

**Francine Maltais, Director  
Arts, culture, community and library services  
of the City of Saguenay**

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The different positions held by Ms. Maltais within the municipal public service have given her the opportunity throughout her career to observe the creative strength that animates the artistic arena in Saguenay.

Over the past thirty years, propelled by the cultural sector and with the support of the municipal services and the collaboration of the elected officials, she has seen magnificent artistic projects take off and grow through the years, local artists who have become famous beyond our borders of whom we should be proud and unlikely partnerships that were formed between the educational, cultural and municipal sectors. She has seen plenty, and this year of festivities will be the opportunity for others to see even more.

During this time, Ms. Maltais has moved around between community support, neighbourhood involvement and supporting cultural development. Today more than ever, she is trying to combine art with community. She truly believes that what the cultural organizations are proposing in 2010, in collaboration with the educational institutions and the community organizations, should bring together these two worlds more than ever before.

"As ambassador, I will carry the torch of Saguenay Cultural Capital wherever I go, to the attention of friends, colleagues and citizens from here and elsewhere, all throughout 2010 and during the years to come. Let's celebrate! Let's make way for the outrageous. Let's not be afraid to display our pride that is legendary...and legitimate."

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