

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Fall to all! This autumn has been spectacular, to say the least, with many gardens lasting much longer than they usually

do in this province. I am grateful for the beauty of Fall in the prairies, as it brings such varied colours and beautiful skies. And we can cheer our beloved Roughriders on once again!

As our province continues to move forward through the Covid-19 pandemic, I am so impressed with the drive of our members to share heritage and culture through their stories in varied ways. If your museum was closed last summer, did you open this summer in a different way? If you were open this summer, was there an increase in participation in tours and programs? Many people, myself included, were driven to spend time exploring their own province this summer, with provincial campgrounds being very full all summer long.

September 30th, 2021, was the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The day honours the lost children and Survivors

of residential schools, their families, and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process. Did your museum do something to recognize this important day?

With the coming of Fall means Fall Network Meetings. The Board was excited to be planning to attend in person in the summer but plans changed as we entered into the fourth wave of the pandemic. We are attending as many of the virtual meetings as we can to hear the stories of success and innovation, and it brings me joy to hear how many of you worked so hard to keep your museum moving forward in these times.

I look forward to attending as many as possible. The Board notes trends and issues from these meetings and uses this to guide its plans for the future.

Meeting virtually has been hard on a lot of us, especially in our field and province. This is the province of face-to-face meetings (based on my observations), and I have missed being in the room to feel the energy and joy from many of you while talking about your work. The Zoom chats have given me a vote of confidence that our members will move forward and be better

than they have ever been because of navigating the challenges of the past 18 months.

The Board would like to thank all of you for participating in your networks and the opportunity to sit in and learn from you. And a very large thank you to the Networkers who are the liaisons between the MAS Staff and their network participants. Thank you for participating in the MAS Courses and programs and building your knowledge and skills for the future.

MAS continues to host bi-weekly Community Chats on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. These are all recorded and put on the MAS YouTube Channel, and there is a variety of topics that you will find useful. On September 29th, MAS announced the recipients of the 2021 Awards in the following categories: Award of Merit – Institutional (projects with a budget under \$50,000 and projects with a budget over \$50,000), Award of Merit – Individual, and the Young Professionals Award. I highly encourage you to watch

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the recording to learn about the recipients and their projects; the stories were inspiring and empowering. And congratulations to all those who were named as recipients!

The Board continues to meet virtually over Zoom. With Covid-19, the Board stays close to the trends and issues reported by our members as we go through this together. We held our orientation virtually in August, and it was a great time to meet our new members and plan out the work for the year. If you would like to be a part of the Board or one of our Committees, we encourage you to reach out to the MAS Office, as we would love to have you. You don't have to be an expert on policy governance. We're looking for members who are open to learn and want to help serve our members. Our Board benefits from having members from all over our beautiful province. If you have a virtual event you would like to have a Board Member attend, please let the MAS Office know, and we may be able to join!

As we enjoy Fall and enter winter, enjoy the beautiful colours and mild weather. Don't forget to mark on your calendar that the next AGM will be held in Estevan on or about June 10th, 2022.

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

- Merissa Scarlett, President – MAS Board of Directors

OFFICE REPORT

Summer seems to have flown by as we grow accustomed to the 'new normal' of living with COVID-19. Read on and see some of the things we were doing between July 1 and October 1.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SaskCulture

The Executive Director (ED) attended the two Eligible Organization meetings (virtually), where participants shared concerns and opportunities presented by the pandemic. At both meetings, SaskCulture reassured us that lottery sales remain steady, which means that lottery funding remains steady.

In other SaskCulture news, the

“*Life is neither static nor unchanging. With no individuality, there can be no change, no adaptation and, in an inherently changing world, any species unable to adapt is also doomed.*”
– Jean M. Auel

STAFF

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Dan Holbrow
Program Director

Sarah Durham
Museums Advisor

Terri Morris
Administrative Assistant

MGP will be offered as a regular, 2-year grant application this year with a December 1 deadline. The application process will be very similar to the previous 2-year grant. Any questions regarding the MGP should be directed to Catherine Folstad at SaskCulture: cfolstad@saskculture.ca.

CMA & PTMAs

The most significant activity that the ED was involved in at the national level during this quarter was the federal election. The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations (PTMAs) collaborated to develop and distribute election material for the federal election held on September 20. No one realistically expected museums to become an election issue; however, the material produced, including the letters to all of the main parties, will form the basis for post-election advocacy, particularly regarding the much-needed revisions to the federal Museum Policy. Without this, it will be almost impossible to increase federal support for the museum sector, including funding support through programs such as MAP.

The PTMAs and CMA also met with senior staff at the Department of Canadian Heritage, where we were briefed on the federal pandemic response programs for museums. The most significant is the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations, which had a deadline of October 20. This program was basically a continuation of the Emergency funding from last year. In addition to the Reopening Fund, a 3-year Digitization Fund has been added to MAP. The Digital Access to Heritage component fosters improved access to heritage collections through collections digitization and digital content

development and activities that build capacity in these areas. The component also supports developing and delivering related training, resources, and services that benefit multiple museums. It's important to note that virtual museums are eligible for this funding stream. The first deadline is November 1, 2021, with the second being March 1, 2022.

Getting Real about Reconciliation

The symposium is a partnership between Heritage Saskatchewan and MAS to hold a virtual Symposium on the afternoons of November 2nd & 3rd. The Keynote session will have three panelists: Dr. Cody Groat – Western U and President of the Indigenous Heritage Circle; Gerald Pocius – Prof Emeritus, Memorial U and Senior Research Fellow, Cape Breton U; Chief Cadmus Delorme – Cowessess FN in conversation with Moderator Kristin Catherwood. On Day 1, there will also be a session with two community coordinators of Heritage SK's COVID-19 Culture Project.

On the evening of Day 1, the Lt. Governor Saskatchewan Heritage Awards will be presented at Government House with His Hon., the Lieutenant Governor making the presentations. The award presentations will be followed by a reception sponsored by the SK Heritage Foundation to celebrate their 30th Anniversary.

Day 2 starts with a Spark Session which includes: Dean Kush & Damon Badger Heit - SaskCulture, John Hampton – Mackenzie Art Gallery; Rhett Sangster – Office of the Treaty Commissioner; Michelle Taylor – Prince Albert Museum;

and Jim Mountain & Lauren Liebe (Carlton U)– Muskowekwan Residential School. The second session on Day 2 is a presentation by Sheelah McLean previewing the MAS/SK Districts for Sport, Culture & Rec Allyship workshop.

Museums for Me Consortium

This national, collaborative, multi-year research-based project led by the AMA is expected to result in a much better understanding of what museums mean to the Canadian public and will assist in advocacy activities at all levels. A toolkit will be produced at the end of the project for use by museums across the country. MAS will be involved on the steering committee throughout the project, promote project surveys, and facilitate focus group sessions during the initial research phase.

The Executive Director has begun to participate in the next phase of the project. A small group of consortium members will meet monthly with the project consultants to develop a value proposition and brand narrative, which, when completed, will be shared with the entire Canadian museum sector through the online toolkit resources. The first meeting was an opportunity to have a more fulsome discussion to determine the brand narrative's preferred direction(s). The three key themes identified were: Access, Authority, and Activism.

Networks

The virtual fall Network meetings will take place via Zoom through October. MAS staff will be in attendance along with at least one Board member. Dates, times, and

the Zoom link for the meetings were posted on the [Museum Networks page](#) of the MAS website. If you would like to be a part of a Network or want to know more about the program, contact the MAS office at mas@saskmuseums.org or the Community Engagement Lead at community@saskmuseums.org.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Courses and Workshops

Three Special Topic workshops were held during this reporting period.

Museum Activism – Instructor *Shauna Lee Allen*

This presentation introduced the concept of museum activism and demonstrated aspects of this emerging practice. It presented guidance in advocating for and fostering a global society of mutual respect by recognizing and addressing issues like marginalization, racism, and the global climate emergency.

Copyright Basics – Instructor *Dr. Jean Dryden*

Participants learned the basics of copyright for museums; they explored several topics such as how Canadian copyright law works, critical provisions of the Copyright Act, and how to analyze a copyright question.

Introduction to Art Handling – Instructor *Edith Skeard*

This one-day course is designed to introduce gallery staff and volunteers to best practices in

handling and displaying artwork, ensuring that artwork is stored safely and accessibly, conservation considerations in art exhibitions, and more.

The fall education calendar was posted on the MAS website in August.

Advisory

In addition to responding to the regular requests for assistance, the Museums Advisor has been working on the following:

The completion of revisions to **Standards for Saskatchewan Museums**. The Peer Review Committee and the Indigenous Review Committee have completed reviewing the final drafts, and the document is now in the final editing phase. We still expect the completed 7th Edition of Standards for Saskatchewan Museums will be published this year.

SaskCollections, including onboarding the five museums accepted in the spring call for participants. The Advisor works with each of them in migrating their data into the SaskCollections database. She is also providing training to the new participants on how to navigate the new system. In addition, the Advisor has been coordinating – with the Community Engagement Lead, the acquisition of a dedicated backup server for SaskCollections to mitigate the risk to the SaskCollections data.

The development of a **Deaccession & Disposal training module** to assist member museums in better understanding the proper procedures and protocols involved in the deaccession of objects from their collection.

MAS program staff meet regularly with their colleagues across the

country to look for ways to share ideas and identify opportunities to collaborate on projects of mutual benefit.

As always, we'd also like to hear from you about your museum development needs. You can fill out the course request form or if you have any ideas or training requirements, or any questions about our education programs, contact Dan at programs@saskmuseums.org.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

Staff completed phase one of the member engagement strategy. We have revamped the 'Members Only' section of the website – it no longer requires a separate login. Other website updates include the membership page focusing on the list of member benefits; implementing an online payment system; conducted an E-Phemera readership survey. Still to do is revamp the Museum Services Directory and an update of the Resource Library page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the 2022
MAS Conference
& Annual General
Meeting to be held in

Estevan
June 9-11, 2022

Awards

The MAS Awards were intended to be announced and presented at a special luncheon during the annual conference. However, due to COVID-19, the in-person conference did not take place again this year. Instead, the 2021 recipients were announced and recipients introduced at the September 29 Community Chat. The 2021 MAS Award recipients are:

Individual Award of Merit:

- Christy "Chris" Brayford Arnstead
 - Waskesiu Heritage Museum
- John & Linda Kort
 - Indian Head Museum

Institutional Award of Merit (Projects over \$50,000)

- Melfort & District Museum
 - Indigenous Peoples & Archaeology Building project

Institutional Award of Merit (Projects under \$50,000)

- Indian Head Museum
 - T-Shirt Fundraiser project

Young Professional Award

- Justin Williams
 - RCMP Heritage Centre

Honorary Lifetime Achievement Award

- Chad Debert

To learn about the individuals and projects receiving an award, go to: <https://saskmuseums.org/news/entry/2021-mas-awards-recipients-announced>. You can view the September 29 Community Chat on the MAS YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/list?list=PLyRCSLAQsH0iu6QNx-PltCb3evhgKI9EFA>.



Events

Community Chats took place monthly in July and August and resumed as bi-weekly events in September with all staff attending.

JULY

- SK Reopening Plan Step 3 – Tourism sector focus – Wendy
- National Trust/National Council – pre-election meeting – Wendy
- Museums for Me Consortium meeting – Wendy
- Heritage Symposium planning meeting – Wendy & Em
- Social Media with a Cell Phone (through a District) – Em
- Dept. of Canadian Heritage – 2021 Reopening Fund for Heritage Orgs. funding update – Wendy

AUGUST

- 2 PTMAs/CMA federal election prep meeting – Wendy
- Rusty Relics Museum High Tea and Bunkhouse Opening – Sarah
- MGP review meeting with Catherine Folstad – Wendy & Sarah

SEPTEMBER

- PTMAs/CMA federal election prep meeting – Wendy
- 2 Heritage Reconciliation Symposium meeting – Wendy, Dan
- MAS Awards Jury meeting – Wendy, Em
- Accessibility Audit – Wendy
- Networkers meeting – Em, Dan, Sarah
- National Trust for Canada AGM – Wendy
- ECO meeting – Wendy
- Museums for Me Consortium meeting – Wendy
- Lt. Gov. SK Heritage Awards Jury meeting – Wendy
- National Trust for Canada annual conference – Wendy
- MAS Awards presentations – all staff

In addition, several staff members have also taken the opportunity to attend a variety of informative webinars.

The Summer Quarterly Report and E-Phemera were completed and distributed as scheduled, along with a variety of additional group emails on topics of interest.

OPERATIONS

With Em Ironstar's decision to leave MAS to take on the Executive Director of the SK Arts Alliance position, we are seeking applications for the Community Engagement Lead position. We are hopeful we will be able to have the new person in place in November.

The MAS staff will continue to work remotely for the fall, with some staff going into the office as necessary. The situation will be re-evaluated regularly, and appropriate protocols developed when everyone is again in the office.

Planning

Staff have begun the 6-month operational plan review and will be undertaking the six-month budget projections process in October. This will lead to the development of the operational plan for the 2022/23 fiscal year over the coming months.



We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



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.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS



Twitter Followers

1,806

up from 1,804



Instagram Followers

786

up from 744



Facebook Followers

1,345

up from 1,313



Website Visits

15,000

Sessions

Apr. 1 - Jul. 1



Watch Time

24.8 hours

Video Views

202

CONTACT US!

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