

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to summer! Hope you have had a chance to be outside and celebrate the warmer weather with family

and friends, while keeping your physical distance. It is my absolute joy to bring these greetings to you all as the new President of the MAS Board of Directors.

With COVID-19, we have all learned how fast things can change, even within a day. Thankfully, as the province and the world starts to understand the virus better, the rapid changes have slowed down. Ironically enough, the Board of Directors were already experimenting with Zoom for Board Meetings in the winter months to reduce travel in inclement weather. We will now be hosting our Board Meetings virtually for the foreseeable future.

While the effects of COVID-19 have had a detrimental effect on many of our members, we experienced a community come together in ways that we have never seen before. Many of our members started trying virtual

events for the first time ever, such as virtual tours, online exhibits, videos featuring stories from collections, online story time, craft videos, and so much more! With the numerous parallels being drawn to the pandemic of 1918-1920, our members were prepared to collect the new stories and provide important insight to behaviours of the past.

MAS organized weekly Community Chats on Zoom (now bi-weekly) so we could learn about the impacts of COVID-19 on our members, and support you during this time. Thank you for filling out the COVID-19 Impact Survey, the Board will be using your responses in our July meeting, where we planned the priorities for the Board for the upcoming year.

On June 19th, we held MAS' first virtual AGM. We missed seeing you all in-person, but the 52nd annual AGM was a success. Thanks to Em Ironstar for running the technical side of the event and the polls for voting, and thanks to Dan Holbrow for taking on the questions.

During the AGM, we thanked and acknowledged departing Board Member Yvonne Hotzak (Fort Pelly Livingstone Museum, Pelly) for her time served and dedication

to the Board. We also thanked and acknowledged the work and service from Teresa Carlson, Darlene Brown, and Jennifer Matotek who all stepped down this year. We welcomed 3 new Board Members to the Board; Lee Emery (WDM Corporate Office, Saskatoon), Valerie Mulholland (Regina), and Lillian O'Brien Davis (Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina). The three of them bring new perspectives to the Board, along with a passion for museums, culture, and heritage in the province.

Three Board Members were re-elected: Myself (Regina), Corinne Daelick (WDM-Corporate Office, Saskatoon), and Vincent Houghtaling (Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery, Moose Jaw). After the AGM, Corinne Daelick stepped down as President, moving to the role of Past President. From this, I was elected as President, and Tracene Harvey was elected the new Vice President.

The MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published in July, October and January. The Annual Report is issued in May.

For more information, please contact us:  
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 1-866-568-7386

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## President

**Merissa Scarlett**  
Regina

## Vice President

**Tracene Harvey**  
Museum of Antiquities,  
Saskatoon

## Past President

**Corinne Daelick**  
Western Development  
Museum (WDM) Corporate  
Office, Saskatoon

## Directors:

**Lee Emery**  
Saskatoon

**Karen Grenier**  
Hudson Bay Museum,  
Hudson Bay

**Kaiti Hannah**  
WDM Corporate Office,  
Saskatoon

**Vincent Houghtaling**  
Moose Jaw Museum & Art  
Gallery, Moose Jaw

**Katrina Howick**  
Moose Jaw

**Valerie Mulholland**  
Regina

**Lillian O'Brien Davis**  
MacKenzie Art Gallery,  
Regina

In the AGM, the Governance Committee had conducted a review of the by-laws and recognized that updates were needed to provide clarity and adherence to the Non-Profit Act. The Board of Directors is responsible for the regular review of the Bylaws to ensure they clearly articulate the way the Association regulates itself. Minor grammatical errors were discovered, along with some inconsistencies from changes over time. Each change was presented to the members in a table format (emailed with the AGM Package) along with a presentation. The motion was passed to update the Bylaws.

Looking forward, we are always looking for new Board members. Board terms are two years, with a maximum of three consecutive terms allowed. If you are interested in joining our governance board, please contact the MAS Office. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about policy governance, as each year we receive training on governance and there are opportunities to learn more throughout the year. You don't have to be an expert on policy governance; we're looking for members who are open to learn, and put in time to serve our members.

We also have multiple Committees that would benefit from your experience. You do not have to be a Board Member to fill positions on certain Committees. This can give you experience with the Board, and the Committees benefit when you share your knowledge. Reach out to the MAS Office if you want to learn more!

The Board is looking forward to the upcoming year. With the innovative online events and virtual gatherings, please invite the Board

to attend through the MAS Staff and we'll do our best to attend. Don't forget to mark on your calendar that the next AGM will be held in Regina on June 4th, 2021. We're hoping to see you in person at that time!

On behalf of the Board, thank you all for your continued support and enthusiasm for MAS. Have a great rest of your summer!

- Merissa Scarlett, President – MAS Board of Directors

## OFFICE REPORT

“ We must meet the challenge rather than wish it were not before us. ”  
– William J. Brennan, Jr

Not surprisingly, this report will focus on the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS), given it covers the period of April 1 through July 1, 2020.

The pandemic necessitated a rapid rethink of the current year's operational plan. Once the pandemic was announced and it became clear that the government would be closing all but essential activities in the province, MAS acted rapidly to address the situation. The following outlines the changes MAS implemented during this quarter: All MAS staff began working remotely on March 18 and will continue to do so until such time

as it is deemed safe to return to the office by the Public Health Authority. Luckily, staff had been researching options and located a free software (TeamViewer) that enables each staff person to access their office computer remotely. In addition, staff began using Google Drive, Slack and Zoom to continue to work as collaboratively as possible.

Just as the staff were moving to working remotely, MAS brought the new Museums Advisor – Sarah Durham on board. She was unable to move to Regina prior to the lock down and has been working remotely from Montreal ever since. She will be moving to Regina as soon as it is safe to do so.

The spring Network meetings were cancelled because the majority of participants fall into the age bracket most at risk. One network – River Valley did accept our offer to host a Zoom Network meeting which went well. The spring Network meeting is when MAS traditionally provides the Network Knowledge Exchange (NKE) session, a 1-2 hour professional development opportunity, at all Network meetings. This year, staff had already pre-recorded the NKE presentation by Michelle Taylor, Director/Curator, Prince Albert Historical Society, on her experience with the RE:Org program. It has been made available to, not only Network members but everyone [on the MAS website](#).

The two in-person Certificate Program courses that we had scheduled for the spring – Museums 101 and Museums and the Community, were courses that had already been translated into online versions, so we were able to move them both online quickly. It can be noted that registrations were actually higher than what is normally

anticipated for face-to-face courses, possibly because of COVID19.

We also quickly recognized that there was a need for our members to connect both with staff and with one another so, on April 1, 2020 we began to offer weekly Community Chats via Zoom with average attendance of approximately 30 people. SaskCulture Outreach Consultant, Catherine Folstad has been attending most of the Chats which is much appreciated especially by those who receive Museum Grant Program (MGP) funding. In addition to general networking, MAS staff arranged for individuals to give brief presentations on subjects of interest at the Chats – primarily on various virtual activities they could try. As of June, the Community Chats were moved to a bi-weekly schedule.

Board meetings are being held virtually using Zoom. This had been piloted at the March 7 meeting because travel at that time can be adversely affected by the weather. This meant that Board and staff were able to transition to virtual meetings relatively easily and will continue to meet this way until such time as the Public Health Authority deems it safe to hold face to face meetings again.

The pandemic 'lock down' came right at the end of our fiscal year (March 31). As MAS has maintained a separate computer for financial data, the Director of Finance was able to transfer it to her home and complete all year-end activities – including the audit, remotely. This took slightly longer than usual but was completed without too much extra work involved.

It was decided that rather than postpone the annual conference, scheduled to take place in Estevan June 5/6, it would be cancelled for

## STAFF

**Wendy Fitch**  
Executive Director

**Brenda Herman**  
Director of Finance

**Dan Holbrow**  
Program Director

**Sarah Durham**  
Museums Advisor

**Em Ironstar**  
Community Engagement  
Coordinator

**Terri Morris**  
Administrative Assistant

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the 2021 MAS  
Mini-Conference &  
Annual General  
Meeting  
to be held in

**Regina**  
**June 4, 2021.**

2020. Staff are working with the session presenters to develop online versions of their presentations which will be presented online virtually sometime in the late fall. The Board decided that a virtual Annual General Meeting would be held June 19 using the Zoom platform. Over 40 participants attended and all things considered, it was a success.

Since these initial steps were taken to reorient our programming in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, MAS has undertaken a number of initiatives directly related to the pandemic.

In early April, a short survey of MAS members was conducted to gather information on how they were being affected. Subsequent surveys will take place at the end of the summer and then again at the end of the fiscal year to develop a picture of the effects of the pandemic on Saskatchewan's museums. [Initial survey results are available on the MAS website.](#)

In collaboration with colleagues from other provincial/territorial museums associations, MAS staff created two short publications to assist museums across the country: [Supporting Seasonal Staff during COVID-19](#) and [Social Media during COVID-19](#), both are available on the MAS website.

Upon receipt of the provincial government's *Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan* MAS staff began the preparation of a set of recommendations and considerations for reopening museums. An [initial version](#) was made available April 30.

A [more detailed version](#) was completed and released just in time for the launch of the *Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan* Phase 4.2 on

June 24.

MAS has participated in advocacy activities on behalf of the Saskatchewan museums at both the national and provincial levels. The ED was a panellist in the Canadian Museums Association April 16 livestream Q&A session with Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage. She was also a part of a pan-Canadian delegation with senior members of the Minister's staff to discuss concerns regarding the museums' emergency relief fund.

With the assistance of Sask-Culture CEO Dean Kush, MAS reached out to the Ministry of Trade and Export Development as the Ministry responsible for the *Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan* implementation to express concern around the need for information regarding when museums would be allowed to open.

MAS is also participating in two multi-year, pan-Canadian projects. The first – "Reimagining the Museum" is led by the Alberta Museums Association and the second – "Expanding the Audience for Heritage" is led by the National Trust for Canada. Watch for updates over the coming months on both of these important initiatives.

MAS staff finalized the revised budget and operational plan for 2020/21 in May. The biggest change most members will notice is that we will continue to offer programs and services virtually until such time as it is safe to meet in large groups. The Museums Advisor will continue to provide support to MAS members via email, phone or Zoom sessions. This includes support for SaskCollections participants

including providing training sessions. E-Phemera will continue to be published bi-weekly and the website and social media will continue to be updated regularly.

## Events

MAS staff attended the following virtual events during this quarter:

### APRIL

- Community Chat – weekly through to the end of May then bi-weekly - all staff
- National Trust project meeting – Wendy
- CMA Strategic Planning meeting - Wendy
- Collective Access User group meeting – Dan, Sarah
- Prov/Terr Museums Assoc. PD regular meetings begin – Dan, Em, Sarah
- CMA/PTMA pre-livestream meeting – Wendy
- CMA livestream event & virtual AGM – Wendy
- Virtual Museum of Canada meeting – Wendy

### MAY

- River Valley Network meeting – Em
- Department of Canadian Heritage Policy Advisor meeting – Wendy
- SaskCulture Members meeting – Wendy
- Museums 101 CP Course held virtually
- Museums and the Community CP Course held virtually
- SaskCulture Eligible Cultural Org 1st monthly meeting – Wendy
- National Trust project meeting – Wendy
- CMA/PTMA museums emergency funding meeting – Wendy
- Parkland Valley District Chat session – Em
- SaskCulture Members meeting – Wendy

### JUNE

- SaskCulture ECO meeting with presentation by Dan – Wendy
- National Trust Historic Places Day meeting – Wendy
- SK Arts Q&A with Ministry of Trade & Export Dev. Staff – Wendy
- MAS virtual AGM – all staff
- Virtual Museums of Canada meeting – Wendy
- Reimagining Museums Project meeting - Wendy
- Museum Grant Program pre-2020 deadline review meeting – Sarah, Wendy

In addition to the above, staff attended various informational webinars. As well, E-Phemera was sent out as scheduled and the Annual Report was completed and distributed digitally.



Michelle Taylor in a re-organized storage space during the NKE filming. Photo by Em Ironstar

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As you are no doubt aware, MAS receives its operational funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation through SaskCulture for which we are very grateful. We are particularly grateful this year because SaskCulture does what's called forward funding – essentially they put the anticipated amount necessary to fund applicants in the bank prior to the grant deadline. In turn, they were able to distribute the funding for this year according to the adjudication of the applications – on merit, not based on the impact that COVID19 has had on the economy.

Not only does MAS receive operational funding from Sask Lotteries but over 100 museums do as well through the Museum, Grant Program, which is also forward funded. As the only province in the country with an independent Trust distributing Lottery funding I can assure you we are the envy of the rest of the country for both the stability and amount of funding the museum sector, including MAS, receives annually through the Lotteries Trust.

MAS is served by a talented, creative team and I feel privileged to work with them every day. It is because of their dedication and hard work that MAS has been able to continue to serve you under such challenging circumstances.

Take care and be safe and most importantly enjoy the summer!

- Wendy Fitch, Executive Director, MAS

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



Twitter Followers

**1,768**

up from 1,735



Facebook Followers

**1,135**

up from 1,087



Instagram Followers

**606**

up from 549



Website Visits

**18,000**

Sessions

Apr. 1 - June 30

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of:



**SASK LOTTERIES**



CONTACT US!

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MAS respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 4 territory, traditional lands of Saulteaux, Cree, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota peoples, as well as the homeland of the Métis.