

# media release

## PTE's General Manager Receives Prestigious National Award at Theatre Conference

WINNIPEG, June 16, 2008 – Prairie Theatre Exchange's General Manager, **Cherry Karpyshin**, received the Mallory Gilbert Leadership Award for 2008 from the national association of theatres at their annual meeting in Vancouver last week. The award carries a cash prize of \$5,000 for the recipient which includes \$1,000 for a protégé. Karpyshin chose Madonna Von Vonderen, Administrator of Festival Antigonish Summer Theatre.

Karpyshin has been General Manager for PTE since 1992 and a welcoming resource and mentor to arts administrators locally and on a national basis. Von Vonderen upgraded her skills as an arts administrator for the East Coast festival with **Karpyshin** two years ago.

*"I am thrilled and honoured to have been chosen for this award. It is wonderful to be recognized for your work by your peers. They know the special challenges we all face day to day. I was also very pleased that the award allows the winner to recognize an up and coming administrator. Madonna is a hard worker and Festival Antigonish is lucky to have her,"* says **Karpyshin**.

This is the second time the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres (PACT) award has been given out. The award was initiated to celebrate PACT's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and is named to honour Mallory Gilbert, who was Tarragon Theatre's (Toronto) General Manager for 34 years and one of the founders and Past Presidents of PACT. The Mallory Gilbert Leadership Award celebrates and recognizes outstanding leadership within the Canadian Theatre community.

The first Mallory Gilbert Leadership Award was presented to Jenny Munday, Artistic Director of the Playwrights Atlantic Resource Centre in Nova Scotia. She chose Nova Scotia playwright, actor and theatre educator, Natasha MacLellan as her protégé

PTE's Artistic Director, Robert Metcalfe, will be working with Madonna Van Vonderen at Festival Antigonish. Metcalfe is directing the July production of *Sexy Laundry* at the East Coast theatre.

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