



Medicine Hat Clay Industries
National Historic District

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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Shaw Communications to open new arts facility in Historic Clay District

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Medicine Hat – On Saturday, June 20, from 1:00pm – 4:00pm, the Historic Clay District will be hosting a Grand Opening to officially unveil the Shaw International Centre for Contemporary Ceramics at the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site.

Terry Medd, Vice President of Operations for Shaw Communications, will be on hand to officially open the new facility. "As a Canadian company with our roots in Alberta, we are proud to support and celebrate the unique history of Medicine Hat and their contribution to the arts. We believe in supporting the communities in which we live and work and are delighted to be able to partner with the Historic Clay District on this legacy project."

"Shaw has become a strong partner as they have watched us grow. Their belief in this project shows their commitment to the community. We are very grateful for their support," said Barry Finkelman, Executive Director of the Historic Clay District.

The Shaw Centre, named in honour of Shaw Communications, which donated \$500,000 to the project, is the new home of the Medalta International Artists in Residence (MIAIR) program. MIAIR previously operated at the Hycroft China site for ten years.

According to Finkelman, the Shaw Centre provides the opportunity for artists to continue Medicine Hat's legacy as it relates to clay. "Through the first half of the twentieth century, Medicine Hat was the industrial centre of Western Canada and that industry was clay. With the opening of this new facility, artists are able to celebrate Medicine Hat's heritage through contemporary ceramics."

Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, is impressed with the changes in the Historic Clay District. "The Shaw Centre is an excellent facility within the Historic Clay District, and it connects us to the great history of Medicine Hat," said Blackett. "Through education, we learn where we have been, where we are now and where we are going."

In addition to the opening of the Shaw Centre, the Historic Clay District will be opening two other spaces. The Working Pottery produces replica Medalta Potteries ware and gives visitors the opportunity to see pottery being made. The Turning Room Gallery faithfully re-creates a part of the Medalta Potteries site and includes colourful displays, pottery machinery and hands-on opportunities for children and families.

Members of the public are invited to attend the opening celebrations, which is free of charge.

The Historic Clay District is one of eight tourism attractors in the Canadian Badlands, featured in AMA's "Alberta 100 Journeys" and is Western Canada's largest National Historic Site. The museum – in the Medalta Potteries National Historic Site – provides visitors a unique opportunity to visit a restored 1912 pottery factory, which once produced three-quarters of all stoneware in Canada. It is operated under the stewardship of the Friends of Medalta Society.

- 30 -

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