



SMFA President's Message

As I begin to draft this message for the 2022 SMFA district festival programs our country is well into the fifth wave of pandemic life. We are now 22 months in and this is now the third festival cycle to have been severely impacted.

At first nod, this seems very discouraging. And in many ways it is. There was something so comforting in the annual pageantry of the pre-pandemic district festivals. There was an almost palpable rhythm, an ebb and flow, which had become, over many years, quite predictable and very satisfying.

For now, at least, that rhythm has been drowned out by the noise of disruption. Sometimes that disruption is so loud it has become hard to focus on anything else. We are just plain tired and the simplest things take much effort.

But even so, our district festival committees right across the province have continued to march forward, hosting their annual festivals in creative, new ways. Out of the chaos has come renewed commitment and fresh ideas. Innovative solutions across the province have ensured that students will be able to benefit from the festival experience again this year. Some version of many of these innovations will be carried forward after pandemic life, continuing to enrich the festival experience.

We will undoubtedly come out of this disruption a slightly different version of ourselves. It may take a while, but over the years we will start to hear a new rhythm, softly at first and then more and more loudly.

I look forward to getting in step and marching to that new rhythm with you all!

SMFA is grateful for funding received through the Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation. Programs delivered by SMFA reach lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saulteaux peoples, as well as homeland of the Métis.

Tammy Villeneuve, SMFA President

