS — The Ministry of Culture is supporting Aboriginal culture and heritage by providing funding of \$51,000 for the Manitou Mounds Historical Centre, Minister of Culture Madeleine Meilleur announced today.

“Our province is enriched with a culturally diverse heritage, which we are proud to share,” said Meilleur. “Our government is pleased to support the Manitou Mounds Historical Centre in its efforts to preserve and promote this important part of our province’s heritage.”

Funding for the centre will help develop programs that will increase awareness, understanding and tolerance of the rich culture and heritage of the Ojibway people in the area through support of two distinct projects: The Province’s Cultural Strategic Investment Fund will provide \$35,000 to hire an educational specialist to work closely with local school boards in the development of a resource manual for classrooms and community groups. The centre is also receiving \$16,000 from the Sports, Cultural and Tourism Partnership for the development of an exhibit featuring an Aboriginal world view, including culturally significant items such as a medicine wheel.

“Rainy River First Nations is proud to be able to present a diverse, innovative program which will assist regional educators, children, youth and adults with curriculum-based units of study on the history and culture of the Ojibway peoples,” said Chief Albert Hunter. “The program will also provide public education programming at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung to increase awareness of, and, to share Ojibway culture, values and history in ways that are hands-on, experiential, and down-to-earth.”

“With this provincial support, visitors to the Manitou Mounds Historical Centre and participants in its community programs will be better able to communicate an understanding of the Ojibway cultural heritage,” said Meilleur. “Our cultural heritage is very important. It enriches our quality of life, and it is an expression of who we are.”

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