

## Media Release

Friday, November 23, 2007

# Glenbow Museum

WHERE THE WORLD MEETS THE WEST

## Glenbow Museum Announces New CEO & President

CALGARY - Lauchlan Currie, Chair of Glenbow Museum's Board of Governors, is pleased to announce Mr. Jeffrey Spalding will become Glenbow's new CEO and President on December 10, 2007. Spalding replaces Mike Robinson, who has served two consecutive terms of office as CEO and President.

Spalding has an M.F.A. from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and holds an M.A. from Ohio State University. Prior to his current appointment, Spalding was Director and Chief Curator of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Earlier in his career, Spalding worked at Glenbow as an Art Curator, bringing a number of high profile exhibits to the Museum. After Glenbow, he went to the University of Lethbridge as Director of the Art Gallery and a professor in the visual arts department. It was there where he oversaw the building of the U of L's permanent art collection from 212 art objects in 1982 to over 15,000 artworks by 1999.

A practicing artist, Spalding has also had solo and group exhibitions in venues as diverse as the Vancouver Art Gallery, the National Gallery of Canada and the McMichael Canadian Collection. In 1997 the Art Gallery of Ontario mounted a solo exhibition of his video art of the early 1970s.

Aware of Glenbow Museum's reputation and role in Western Canada, Spalding says he is looking forward to delivering on the recently adopted *Art, Dialogue and History* mandate of the museum. As the newly appointed President of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts, Spalding is excited to be working with the Board and staff to bring passion and purpose to Glenbow Museum's contribution to the art scene in Calgary and Alberta.

"On behalf of our Board and staff, I welcome Jeff back to Glenbow and to Calgary," said Mr. Currie. "Jeff brings to this position innovative and visionary leadership, passion and enthusiasm for the visual arts, and a strong commitment to continuing to raise Glenbow's profile locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Mike Robinson has laid the groundwork for our new mandate, including building our new permanent gallery *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*. We are now ready to take the next step to create a focal point for art in Calgary, beginning with our current exhibition *Emily Carr: New Perspectives on a Canadian Icon*, and moving forward with plans to upgrade our existing building. We look forward to what Jeff brings as we build our reputation as an art destination."

Currie, on behalf of the Board, thanks Mike Robinson for his visionary stewardship over the past eight years and wishes him all the best in the future. Robinson welcomes Spalding to Glenbow as he takes the helm of the pre-eminent regional museum of the Canadian West.

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