



MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION OF
SASKATCHEWAN

MUSEUMS ARE MORE...



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021

PRESIDENTS & EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

PRESIDENTS

Dr. C.R. Strother-Stewart 1968 - 1969
Gordon Wilson 1969 - 1971
W.H. Howes 1971 - 1973
Austin Ellis 1973 - 1974
Malcolm Wake 1974 - 1976
Nancy Dillow 1976 - 1978
Joan Mitchell 1978 - 1980
Bill Martodam 1980 - 1982
Wayne Morgan 1982 - 1985
Jane Turnbull Evans 1985 - 1987
David Klatt 1987 - 1989
Richard Moldenhauer 1989 - 1991
Mary Mahon-Jones 1991 - 1992
Ingrid Cazakoff 1992 - 1996
Frances Westlund 1996 - 1997
Geri Jacques 1997 - 1999
Sheila Kelly 1999 - 2001
Katherine Fitton 2001 - 2003
Chad Debert 2003 - 2004
Brenda Barry Byrne 2004 - 2007
Terry Graff 2007 - 2008
Royce Pettyjohn 2008 - 2009
Céline Perillat 2009 - 2011
Rhonda Lamb 2011 - 2013
Crystal Craig 2013 - 2014
Robert Hubick 2014 - 2016
Yvonne Hotzak 2016 - 2018
Teresa Carlson - 2018 - 2019
Corinne Daelick - 2019 - Present
Merissa Scarlett - 2020 - Present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Wayne Mitchell 1976 - 1979
Virginia Hatch 1979 - 1985
Gayl Hipperson 1985 - 1998
Lee Boyko 1998 - 1999
Joan Kanigan-Fairen 2000 - 2006
Brenda Sherring 2006 - 2009
Brenda Herman & Wendy Fitch 2009-2012
Wendy Fitch 2012 - present

Front Cover: Students participate in an activity with the White Butte Ecomuseum, winner of the 2020 Award of Merit – Institution (project/budget under \$50,000.00), photo provided by Glenn Sutter.

2020 - 2021 Membership

250	Institutional
11	Associates
195	Individuals

456	TOTAL
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Museums Association of Saskatchewan

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Canada S4N 6E1

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Email: mas@saskmuseums.org

Website: www.saskmuseums.org

THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

MAS acknowledges that our office is located in Regina, on Treaty 4 Territory. MAS's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2,4,5,6,8, and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota, and Saulteaux people, as well as the homeland of the Métis.

Recognition of this land is an act of reconciliation and an expression of our gratitude to those whose territory we reside in or are visiting. MAS respects and honours the Treaties made on all territories and acknowledges the harms and mistakes of the past. MAS is committed to moving forward in partnership with Indigenous Nations in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan is a non-profit, charitable organization. The Association is governed by a member-elected Board of Directors representative of the museum community.

The ten-member Board of Directors sets the direction (Ends) and priorities for the Association. At the same time, staff members are responsible for developing and implementing the programs and services to achieve the Board's Ends/priorities.

Membership in MAS is open to everyone.

MAS provides learning opportunities for museum personnel - both volunteer and paid, and their governing bodies. The Association raises public awareness of museums, and fosters communication among members of the museum sector. MAS represents the interests and concerns of the museum sector to decision-makers, including funders and governments.

PURPOSE

To serve Saskatchewan people by advancing museums.

VISION

MAS will be the leader in transitioning Saskatchewan museums, through diversity and inclusion, creating a sustainable future for the sector.

STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Heritage is our social and natural inheritance: it is the objects, ideas, places, and traditions of intrinsic value which have shaped our present and will guide our future.

We believe our collective inheritance is an asset that must be preserved, understood, and built upon by each generation.

We believe that museums, in service to society, provide stewardship for the material evidence of our human and natural inheritance. They contribute to the understanding of the world and our place in it - our past, our present, and our future.

VALUES

The Board and the staff of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan values:

- Commitment to the role of museums in the preservation and interpretation of heritage and culture
- Commitment to continuous learning
- Common purpose within diversity: culturally, socially, demographically
- Effective, efficient and accountable use of resources
- Flexibility, forward-thinking and creativity
- Spirit of sharing and collaboration
- Accessibility: physical, social, and cultural

MAS will also use the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's principles of reconciliation to guide its activities.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I had a difficult time opening this President's message, as it has been a very different year for the Board, our members, and the staff of MAS. As I write this, it has been 14 months since

we entered a global pandemic, and we have all had to make changes to our lives that we have never done before. We have all been forced to adapt, hosting virtual events and fundraisers, postpone certain events, and/or even close your museum to the public. Thankfully, there is a glimpse of hope on the horizon with the vaccines arriving weekly, and Saskatchewan's roadmap to re-opening guiding the province. Even with uncertainty, there is a growing hope and optimism for better days ahead.

As I reflect on the year that has passed, I thought what better sector to handle this year of change and adaptation? Museums and cultural institutions were ready to provide historical stories from the Spanish Flu Pandemic (and other diseases), and were ready to collect, record, and share these stories of the Covid-19 pandemic for generations to come. The heritage and cultural sectors were ready to educate visitors in innovative manners, such as moving outdoors only or even hosting virtual tours with schools or visitors!

Many of our members used the opportunity of being closed to look at interpretive panels and update them, or have a summer student go through and organize collections. Some members had to let go of staff, and are having to make hard decisions moving forward. It's been a year of ups and downs, and thankfully, we have a strong heritage and cultural sector in our province to hold our stories for future generations to come.

The MAS Board met virtually throughout the year and continues to do so for the unforeseen future. We are thankful we had already agreed upon meeting via Zoom in March 2020, so we felt ready to tackle the upcoming year of virtual meetings. Our Board has continued to work hard, and meeting virtually allowed Committees to meet easier than ever before.

MAS held its first ever virtual AGM last June, and it went very smoothly. We did not hold our traditional Member's Forum as we were learning, along with all of you, how to navigate a new technological platform. The MAS Community Chats have been a great opportunity for our Board members to meet with more of our members, across the entire province, on a bi-weekly basis.

During the virtual 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 in 2019-2020. 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).

We did have some immediate changes following the AGM, with two of the new members stepping down citing personal reasons. 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.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all serving Board Members through the past year. While going through your own journey in the pandemic, you all stepped up and continued to show excitement at Board meetings, Network Meetings, and the various Committee meetings. Thank you all for showing your true dedication to supporting heritage and culture in Saskatchewan. Alongside Valerie, Andrew, and Helanna, the

Board consists of Vice-President Tracene Harvey of the Museum of Antiquities (Saskatoon), Kaiti Hannah of the Western Development Museum (Saskatoon), Vincent Houghtaling of the Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Katrina Howick (Moose Jaw), Karen Grenier of the Hudson Bay Museum (Hudson Bay), and our Past President Corinne Daelick of the Western Development Museum (Saskatoon). I want to acknowledge the support from Corinne, whose guidance and willingness to help was very appreciated as we navigated through this different year. A huge thank you to my Vice President, Tracene, who has put countless hours into the Board Procedure Manual, as well as assisting with anything when asked.

We held our annual orientation Board Meeting in July, to review our role as a governance board, and to set the priorities for the upcoming year. With Covid-19, the Board has been looking internally at our procedures, digging into risk management, and keeping ownership linkage at the forefront throughout the year. We attended Fall Network meetings virtually, along with participating at various Community Chats. Thank you all for jumping into meeting virtually, providing feedback to MAS in various surveys, and for being so innovative in the face of a challenging year.

The Board hired an outside Human Resources Consultant to guide us in developing a better evaluation process for the Executive Director. We're quite pleased to have a new framework in place, and piloted the new process this year. We were happy to extend Wendy Fitch's contract for another year, and we acknowledged the continuous and dedicated effort of her leadership. While many organizations could have been very passive in the wake of Covid-19, MAS doubled down on providing resources to members, virtual meetings, and offering online programs. Thank you to Wendy, and all the staff, for the support of our members over the past year.

On behalf of the Board, I want to sincerely thank our funders Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture and Recreation, as well as the Department of the Canadian Heritage, and the

Museums Assistance Program.

Thank you to all of our members. Thank you for the willingness to connect, and for your enthusiasm for Saskatchewan heritage and culture. Thank you for allowing us to represent you, and accomplish so much for the Heritage and Culture sector of Saskatchewan. I wish you a great summer, and look forward to meeting in-person again.

Thank you,

Merissa Scarlett

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



“No matter how much falls on us, we keep plowing ahead. That’s the only way to keep the roads clear.”
- Greg Kincaid”

The staff of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan is committed to achieving our goals as embodied in our vision: *MAS will be the leader in transitioning Saskatchewan museums through diversity and inclusion, creating a sustainable future for the sector.* We try new things while continuing with the things we know we do well - providing leadership, capacity development and a collective voice to Saskatchewan’s museum sector.

This pandemic year has provided both challenges and opportunities for MAS. The main challenge has been figuring out how to provide as many of our programs and services as possible to as many members as possible when it’s been impossible to meet in person. This challenge has been transformed into an opportunity to continue incorporating virtual options into our programs and services. For example, staff quickly transitioned to providing the online versions of the Certificate Program courses for both the spring and fall sessions this year.

Another example was the immediate implementation of the Community Chats. Initially, these were held weekly as a quick way to share pandemic-related information with the members. Eventually, they became bi-weekly and

transformed into the venue for the presentations initially scheduled to be part of our annual conference (planned for June 6 but cancelled due to the pandemic). The Community Chats will continue post-pandemic as they provide MAS with one opportunity to use technology to increase the accessibility of our programming.

The final example I would like to share is our advocacy activities relating to the pandemic. When the pandemic hit over a year ago, MAS members were forced to close down completely. No school tours, no visitors, no fundraisers – it looked bleak indeed. With the assistance of SaskCulture, we reached out to the provincial government to determine the rules for re-opening museums and, more importantly, when that would be allowed. At the same time, we worked with the Canadian Museums Association and the other Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations to advocate for museums for emergency funding for the sector. Provincially museums were able to open – in a limited fashion, in early July, which was far better than many feared. Federally, we worked with staff at the Department of Canadian Heritage to ensure the Museums Assistance Program’s Emergency Fund was as easy as possible to be accessed by

as many museums as possible. Again, we were successful with over 85 Saskatchewan museums receiving funding through this program.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders - Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, from whom we receive our core operational funding. This unique funding model ensures that sport, culture and recreation non-profits in Saskatchewan have a stable, reliable funding source without which our communities could not be the vibrant places they are. I would also like to thank the Department of Canadian Heritage - Museums Assistance Program for their financial support for our Inclusion, Equity & Diversity PD sessions this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of MAS's volunteers for their dedication over the past year. Your hard work and commitment truly make a difference in the ultimate success of the Association. I would especially like to thank the Board of Directors for their hard work and support during this pandemic year. I have enjoyed working with all of you, and genuinely appreciate all the time and energy you have given to ensure the Association continues to move forward.

I would especially like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank my amazing team: Brenda, Dan, Em, Terri and Sarah (who chose to join us in April 2020). I am in awe of your willingness to work hard, share your enthusiasm, try new ways of doing things, and your senses of humour as we've worked together while being apart during this pandemic year.

As you read this annual report, you will find additional evidence of how our activities, both ongoing programs and services and new initiatives, continue to move us toward our strategic goals and organizational ends, even in a pandemic year.

Respectfully,

Wendy Fitch
Executive Director



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

During 2020-2021 - despite the pandemic, MAS continued to work with both internal and external stakeholders. Maintaining positive relationships with stakeholders is foundational to MAS's leadership role in the museum sector in Saskatchewan.

The key provincial organizations MAS works with continue to be: SaskCulture, Heritage Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society, Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists (SCAA), Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCoS), Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Parks, Culture & Sport, Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board, Saskatchewan Library Association, U of R's Community Research Unit and Non-Profit & Voluntary Sector Studies, and the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Partnership. The working relationship MAS has established with each is valued by the Association and enhances the ability of MAS to be a leader in the museum sector in Saskatchewan.

Federally, MAS works with the Canadian Museums Association, National Trust for Canada, Department of Canadian Heritage, Canadian Conservation Institute/Canadian Heritage Information Network, and Digital Museums Canada (formerly Virtual Museum of Canada). MAS also works with the other ten provincial and territorial museum associations on matters of common interest.

As part of the Saskatchewan Ecomuseum Partnership, MAS is responsible for coordinating the growing Network of active ecomuseum communities.

MAS staff were also able to participate in several stakeholder events, including CMA virtual Annual General Meeting and regular CMA/PTMA virtual meetings, National Trust for Canada virtual annual

conference, SaskCulture virtual annual meeting and regular Eligible Cultural Organization meetings, Saskatchewan Multitype Library Board meeting, as well as numerous informational webinars, both provincial and national.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAS is a member-driven organization governed by an elected 10-member Board of Directors, which governs according to the principles of policy governance. During 2020-2021, the Board met seven times via Zoom, and was diligent in ensuring it provided strategic guidance and leadership to the Association through the pandemic.

The Board continued to follow a strategy based on self-assessment to ensure critical areas are addressed. The Board has continued to focus on the relationship between itself and the membership during 2020-2021. Board members attended the regular virtual Chats and the virtual Network meetings, which provided them with feedback from members on various topics and the impact the pandemic has had on the Saskatchewan museum sector. Regular communications of Board activities through the Quarterly Reports and Board meeting summaries – posted on the MAS website, continued during the year.

BOARD MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

President

Merissa Scarlett
Regina

Vice-President

Tracene Harvey
Museum of Antiquities, Saskatoon

Past-President

Corinne Daelick
WDM Corporate Office, Saskatoon

Directors:

Katrina Howick
Moose Jaw

Karen Grenier
Hudson Bay Museum, Hudson Bay

Directors (continued):

Kaiti Hannah
Western Development Museum, Saskatoon

Vincent Houghtaling
Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery, Moose Jaw

Valerie Mulholland
Regina

Helanna Gessner
Diefenbaker Canada Centre, Saskatoon

Andrew Whiting
Saskatoon



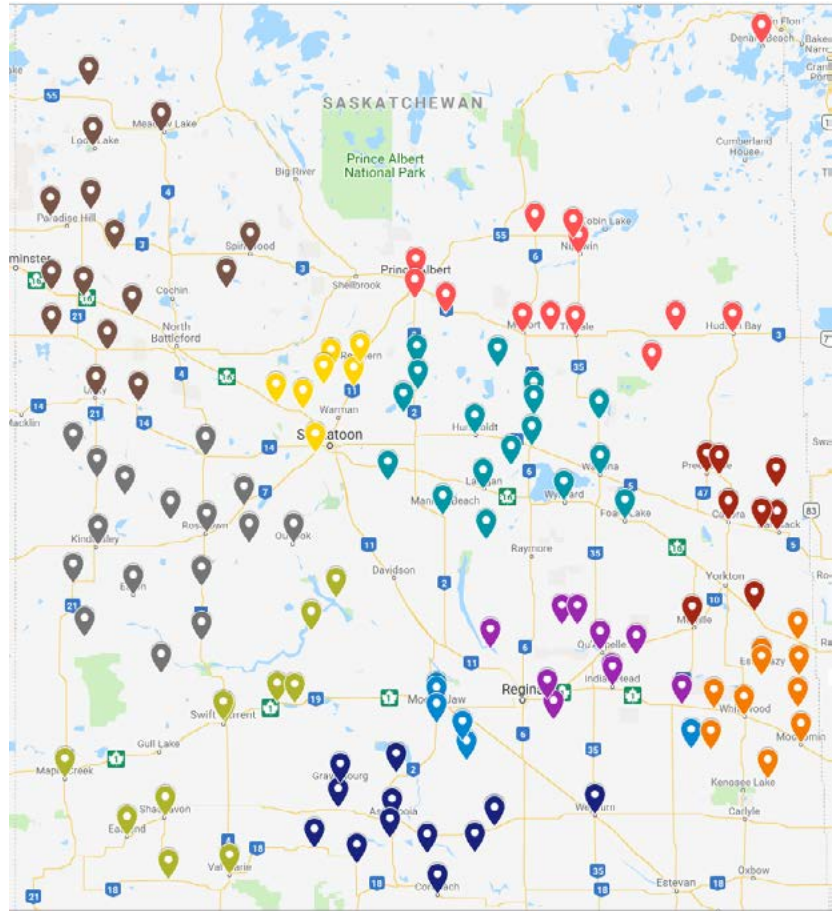
NETWORKS

Networks are regional, self-determined MAS member groups. Each Network determines its agendas as well as its own goals and priorities. Meeting twice a year, spring and fall, Networks provide members with opportunities to share information, ideas, and concerns; work together on projects; and acquire new skills and knowledge. Networks facilitate communications between museums within their Network, between Networks within Saskatchewan, and between the MAS Board, staff, and Network members. Each Network's activities are coordinated by a volunteer Networker and are often assisted by a Co-Networker.

Museums Advisor Sarah Durham developed the 2021 Spring Network Knowledge Exchange (NKE) presentation. The NKE featured three presentations about "Creative Approaches to Curation During a Pandemic", which included presentations by Carol LaFayette-Boyd from the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, Sandee Moore from the Art Gallery of Regina, as well as Amber Andersen and Chantel Schultz from the Estevan Art Gallery & Museum. [You can view the full blog post and view all of the presentations on our blog.](#)

There were ten active Networks in 2020-2021. The number of institutional members participating in the Network program was 122, nearly 49% of institutional members.

In 2020-2021, approximately 39 Network volunteers gave their time, an estimated 578 hours on various Network projects and administration, a decrease of roughly 33% fewer volunteer hours than the previous year. These decreases can entirely be attributed to the pandemic and the lack of in-person meetings that took place. The Networkers and Co-



Click on the map above to explore the Network Map on Google Maps!

Networkers met as a group on September 3, 2020, via Zoom.

We would like to recognize the Networkers and Networks for their successful adaptation to the virtual Zoom Meeting format over the past year. When the pandemic forced our Spring 2020 Network meetings to cancel, only one Network was willing to hold a virtual meeting. A year later, in the Spring of 2021, nine out of eleven Networks held virtual Zoom meetings. Congratulations for pivoting to digital, you may not have thought you could do it, but you did! That being said, we cannot wait to get the MAS Mobile back on the road and out to the Network Meetings being held in person. Our fingers are crossed that we will meet face to face in the Fall of 2021. We miss seeing your faces and, of course, the delicious lunches!

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

This year we have continued to offer a range of high quality courses and workshops.

Program topics are based on the input received from members. This helps ensure that MAS programming is relevant and timely. Moving forward, MAS will continue to strive for member-driven programming that serves the needs of Saskatchewan's museum community.

CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

The Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies provides Saskatchewan's museums with affordable training in basic museum operations. It consists of ten courses, each designed to equip learners with the knowledge, skills, and standards of excellence needed to operate a successful public museum.

The courses include Museums 101, Organization and Management, Museums and the Community, Collections Management, Care of Collections, Exhibit Design and Planning, Museums and Education, Marketing the Museum, Volunteer Management, and Research. You can find details in the Program Guide, which outlines the goals and content of the Certificate Program and each of its courses. This year, we offered Museums 101, Museums and the Community, Research, Museums and Education, and Collections Management.

SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOPS

In 2020-2021, MAS offered two workshops aimed at mid to advanced-level museum professionals. The number of registrations and the positive feedback received suggest that these programs met the needs of many of our members. The Special Topic Workshops were CCI's Works of Art on Paper workshop and Identifying and Protecting Significant Artefacts.

GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

MAS continues to offer our governance support program, which uses independent modules on governance-related topics, allowing for governance support in the areas most relevant to each museum board's needs. Each module takes roughly two hours to deliver, making them more practical when volunteer board members' availability is limited. The modules have been given to several community museums, and positive feedback has been received. In addition, we have developed new Succession Planning and Dissolution modules.

INTRODUCTION TO ART HANDLING, STORAGE & EXHIBITION

We continue to maintain our program tailored to the needs of new art gallery employees. This one-day workshop designed to familiarize gallery workers with the principles and practices of handling, storing, and displaying artworks was not offered this fiscal year but will be provided in 2021-2022.

ADVISORY SERVICES

Based on the *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums*, the Advisory Services assists MAS's institutional members in achieving their goals. Advisory consultations are confidential. Consultations may be by email, phone, online, referral, and/or site visit.

In 2020-2021, the Advisory Services fielded 281 requests. Due to the ongoing pandemic, there were no site visits this past year, but zoom has been an accommodating alternative. To ensure that members are getting information through various avenues concerning numerous topics, the Museums Advisor wrote various Blog Posts and Bulletins, which can be found on the MAS website and social media channels, and presentations are available to view on the SaskMuseums YouTube Channel. Advisory Services has produced many resources over the years; All Tip Sheets and Workbooks are available online in the members-only section of the MAS website.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

The MAS library is a significant source of information and resources for all aspects of museum work. Containing approximately 1800 titles, it is full of scholarship, case studies, and skills development tools that can benefit any museum. Library and equipment usage, however, was unusually low due to pandemic health measures.

The Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program, consisting of Elsec 765C and HOBO U14 monitors, were not used in 2020-2021. The HOBO U14 monitors and records relative humidity and temperatures, while the Elsec 765C monitors and records UV, visible light, relative humidity, and temperature.

The Museums Advisor serves as the contact person of the Environmental Monitoring Equipment Loan Program. The equipment needs to be set up before sending to borrowing institutions, making it a relatively simple procedure for them to use once received.

The Oral History Recording Equipment Loan Program consists of both audio kits, including a portable audio recorder, all the accessories and instructions needed to operate it, and video kits that include a video camera, accessories and instructions. These were used for one member oral history project in 2020-21.

Toward the end of the fiscal year, we were able to obtain new equipment for loan to members, including two flatbed scanners, a document camera, and additional audio equipment. These will be available for loan in the new fiscal year and will provide members with additional capacity to create high-quality records of documents and oral history interviews.

This year, we implemented an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) for the library collection, which allows improved searching capabilities for members and streamlines library operations for staff. The next step will be to integrate electronic resources into the catalogue.

SASKCOLLECTIONS

SaskCollections is a cloud-based collections management system that MAS has developed using the CollectiveAccess platform, tailoring the database to meet the specific needs of Saskatchewan's small to medium-sized cultural institutions. SaskCollections is an easy-to-navigate, user-friendly, and an online system. Participating institutions will have the opportunity to create a publicly accessible, searchable, collections dedicated web page.

MAS offers various support mechanisms for the system, including access to comprehensive support services via online resources and in-person through the Museums Advisor. Except for 2020, MAS has annually offered a SaskCollection's member meeting.

There were four new participants to SaskCollections in 2020/2021, bringing the total number of participating cultural institutions in this initiative to 29. The next round of intake for SaskCollections opened in April 2021. Last year had two more participant institutions create publicly accessible collections web pages.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

MAS undertakes various activities directed at different audiences to create greater public awareness and understanding of the past, present, and future impact of Saskatchewan's heritage.

During 2020-2021, MAS maintained its investment in select, multiplatform, paid advertisements such as ads in the Municipalities of Saskatchewan magazine - Urban Voice and the vehicle wrap on the MAS lease car. In addition, MAS has invested more resources in social media advertising to better address demographics changes.

MAS significantly increased its focus on its online presence primarily to adapt to the realities of pandemic restrictions. Immediately after the initial lockdown in March 2020, MAS launched the Community Chats as a vehicle for providing members with a regular networking and learning opportunity with many sessions posted to the [SaskMuseums YouTube channel](#).

The pandemic also necessitated a greater focus on advocacy to ensure museums were included in government emergency funding programs.

CORE COMMUNICATION TOOLS

E-Phemera, MAS's e-newsletter, is sent out every two weeks to a mailing list of over 1,364 subscribers. It features MAS news/opportunities, member and community news, events, job postings, professional development opportunities and more. In 2020-2021, the *E-Phemera* mailing list grew by approximately 339 people, a 33% increase.

The [MAS website](#), was updated regularly, ensuring member information, news and events, along with MAS events were made available as quickly as possible. The MAS website had 51,000 users in 2020-2021, for a total of 62,000 sessions. Users spent an average of 00:01:00 on the site.

The *MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report* is a publication requested by members to inform them of Board and MAS activities. It was published in July and October 2020 and January 2021 and was sent electronically to members; it was also [posted to the MAS website](#). This Annual Report comprises the fourth quarterly report for the fiscal year.

The MAS [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) accounts are maintained as a way for MAS to share interesting heritage and museum-related information more widely. One of the

most significant areas of growth for MAS on social media continued to be Instagram, where followers increased by almost 18% from 599 to 712 year over year. Facebook also saw substantial follower growth with an approximately 9.5% growth rate in followers (969 to 1062). Twitter has the greatest number of followers and saw a 2.8% increase from 1762 to 1812.

YouTube saw the highest amount of growth ever this year due to the increased amount of video content being produced and shared online. In 2020 - 2021, MAS increased our number of YouTube subscribers from 4 to 16, and the channel had 748 video views amounting to a total of 104 hours of watch time (4.3 Days!).



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Due to the pandemic, MAS did not hold the annual conference scheduled for June 5th - 6th, 2020, in Estevan, SK. However, as mentioned in the Executive Director's report, in response to the pandemic, MAS launched a new programming series, "Community Chats." Over the past year, these have evolved from a basic virtual networking opportunity for museum folks from across the province to catch up, chat, ask questions and seek advice during the pandemic to also include a bi-weekly professional development opportunity. We invited all of the scheduled conference presenters to present virtually at a Community Chat throughout the year. This initiative was met with great enthusiasm by both the presenters and also the audience. The Community Chats have been consistently well attended, with 20 to 30 people attending each session.

In the 2020 - 2021 year, there were over 17 Community Chats held featuring many talented, passionate presenters ranging in topics from virtual exhibitions, COVID-19 Community Archive Projects, How to Re-Open Museums during COVID, Sharing Métis Stories, Digitization, How Archaeology Can Tell a Story, How Museums can Adapt Language to Promote Reconciliation, Significance Assessment in Collections and much more!

SaskCulture published an article about the Community Chat series in their magazine *Engage* in the Fall 2020 issue, and [you can read it online](#).

You can view a [YouTube playlist of our previously recorded Community Chats](#) online, and you can also find [more information on our website](#).

On June 19, 2020, we held MAS's first-ever virtual AGM via Zoom. 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 three new Board Members; Lee Emery (WDM Corporate Office, Saskatoon), Valerie Mulholland (Regina), and Lillian O'Brien Davis (Mackenzie Art Gallery, Regina). Post-AGM, both Lillian O'Brien Davis and Lee Emery left the Board, and their vacancies were filled by Helanna Gessner (Diefenbaker Canada Centre, Saskatoon) and Andrew Whiting (Saskatoon).

Three Board Members were re-elected: Merissa Scarlett (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. Merissa Scarlett was elected as President, and Tracene Harvey was elected the new Vice President.

During the AGM, several Bylaw changes passed to make sure the Bylaws clearly articulate the way the Association regulates itself. Minor grammatical errors were discovered by the Governance Committee, along with some inconsistencies from changes over time. Each change was presented to the membership in a table format, along with a presentation. The motions were passed to update the Bylaws as proposed by the Governance Committee.

ADVOCACY

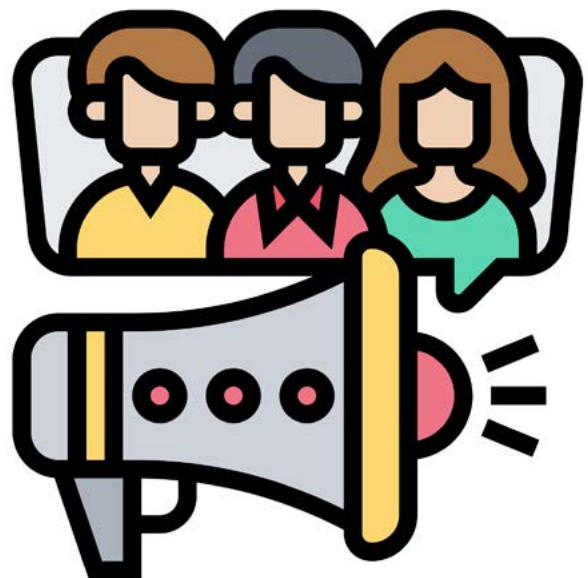
To affect positive change on behalf of the museum sector in Saskatchewan, MAS undertakes various activities that fit into the broad definition of advocacy - viewed fundamentally as building positive relationships with decision-makers to achieve desired goals. This process takes place in different ways with several stakeholders, including funders, governments, provincial and federal non-profits. By building positive relationships with stakeholders, MAS lays the groundwork for targeted advocacy activities on behalf of Saskatchewan's museum sector.

In 2020-2021 MAS's advocacy activities included:

- The development and distribution of information kits for both the provincial (Oct/20) and municipal (Nov/20) elections.
- MAS conducted two *COVID-19 & Museums* surveys, with the first being completed in April 2020 - to establish a baseline on how the pandemic affected museums in Saskatchewan. A follow-up survey was conducted in October 2020 to identify the initial effects of the pandemic on Saskatchewan's museums. The results of the surveys were helpful in the development of advocacy strategies, both provincially and federally.
- MAS continued to participate in collaborative activities with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and the other ten Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations (PTMAs). The primary advocacy focus for this group has been working with the Department of Canadian Heritage (PCH) to ensure: a) there was emergency funding available to museums; and b) that the funding program would be available to the broadest range of museums throughout the country. We were quite successful as the federal government provided \$52mil in emergency funds for Canadian museums. The funding was distributed through the Museums Assistance Program (MAP) Emergency Fund. PCH/MAP staff met regularly with the CMA/PTMAs as the various aspects of the emergency

funding program was developed and delivered. Saskatchewan museums received approximately 7% of the funds available, with 82 MAS members receiving funding. Of those, 8 had budgets under \$10,000.00. The total amount allocated to all Saskatchewan institutions was \$1,330,923.00, with an average grant of \$14,954.00.

- MAS participated in many National Trust for Canada teleconferences during 2020-2021. These are regular sessions the National Trust has used to enable MAS to engage the broad heritage sector on advocacy activities, including developing a strategy for reaching new audiences for heritage.
- MAS continued to attend SaskCulture's regular, virtual Eligible Cultural Organization meetings throughout the year at the provincial level. MAS also participated in the SaskCulture led consultations regarding the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan to ensure the implications of the plan on museums were presented to government officials.



MAS AWARDS

At a virtual awards presentation on September 30, 2020, MAS presented several awards to deserving museums and individuals. You can see a [full video recording of the awards presentation on YouTube](#). MAS would like to congratulate all the award winners in the following categories:

Award of Merit – Institution (project/budget under \$50,000.00) - White Butte Ecomuseum



Coordinated by White City, a town that proudly describes itself as “younger than your grandpa”, the White Butte Ecomuseum (WBE) has taken significant steps aimed at celebrating the intrepid spirit of their founders, paying tribute to the First Nations Treaty 4 territory they feel privileged to live on, and offering a heck of a lot of interactive fun! From interpretive trails to the audio recordings provided by community elders, they provide a window on the region’s age and stories of their area, a tale of wholehearted passion, hard work and home. In May 2016, the WBE was singled out for their educational programs with an award from Saskatchewan’s UN University Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development.

The WBE is being nominated for their unique and innovative Ecology Heritage Project (EHP). It allows students and teachers to explore and discover natural and cultural heritage features on a section of pasture land near White City, protected by a conservation easement. In 2018, the EHP was piloted on 1.6 square kilometres of pasture land offered to the WBE for educational purposes and is protected by a conservation easement through the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation.

Developed in partnership with the town, the school, the University of Regina, the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Nature Saskatchewan, the EHP was designed to engage with the broader

community to deliver environmental and sustainability education programming to grade 4 and 6 children. Through 8 lessons given over three days, the EHP activities focused on the native biota, sustainable pasture management, and citizen science. In all cases, the intention was to foster heightened environmental awareness by learning from place rather than inside a classroom. Feedback about the EHP has been positive and encouraging, suggesting that the WBE has the potential to inform and inspire people about aspects of sustainability, including the importance of biological diversity, evolution, our dependence on the natural world, and how we learn from nature. Thus, the WBE could be a valuable model for any community that wishes to respect both the cultural and biological diversity in their region.

This project deserves to be recognized since it has not only galvanized a young Ecomuseum; it has fostered effective education and raised the profile of local heritage assets.

Award of Merit – Institution for projects over \$50,000.00 - Clayton McClain Memorial Museum, Little Pine First Nation & Lucky Man Cree Nation



The Clayton McLain Memorial Museum is a small-town museum located in Cut Knife, Saskatchewan. The museum is located on Treaty 6 Territory and has a rich history of partnership with surrounding Indigenous communities.

The summer of 2019 was a hectic summer for the Clayton McClain Museum. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund, the museum was able to partner with Little Pine First Nation and Lucky Man Cree Nation on a three-part project called “Moving Forward with Reconciliation” that was initiated by Chief Wayne Semagnuis and councillor Richard Checkiosis of Little Pine First Nation.

The first event was held on July 2, 2019, in Fort Walsh, SK, to recognize 140 years since Chief Mînahequosis (Little Pine) and Chief Papaway (Lucky Man) were coerced into signing an adhesion to Treaty 6 because their people were suffering from forced starvation. This memorial event was attended by over 550 people. It connected the attending members of Little Pine First Nation and Lucky Man Cree Nation to their ancestors and traditional territories by offering a feast and a mini pow-wow in their honour. Jimmy O’Chiese of the Yellowhead Tribal College in Edmonton, Alberta, spoke and told the Cree Creation Story and how it is intimately linked to the Cypress Hills and introduced the concept of land-based education for those in attendance.

The second part of the celebration took place in Cut Knife on July 5, 2019, and was attended by over 350 people. This event connected the local Indigenous people to the sacred artifacts held in trust in the collection of the Clayton McClain Memorial Museum. These items usually are kept separate from the rest of the collection in a secure area and are cared for by Elders through ceremony and protocol, but were brought out to be displayed for the day after the blessings and a smudging ceremony. This event also included a traditional feast and a much larger mini pow-wow with dancers from Little Pine, Lucky Man, Sweetgrass and Saddle Lake. The feast and pow-wow were used to honour the sacred items and the ancestors who used them in ceremonies. Another essential part of having the event in Cut Knife was to educate people about the events that occurred 140 years ago.

The third part of the event took place on September 9, 2019, at Fort Pitt and was attended by approximately 150 people. This conclusion to the celebrations connected the Indigenous people in

attendance to Treaty 6 territory and the lands they ultimately came to reside upon.

This three-part celebration heralded many firsts for many of the people involved. Overall, it was an event that should be remembered as a step towards ongoing reconciliation – a journey where there is still much more work to be done.

Award of Merit – Individual - Bernadette Leslie, Fred Light Museum, Town of Battleford



Bernadette Leslie has spent more than 40 years working with the Fred Light Museum, including spending 35 years as manager. Over the years, she has promoted the museum sector by working with various groups in Battleford, being a valuable historical resource for their projects. Bernadette is continually working to promote the museum sector in Saskatchewan by making the Fred Light Museum visible in the community.

She is responsible for developing and coordinating various activities that draw people to the museum. Some of the most notable recent activities include developing children’s day summer camps. Over the years, children have learned such skills as making birdhouses, kites and candy dispensers, and fun activities such as scavenger hunts in the museum. One of the most successful and important day camps was the Bicycle Safety Rodeo.

Bernadette has also developed and coordinated the highly successful Family Fun Day, held at the museum in 2019, in conjunction with the Battleford Parade.

Bernadette has been heavily involved with exhibition development during her time at the Fred Light Museum in numerous ways, including

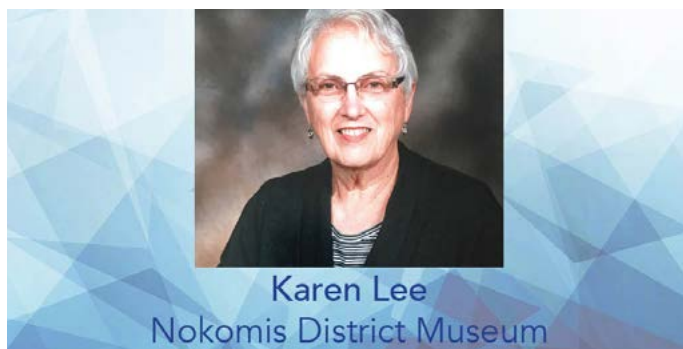
through lending artifacts to the Allen Sapp Gallery to augment their exhibitions and to The Battleford Community players who used artifacts and period pieces from the museum's collection safely in their sets. She also worked with the Battleford & North Battleford Masons upon their amalgamation to develop an exhibit of their temple to display at the museum.

The Battleford Vintage Auto Club was also a recipient of Bernadette's knowledge and expertise. With her guidance, they built a replica of the Lighthouse Service Station on the museum grounds, which also doubled as a meeting room and work area for the club but is also open to the public during museum hours.

In addition, she worked with a local resident to build a woodworking shop on the museum grounds to showcase the resident's father's woodworking tools from the early to mid-1900s. She also oversaw the construction of a working blacksmith shop, complete with forge.

Bernadette's hard work and dedication over the years has ensured that the Fred Light Museum, with the help of a long line of 40 years of summer students and museum volunteers and Board members, has become one of the best locally run museums in the province.

Award of Merit – Individual - Karen Lee - Nokomis District Museum



Karen is a lifetime member of the Nokomis community. She was raised on a farm near Nokomis. She continued living on a farm after her marriage; then retired from farming to live in town. She has been involved with the work at the Nokomis District Museum as a volunteer since the museum opened in 1980. Karen is a member of the museum

board and served as President for 27 years following her father's retirement as museum board president. Her leadership has enabled the continued operation of the museum.

Karen faithfully attends MAS and other meetings bringing information to the board and museum employees. Her knowledge of the operation and history of the museum is indispensable. Her help with grant applications, annual displays in the museum and the community, the float for the annual Ag Society Fair parade and the many activities associated with the daily operation of the museum is much appreciated.

Karen's knowledge of the artifacts contained in the museum is second to none. Through her many years as a board member and active volunteer, she knows where many artifacts have been obtained from and where they are located in the buildings. Her willingness to share her knowledge with others enables new volunteers and board members to learn about the importance of safeguarding the history and artifacts of the Nokomis District for generations to come.

Award of Merit – Individual - Valerie Finley, Luseland Museum



Valerie moved to Luseland in 1935, where she completed her schooling, married and raised a family of five. Valerie was very involved in community work during that time, including Girl Guides, various choirs and musical events, the Eastern Star and other community organizations. Always interested in learning, Valerie completed her education degree after her children were grown. She was a teacher at the elementary school in Luseland and taught there for many years.

In 1983 she was one of the core group who began the massive project of creating the Luseland Hub and Spokes – a history of the community and surrounding area. As one of the editors of the history book, Valerie played an integral part in the success of the project.

During the ensuing years, talks began about establishing a museum in Luseland. In 1992, the Luseland Museum was opened with Valerie Finley as President.

She continued in this position for many years, and today, at the age of 92, she is still an active and dedicated member of the Luseland Museum Board.

Upon opening the museum, Valerie immersed herself in learning the ropes of a museum and took the lead in collecting, cataloguing, and organizing the museum artifacts. She followed the museum protocol in managing the collections and kept careful, exacting information on each item donated. Over the years, she has catalogued thousands of items, each one carefully labelled.

One of her proudest accomplishments at the Luseland Museum was completing the nature display, including Guinevere, the whooping crane. As the whooping cranes were common in the early years, this is a beautiful and rare addition to a rural museum of which Valerie is very proud.

Valerie has become the keeper of local history and is the first contact for anyone returning to Luseland or researching family history. She always has time to meet and gladly shares any information she has available. She has documented detailed information on Main Street businesses and knows the history of many original buildings in the town. She completed a complete account of the local veterans.

We are thrilled to recognize Valerie's commitment to the Luseland Museum and the area's history with the Individual Award of Merit.

Young Professional Award - Kristine Flynn - Western Development Museum



Kristine was raised on the family farm near Morse, SK. Although she has lived and worked in the Saskatoon area for several years, she still has a solid connection to her home area. She stays connected with volunteers at the Morse Museum and Culture Centre, where she worked as summer staff in 2006 and 2007. She volunteered with them from 2005-2017, which included returning home to help with tours and volunteering from afar by helping with the museum's website and social media presence.

Professionally, Kristine earned a BA with Double Honours in History and Political Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 2008 and started working for the Western Development Museum (WDM) in the Education Department at their Curatorial Centre (now the Corporate Office) in Saskatoon the same year.

Through her work at the WDM, Kristine develops and supports school and public programs at all WDM locations and manages the volunteer program. Over the last 12 years at the WDM, she has taken on varied tasks from webmaster to heritage skills demonstrator. Some of her more notable contributions are the excellent work she has done in the WDM volunteer program, including creating a new volunteer policy and implementing improvements to the volunteer management system. She has also led developing guidelines for reviewing school programs to ensure they are curriculum-based and meet WDM mandates. Kristine has ensured the volunteers feel welcomed and valued at the WDM through her hard work and that school children and teachers have a great Saskatchewan learning experience.

Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies – Completion

MAS would like to recognize and congratulate Blair Barbeau, Agnes Murrin, and Bryann Seib on completing the MAS Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies.

FOR THE RECORD STAFF

Executive Director

Wendy Fitch

Director of Finance

Brenda Herman

Program Director

Dan Holbrow

Community Engagement Coordinator

Em Ironstar

Museums Advisor

Sarah Durham

Administrative Assistant

Terri Morris

AUDIT COMMITTEE

As of March 31, 2021

Katrina Howick (Chair)

Corinne Daelick

Merissa Scarlett

Staff

Brenda Herman

*Thank you to our volunteers who provided
many hours to help make our programs a
success!*

NETWORK REPRESENTATIVES

As of March 31, 2021

Quill Plains Museums Network

Shirley & Karsten Frydenlund, *Allan Museum*
Jennifer Fitzpatrick, *Humboldt and District Museum
and Gallery*

North East Museums Network

Karen Grenier, *Hudson Bay Museum*
Gary Provencher, *Waskesiu Heritage Museum*

Prairie Trails Museums Network

Bryson LaBoissiere, *Eastend Historical Museum*

Qu'Appelle Valley Museums Network

Alan Hustak, *Fort Qu'Appelle Museum*
Beverly van der Breggen, *Fort Qu'Appelle Museum*

Seneca Root Regional Museums Network

Megan Peters, *Kamsack Power House Museum*

South Central Museums Network

Lorne Kwasnicki, *St. Mary's Church Museum*
Ted Nagel, *Mossbank & District Museum*
Louis Stringer, *Our Lady of the Assumption
Cathedral*

River Valley Museums Network

Cal Sexsmith, *Saskatchewan Railway Museum*

West Central Museums Network

Delta Fay Cruickshank, *Biggar Museum & Art
Gallery*

Heritage Heartland Museums Network

Marge Cleave, *Briercrest Museum*
Jennifer McRorie, *Moose Jaw Museum & Art
Gallery*

Parkland Museums Network

Kathy Gamble & Ken Aldous, *Whitewood Historical
Museum*
Jamie McLeod, *Rocanville Museum*

Staff

Em Ironstar, *Museums Association of Saskatchewan*

Management's Responsibility

To the Members of Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc.:

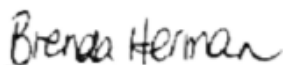
Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the accompanying summarized financial statements, including responsibility for significant accounting judgments and estimates in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. This responsibility includes selecting appropriate accounting principles and methods, and making decisions affecting the measurement of transactions in which objective judgment is required.

In discharging its responsibilities for the integrity and fairness of the summarized financial statements, management designs and maintains the necessary accounting systems and related internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are authorized, assets are safeguarded and financial records are properly maintained to provide reliable information for the preparation of summarized financial statements.

The Board of Directors and Audit Committee are composed entirely of Directors who are neither management nor employees of the Association. The Board is responsible for overseeing management in the performance of its financial reporting responsibilities, and for approving the financial information included in the annual report. The Audit Committee has the responsibility of meeting with management and external auditors to discuss the internal controls over the financial reporting process, auditing matters and financial reporting issues. The Committee is also responsible for recommending the appointment of the Association's external auditors.

MNP LLP, an independent firm of Chartered Professional Accountants, is appointed by the members to audit the summarized financial statements and report directly to them; their report follows. The external auditors have full and free access to, and meet periodically and separately with, both the Committee and management to discuss their audit findings.

May 11, 2021



Brenda Herman, Director of Finance

To the Members of Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc.:

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc. (the "Organization") for the year ended March 31, 2021.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated May 11, 2021.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Regina, Saskatchewan

May 11, 2021



Chartered Professional Accountants

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash	40,907	39,228
Accounts receivable	4,424	3,039
Short-term investments	735,060	744,152
Prepaid expenses and deposits	-	4,867
	780,391	791,286
Capital assets	14,816	501
Investments	90,346	76,106
Prepaid expenses and deposits	2,575	-
	888,128	867,893
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	43,152	43,232
Unearned revenue	294,500	331,163
	337,652	374,395
Net Assets		
Surplus	364,660	334,997
Investment in Capital Assets	14,816	501
General Reserve	171,000	158,000
	550,476	493,498
	888,128	867,893

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Summarized Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Revenue		
Grants from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund	583,167	582,000
Other grants/partnerships	58,465	-
Self-generated	45,397	40,974
Total revenues	687,029	622,974
Expenditures (Schedule 1)	630,051	576,167
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period	56,978	46,807

Detailed financial statements are available on request.

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc.

Summarized Schedule 1 – Expenditures by Division

For the year ended March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
Governance	11,630	26,560
Administrative Services	171,188	134,880
Advocacy		
Salaries/Benefits	31,075	29,065
Professional/Government relations	1,199	5,046
Total Advocacy	32,274	34,111
Communications		
Salaries/benefits	98,076	94,445
Overhead	11,454	10,318
Public Relations	4,067	4,511
Member Relations	3,206	8,876
Total Communications	116,803	118,150
Museum Development		
Salaries/Benefits	204,149	177,717
Overhead	28,681	26,470
Training Services	20,913	16,058
SaskCollections Database	16,351	27,599
Resource Materials	12,527	5,276
Standards	8,035	-
Member Funding	6,000	5,400
Network Knowledge Exchange	1,500	2,634
Ecomuseum Network		1,248
Advisory	-	64
Total Museum Development	298,156	262,466
Total expenditures by division	630,051	576,167

Acknowledgements

MAS gratefully acknowledges its major funding agencies for their financial support: The Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program.

Thank you to SaskCulture for their leadership and support especially valued throughout this challenging pandemic year.

The Association also thanks the governing bodies, organizations, agencies, companies, and individuals who have worked so hard to help the Museums Association of Saskatchewan assist museums in achieving their mandates and being the best they can be.

MAS especially acknowledges the contributions of the many volunteers and staff dedicated to serving museums throughout Saskatchewan.

We thank all organizations, businesses and individuals for contributing to the success of our activities in 2020-2021.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders:



