

Welcome Kristin Catherwood, MA. Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer

Kristin Catherwood is a storyteller, writer and folklorist. Born and raised in the deep south of Saskatchewan on a family farm near Ceylon, Kristin is passionate about the cultural landscape of the rural prairies. Kristin studied Classics and Medieval Studies at the University of Regina before earning a Master of Arts in Folklore from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and her thesis, "Every Place had a Barn: The Barn as a Symbol of the Family Farm in Southern Saskatchewan" resulted in the [The Barn Hunter](#) blog which chronicled her cultural explorations of rural life. She studied heritage preservation and interpretation in the UK, and has particular interest in rural sustainability, ecological conservation, and cultural tourism.

She believes in an integrated approach to holistic and healthy communities, and a large component of her work lies in empowering communities to tell their own stories and curate their own heritage. She has particular expertise in Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), drawing from the [UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of ICH](#). In her work with ICH, Kristin uses storytelling as a tool to connect people with place, and individuals with their communities. She was one of SaskCulture's Community Engagement Animateurs in 2015 where she brought the vision of living heritage to dozens of Saskatchewan communities through a series of ICH, oral history and storytelling workshops. She has worked with aboriginal youth, heritage and cultural workers, federal inmates, schoolchildren, senior citizens, boards, committees, and community volunteers. She has been a long time volunteer in her hometown and also created, developed and continues to guide the Radville Haunted History Tour, which incorporates many elements of ICH. She continues to do folkloric research and documentation in her free time, some of which can be accessed at her blog [fromthegap.com](#). Kristin's love of and respect for rural life is at the heart of her work, and she once again calls the rural prairies home where she spends much of her time exploring the natural and cultural landscape.

Kristin has joined Heritage Saskatchewan as an Intangible Cultural Heritage Development Officer, and her work will be focussed in Saskatchewan communities. She has begun a pilot ICH project in Shaunavon which will take a more intensive, focused approach to ICH development in rural communities. She will also be available to visit other communities across the province to deliver ICH workshops and/or provide consultation on using ICH in cultural planning and heritage projects. If you are interested in bringing Kristin to your community, please contact Heritage Saskatchewan and explain why you think your community is ready to begin integrating living heritage into its cultural framework.

