

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fall has graced us with a gentle presence this year, and I am thankful for the continued pleasant

weather. As we continue to move forward through the COVID-19 pandemic, I am impressed at the drive to continue to share your stories and culture in your communities through innovative and creative ideas. Approximately half of our members did not open their doors this summer, and those that did, reported lower visitor turnouts. How was the summer for your museum? Did you try something different?

Usually, we're wrapping up the season with Culture Days in the last weekend of September, but the idea of having Culture Days extended for a month is an opportunity to indulge in a wider variety of activities across the province (and these digital ones can allow you to travel without leaving your home). I enjoyed seeing some of our members posting the digital content and self-guided content, so that we can continue to share our stories.

The Fall weather also means Fall Network Meetings! The Board was excited to hear that several networks will be meeting via Zoom, and we will be attending the various Network meetings to hear about your summer and to visit digitally. We know it is difficult to not see each other in person, so the Board really appreciates being able to have a virtual visit. Being a part of the Fall Network meetings is the opportunity for us to know the issues and trends that are happening with a large section of our members, so the Board is thrilled to see you all virtually over the next month!

The Board would like to thank all of you for participating in your networks, and for 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. We also are in the swing of election season across the province, with the upcoming provincial and municipal elections. If you had the chance to speak with your candidates, what would you tell them about your museum? Do their platforms affect your museum in any way?

MAS continues to host [bi-weekly Community Chats](#), and are including presenters from

the planned 2020 conference. Stay tuned to E-phemera for upcoming topics as there are a diverse range of presenters and information coming your way over the winter! On September 30th, MAS announced the recipients of the 2020 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 the recording](#) to learn about the recipients and their projects, the stories were encouraging and empowering. And congratulations to all those who were named as recipients!

We had two of our new Board Members withdraw their names from the Board in early July due to personal reasons. We thank Lee Emery and Lillian O'Brien Davis for originally putting their names forward, and hope to welcome them back in the future.

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

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Museum of Antiquities,
Saskatoon

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Karen Grenier
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Hudson Bay

Kaiti Hannah
WDM Corporate Office,
Saskatoon

Vincent Houghtaling
Moose Jaw Museum & Art
Gallery, Moose Jaw

Katrina Howick
Moose Jaw

Valerie Mulholland
Regina

Andrew Whiting
(Saskatoon)

The Nominations Committee proposed two candidates: Helanna Gessner (Diefenbaker Canada Centre, Saskatoon) and Andrew Whiting (Saskatoon) to the Board to complete the first year of Lee and Lillian's terms. The Board was happy to appoint both Helanna and Andrew to the Board as they bring a wealth of experience in the cultural fields and we look forward to learning more about them in the upcoming year!

The Board continues to meet virtually over Zoom. With COVID-19, the Board is examining our risk management plan to ensure we now include the risk of a global pandemic. We're also staying close to the trends and issues being reported by our members as we go through this together. 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 learning and want to help serve our members. Our Board benefits from having members from all over our beautiful province.

As we enjoy Fall, and enter winter, enjoy the beautiful colours and the harvest of this season. We're going through a unique time in our history, and we'll get through this together. If you are hosting virtual events and would like a Board Member to attend, please reach out through the MAS Office 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 fall!

- Merissa Scarlett, President – MAS Board of Directors

OFFICE REPORT

“One should learn from the past, but one should not live in the past. My concern is to look to the future, learn from the past, and deal with the present.”
- George Fernandes

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

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director (ED) attended the regular Eligible Organization meetings (virtually) where participants could share concerns and opportunities presented by the pandemic. Both the ED and President also attended SaskCulture's virtual AGM on September 11. We congratulate the new Board members: James Ingold - President, Heather Kline (Arts), Melanie Sunchild (First Nations), Olufunke Okochi (Multiculturalism), Les Oystryk (Member at Large).

In other SaskCulture news, the Museum Grant Program (MGP) will be offered as an interim grant for this year only. This is to recognize that the pandemic has put considerable stress on applicants already, and the addition of a full grant application would not be helpful. The application process will be very similar to the one followed last year - the second/interim year of the previous 2-year grant. There will also be a very small adjudication for those few museums that didn't make the deadline two years ago. Any questions regarding the MGP should be directed to Catherine Folstad at SaskCulture: cfolstad@saskculture.ca

Canadian Museums Association

The ED has been very involved in activities at the national level during this reporting period. This has included participating in Canadian Museums Association (CMA) committees, first as a member of the Community Advisory Committee which assisted the CMA Board in the development of a new CMA strategic plan, and second as part of a National Museum Policy Working Group which will provide input to the Department of Canadian Heritage's revision of the 30 year old museum policy. This is an important task as federal museum funding is based on the Museum Policy and until it is updated the funding through MAP, etc. is unlikely to change.

Museums for Me Consortium

This is a project to determine the value and meaning of museums to Canadians. This is a multi-year research-based project led by the Alberta Museums Association (AMA) which is expected to result in a much better understanding of what museums mean to the public which will assist in advocacy activities at all levels. There will be a toolkit produced at the end of the project which MAS will assist in producing. We will also be involved on the steering committee throughout the project and in promoting project surveys and facilitating focus group sessions during the research phase.

The ED is also a member of a working group made up of the CMA, Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM), British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA) and Ontario Museums Association (OMA) to develop a virtual panel presentation on museums and social justice – the myth of museum neutrality. It is anticipated that this session will take place later this fall/early winter and lead to more fulsome discussions at the CMA conference in the spring.

Networks

The first of the fall Network Zoom meetings was held in September. The remaining fall meetings will take place via Zoom throughout October. MAS staff will be in attendance along with a Board member. Dates, times, and the Zoom link for the upcoming meetings can be found on the [Museum Networks page](#) of the MAS website. If you want to join a Network or want to know more about the program, contact the MAS office at mas@saskmuseums.org.

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.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Courses and Workshops

Three Certificate Program Courses are scheduled this fall – Research, Museums & Education and Collections Management. All are offered online, and all had reached full capacity before the Research Course started in September. As a result staff is looking into the possibility of a winter series. Watch for news in E-Pamera.

The [Fall 2020 Education calendar](#) was posted on the website in August.

Advisory

Sarah Durham is settling in well, albeit virtually, as the Museums Advisor. She is now in the same time zone having moved to Regina from Quebec the last week of August. She is responding to advisory requests via email and has offered to meet with members via Zoom as required. Sarah has begun to work with the four new members of SaskCollections. She has also started the process of reviewing and revising *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums*.

Sarah is also conducting two surveys – one for teachers looking for guidance in what they desire from a museum, and one for museums asking what school-based programming they offer or would be able to offer to schools. This is slow going given the pandemic but will provide useful data which we will be sharing with members.

MAS program staff meet regularly with their colleagues across the country to look for ways to share ideas and look for 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@sask-museums.org.

Collective Voice

Advocacy

The ED participated in a meeting August 27 with the CMA/Provincial & Territorial Museums Associations (PTMA) and senior staff with the Department of Canadian Heritage where we were given an update on the status of the Heritage Emergency Funding program. At that date, they had received 1307 (954 approved & 353 awaiting approval) applications of which only 9 were deemed ineligible for funding. Of the 53 million dollars allocated for the emergency fund, 33 million had been allocated at the time of the meeting, which left 20 million for the final two weeks the program was accepting applications. It's interesting, but not surprising that there were very few applicants from those with budgets below \$10,000 (19). Approximately 7% of total applications were from Saskatchewan. A final meeting with Department of Canadian Heritage staff is expected once they have processed all applications received by the deadline.

The ED also attended a virtual Town Hall – sponsored by Business for the Arts, with Department of Canadian Heritage Minister Steven Guilbeault. Two interesting comments were made by the Minister – he supports the idea of the federal government providing operational funding instead of the current project only model; and he is not averse to looking at multi-year funding. Both points will be raised during National Museum Policy discussions.

Awards

The MAS Awards are normally announced and presented at a special luncheon during the annual conference. However, due to COVID-19, the in-person conference did not take place in June, 2020, nor did the awards announcements.

The 2020 recipients were announced and recipients introduced at the September 30 Community Chat. The 2020 Award recipients are:

Individual Award of Merit:

Bernadette Leslie – Fred Light Museum (Battleford)
Valerie Finley – Luseland Museum
Karen Lee – Nokomis Museum

The Jury felt all three were deserving of receiving the award and with no rules to the contrary, all could be named as award winners.

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

Clayton McLain Memorial Museum (Cutknife), Little Pine First Nation and Lucky Man Cree Nation – 'Moving Forward with Reconciliation'

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

White Butte Ecomuseum (White City) - 'Ecology Heritage Project'

Young Professional Award

Kristine Flynn – WDM Corporate Office

To learn more about the 2020 Award Recipients, or to view the September 30 Community Chat [visit our website](#).

OPERATIONS

The MAS staff will continue to work remotely for the fall with some staff going into the office part of the time as necessary. The situation will be reevaluated on a regular basis and appropriate protocols developed when everyone is again in the office.

Planning

All staff have been participating in the 6-month operational plan review and will be undertaking the six month budget projections process in October. All of this will lead

to the development of the operational plan for the 2021/22 fiscal year over the coming months.

Holidays

All staff have taken holidays of varying lengths and at various times over the summer.

Events

MAS staff attended the following virtual events during this quarter:

JULY

- National Trust – Reopening Heritage & Historic Places – Wendy
- Board Orientation session – all staff
- Board meeting – Wendy, Brenda

AUGUST

- Awards Committee – Em, Wendy
- ECO meeting – Wendy
- Drinking About Museums – Legion Br. #001 – Wendy
- Museums & Social Justice Working Group meeting – Wendy
- PCH/CMA/PTMAs – Emergency Funding update meeting – Wendy

SEPTEMBER

- Minister Guilbreault Town Hall – Wendy
- Networkers meeting – Em, Wendy
- SaskCulture AGM – Wendy
- Museums & Social Justice Working Group meeting – Wendy
- AB Museums Assoc. virtual conference – Wendy
- Museums for Me Consortium meeting – Wendy

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

E-Phemera has been completed and distributed as scheduled along with a variety of additional group emails on topics of interest.

2020 MAS Award Winners



Kristine Flynn
Western Development Museum



White Butte Ecomuseum
Ecology Heritage Project



**Clayton McClain Memorial Museum, Little Pine First Nation
Lucky Man Cree Nation**
Moving Forward with Reconciliation Project



Bernadette Leslie
Fred Light Museum



Karen Lee
Nokomis District Museum



Valerie Finley
Luseland Museum

To learn more about the 2020 Award Recipients, [visit our website](#).

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



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1,775
up from 1,768



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up from 606



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994
up from 983



Website Visits
16,000
Sessions
Apr. 1 - June 30

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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.