

2011 NGC Annual Public Meeting
Speaking Notes for the Chair Michael Audain
September 19, 2011, 6:30 pm

Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art (MOCCA)
Toronto, Ontario

Thank you David. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Gallery's fifth annual public meeting, which, for the first time, we've combined with our annual reception.

To begin, I'd like to introduce my colleagues on the Board of Trustees.

- Our Vice Chair is **Michael Tims** of Calgary,
- Also from Calgary we have **Paul Baay** and **Howard Kroon**,
- **Jean-François Béland**, of Gatineau in Quebec,
- **Allan Benoit** and **Liza Maheu** from Winnipeg,
- **Guy Bourgeois**, of Saint-Bruno in Quebec,
- **Fred Fountain** is from Head of St. Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia,

- also from Nova Scotia, **Linda Hutchison** joins us from Kentville,
- and of course **Harriet Walker** is based here in Toronto.

We are very pleased to be here in Toronto, at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. Thank you to **Julia Ouellette**, chair of MOCCA's advisory board; artistic director and curator **David Liss**; and managing director **Yves Théoret** for welcoming us so warmly this evening and to your team for their generous assistance to the Gallery in planning this wonderful event.

Collaboration and accessibility are two of the Gallery's six core values – both are served by our presence in Toronto this evening. As many of you may know, late last year, we entered into an exciting partnership with MOCCA. This innovative arrangement enables the Gallery to present selected works from the national collection here at MOCCA, in the heart of

Canada's largest metropolitan centre and in one of the country's most thriving art scenes.

It's the second partnership of the kind for the NGC, after the one launched last year with the Art Gallery of Alberta. We intend to pursue this program which allows Canadians from large urban centers to discover the national collection where they live.

Before reviewing last year results, I would like to recall the mandate given by Parliament to the Gallery and which applies also to its affiliate, the Canadian Museum of Contemporary Photography.

Our charge from Parliament is:

To develop, maintain, and make known throughout Canada and internationally, a collection of works of art, both historic and contemporary, with special but not exclusive reference to Canada and to further knowledge, understanding, and enjoyment of art in general among Canadians.

This mandate, consisting in serving all Canadians, has guided the tremendous work accomplished by the Gallery during the last year... a year marked by huge successes, but also filled with challenges.

Our successes include critically acclaimed, often provocative exhibitions, exceptional acquisitions, innovative programming, and a concerted, thoughtful effort to reach Canadians in their own communities.

The Gallery balanced these successes against the need to further streamline its operations – including the difficult decision to reduce staff levels and reorganize several departments – all in keeping with the goal of ensuring the Gallery’s financial sustainability into the future.

Despite the challenges of the past year, I have been deeply impressed by the manner in which the Gallery and its staff have delivered on its mandate and, indeed, achieved excellence in delivering its programs and services to Canadians.

As we reflect on the past and look to the future, I extend thanks to my Board colleagues for their diligent and meaningful contributions. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I also commend and thank the director, Marc Mayer, and his senior management team and staff for their dedication to this institution.

Our deep gratitude goes to our patrons, donors and corporate partners for their generous support. I thank the National Gallery of Canada Foundation – under the vibrant chair of Thomas d’Aquino – and the Volunteer Circle for their continued efforts toward the accomplishment of our mandate.

Finally, we would like to offer our sincere appreciation to the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, as well as to our government partners, for their deeply valued support as we continue to build this vibrant national institution for all Canadians.

Thank you for your time. Now let me to introduce the director of the National Gallery of Canada, **Marc Mayer**.