



ONTARIO CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS FUND LE FONDS POUR LES MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES DE L'ONTARIO

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OCAF CHAIR JOHN D MCKELLAR WINS GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARD

Congratulations to OCAF Chair **John D McKellar, C.M.** for being awarded The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts (RJH). The 2016 **Governor General's Performing Arts Awards** (GGPAA) will honour seven new laureates (including John) at its annual gala, which takes place June 11 2016, at the National Arts Centre. Named for Governor General Hnatyshyn, who created the GGPAA in 1992, the RJH Award recognizes outstanding contribution by an individual or group in voluntary service to the performing arts in Canada.

John is known for the many performing artists and arts organizations he has advised, counseled and supported. In addition to being Chair of the **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund**, he is former Chair of the **Toronto Arts Council**, Vice Chairman **Ontario Arts Foundation**, Chairman of the **Young Centre for the Performing Arts**, an advisor to the **Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts**, and a board member of **Tarragon Theatre**, **Off-Centre Music Salon** and The **Glenn Gould Foundation**. For his full bio, [click here](#).

OCAF is delighted by the news. *"All of us at OCAF are thrilled that John has been recognized for a lifetime of giving back to the community, especially to the arts,"* says **Executive Director Kathleen Sharpe**. *"He is a tireless advocate through the many boards he is on. OCAF is so fortunate to have a stellar roster of board members and to be led by John McKellar is the icing on the cake for us. Bravo John!"*

This year, the **National Film Board of Canada** is joining the GGPAA to bring together acclaimed Canadian filmmakers to celebrate the achievements of Canadian performing arts legends on film. Genie Award-winning Newfoundland filmmaker **Mary Lewis** (*When Ponds Freeze Over*) is directing a tribute to John, which will premiere at the awards ceremony on June 11. For more information about the NFB/GGPAA partnership, [click here for their press release](#).

For the official announcement, [see the 2016 Governor General's Performing Arts Awards release](#).

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The Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF) was established in 1999. It has three aims: (1) to increase cultural tourism by providing investments to assist Ontario organizations to develop, promote and present one-off or first time events, or a significant expansion of existing activity, which are designed to attract new tourists and visitors to cultural events; (2) increase the earned revenue capability of the applicant organization; and (3) support events that foster economic growth and contribute to job creation. Since 1999, the Government of Ontario has invested \$37.75 million in cultural events through the Fund.