



Board & Staff QUARTERLY REPORT

Fall 2022
VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a lovely fall season we are having so far! After a very active summer for many museums and galleries across the province, I commend everyone on the excellent work they have done recovering from the impacts of the pandemic. We all look forward to brighter days ahead as our heritage institutions recover and get back to normal operations and programs within their communities.

MAS Board members and staff are excited to have the opportunity to meet with many of you through the Fall network meetings whether in person or virtually. I recently had the pleasure of participating in the Northeast Network meeting which took place in Waskesiu. It was wonderful to hear the many success stories of the return to in-person programming over the summer including celebrations of local heritage, school tours and children's activities, fundraising activities, and outdoor art installations. Museums are also making important connections with their local indigenous and ethnic communities, and we look forward to seeing these relationships grow. Some museums continue to face the challenge of recruiting new volunteers and board members from within their communities, which is something that MAS hopes to provide some assistance with in the near future.

The second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was held on September 30th, 2022, which recognizes and honours children of residential schools, both the survivors and the lost, and encourages healing within First Nations communities across Saskatchewan and Canada. Please send us a line and let us know how you marked this very important day at your organization.

The MAS Board continues to meet regularly and has been taking part in professional development activities related to strategic planning and risk management, which will help the MAS Board and Staff provide strong and impactful support to its members in the months and years to come. Also, we have been working closely with MAS's new Executive Director Emma Morris and helping her get settled into her new role at MAS. We warmly welcome Emma to MAS and are very excited to have her as the new ED, and we look forward to the wonderful things she will do at MAS. MAS's former ED Wendy Fitch has now officially retired, and we continue to be exceedingly grateful for her work at MAS over the years and for building MAS into the strong and vibrant organization that it is today. We wish Wendy all the best in her retirement.

MAS continues to provide educational opportunities to its members this Fall including courses on Exhibit Design, and Museums and Community, which have seen good enrollments so far. A Community Chat was held in September, and we hope to continue that program throughout the Fall and Winter, so please let the MAS Community Engagement Lead, Amber Hanover, know if you have any suggestions of topics you would like to see discussed in the Community Chat.

MAS would also like to congratulate the museums and galleries who applied for and received the Technology Microgrants over the summer. All 71 organizations who applied received a portion of the \$45,000 in funding that was provided by the Province of Saskatchewan, which will help them with their various digital needs. We look forward to hearing stories and feedback of how this grant has helped museums and galleries with their digital programming and work.

On behalf of the MAS Board, I wish you all a great fall and winter to come. We thank you for your continued support of MAS.

- Dr. Tracene Harvey, President,
MAS Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dr. Tracene Harvey
Museum of Antiquities,
Saskatoon

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First Nations University of
Canada, Regina

Andrew Whiting
Saskatoon

Joanna Munholland
Strasbourg

OFFICE REPORT

As you may know, there have been some major changes at MAS. I took on this role at the end of August, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve our museum and heritage community as the Executive Director at MAS. I am eternally grateful to Wendy for all of her support as I attempt to step into her huge shoes! We have a wonderful team here, and I am so proud of their consistent support for each other and commitment to their work. As we continue to embrace change through the ways we work and connect, we remember that each person brings a completely unique perspective and set of experiences. Through open communication, respect, and trust, we grow together as a team, supporting and championing museums in Saskatchewan.

- Emma Morris, Executive Director, MAS

Read on and see some of the things we were busy doing between July 1st and October 1st.



“
“Alone we can
do so little,
together we can
do so much.”
”
- Helen Keller

STAFF

Emily Morris
Executive Director

Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

Sarah Durham
Museums Advisor

Amber Hanover
Community Engagement Lead

Terri Morris
Administrative Assistant



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION (CMA)

Emma Morris (Executive Director) has been involved in several activities at the national level during this reporting period.

The ED joined a sub-committee that will look at forming a group to do more projects as a consortium that will support recruitment of young museum professionals and diversity in the sector, as well as limit replication of services across the Provincial and Territorial Museum Associations (PTMA's) in order to better share resources and leverage funding and resources.

As a PTMA, the ED was invited by the Department of Canadian Heritage to participate in an initial information session on the renewal of the Canadian Museum Policy. This is an opportunity for the PTMA's to ask any questions prior to the renewal about the process and anticipated outcomes. Additionally, the ED has volunteered to sit on the CMA's planning committee for their virtual conference in February 2023.

Finally, the CMA has put together a report entitled "Moved to Action," which calls for support for Indigenous-led organizations, initiatives, and self-determination at every level of museum operations and within all museum positions across the country and is aimed at advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada "Call to Action #67" that asks the federal government to provide funding to the CMA to review, in partnership with Indigenous peoples, Canadian museum policies and practices and make recommendations for the sector to become more compliant

with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). MAS has made this available on our website.

TECHNOLOGY MICROGRANTS

MAS received \$45,000.00 from the Province of Saskatchewan to provide Technology MicroGrants to help member organizations purchase much-needed technology and equipment, helping to ease the transitions required by the pandemic. The program was successful, with all 71 organizations who applied being awarded a portion of their full request.

MAS created and circulated a follow-up form that can be filled out and submitted online, which is due no later than October 31, 2022. The ministry has been reporting the impacts of the micro-grants, ensuring that it is well-known and documented how helpful initiatives like this are for MAS members.

PARTNERSHIPS

MAS is a contributing partner in this Alberta Museums Association led Reconsidering Museums Consortium project, whose purpose is to determine the role of museums in Canada in the 21st Century. The next phase of the project involves the development of tools museums can use to better share their value to community, such as the development of an Advocacy Policy and Action Guide as part of the Reconsidering Museums toolkit. Wendy (previous ED) presented about MAS's work with the consortium at the National Trust Conference in Toronto on October 20th. For more information visit the Alberta Museums Association website page: <https://www.museums.ab.ca/what-we-do/reconsidering-museums.aspx> where you can learn more about this project.

NETWORKS

The Fall Network meetings are continuing to be held in person and virtually throughout October. MAS staff and Board were able to attend all of the meetings and it was wonderful to catch up with members. We are looking forward to meeting in person again this Spring.

If you want to be a part of a Network or want to know more about the program, contact the MAS office at mas@saskmuseums.org or Amber Hanover at community@saskmuseums.org

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

MAS was able to deliver a number of special interest courses, as well as the CP courses and they were delivered both in person and virtually. We design our training and resources to support museum staff and volunteers of all kinds, from board members to student workers and emerging to established professionals.

The courses delivered/scheduled and the number of registered participants are as follows:

Exhibit Design and Planning, Certificate Program, in person (8 participants): September 23-24

Museums and the Community, Certificate Program, online (15 participants): September 26 - November 7

Collections Management, in person (13 participants): Friday, October 7

CCI: Digital Preservation, online (23 participants): Tuesdays, October 11, 18, and 25

Oral History: 2 part session, online (20 registered): October 21 and November 4

Ethnocultural Community Engagement and Equity: Building Meaningful Relationships, online (5 registered): Wednesday, November 16

ADVISORY

Advisory Services are available all year to members. Requests frequently come in via e-mail and phone and are similarly followed-up with phone calls, e-mails, zoom meetings, or site visits where appropriate.

In this last quarter, July to September, there were a total of 78 inquiries. All submissions to the Advisory are carefully tracked to help MAS to continue to provide assistance that complies with best practices and standards established within the heritage field, and to help MAS further develop necessary guidelines. Broadly speaking, inquiries for this quarter have included questions on general museum management, governance structures, financial management, human resource management, general collections management, collections storage, conservation, upcoming fall programming from MAS, and some requests for research and information.

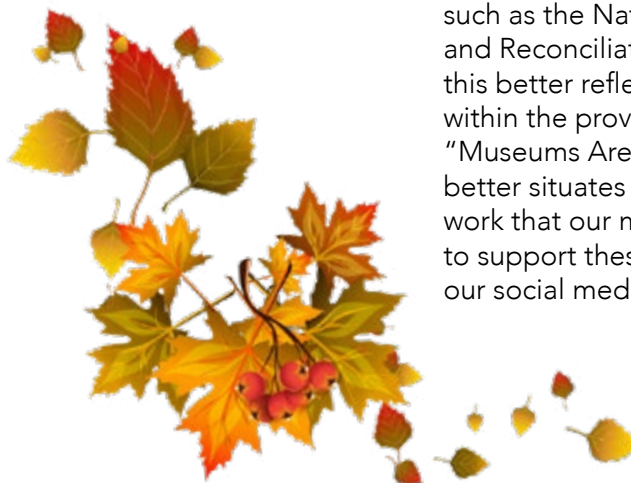
The SaskCollections initiative also falls under the oversight of the Museums Advisor. This summer MAS has a summer student, Bryan Poirier, through Young Canada Works, who worked exclusively on the SaskCollections initiative, surveying the kinds of collections that are documented across participating sites and tracking notable areas for improvement and further resource development. Bryan's work revealed much room for improvement regarding data standards for SaskCollections,

which will help redefine the onboarding process and training. Several tutorial videos on using SaskCollections were created and are available on MAS's YouTube channel. MAS is currently working on developing the SaskCollections Research Portal, a publicly accessible umbrella SaskCollections webpage to which all participating SaskCollections users may contribute their collections information. Going forward, this Research Portal will replace the standalone front-end webpages that SaskCollections participants used to create public access. This project is expected to be completed next Spring/Summer.

Standards for Saskatchewan Museums has been under revision for the past couple of years with the final Peer Review session wrapped up in August. The 2022 edition of Standards will be released later this Fall with a limited number of printed copies and will be made available online from the MAS Online Resources section of our website (<https://saskmuseums.org/members/online-resources>).

RESOURCE LIBRARY

We continue to upgrade and expand the equipment kits – both environmental monitoring and oral history are available for members to borrow. Details on the new kits and the loan procedures will be coming soon.



COLLECTIVE VOICE

COMMUNITY CHATS

We have heard from our membership that these are excellent opportunities to engage and learn, so have continued to prioritize finding new speakers and workshops. Some recent chats were Autism-Friendly Museums & Hiring Practices, CNIB - Visual Impairment Considerations for Accessibility in Museums, and a session on Respectful Workplaces and Conflict Resolution. We make the recorded sessions available on our [YouTube channel](#).

ADVOCACY

MAS's major advocacy has been around Reconciliation, the role of museums, and the ongoing commitment that it entails. We have focused on providing resources and framework for museums to commit to this work and celebrating the successes.

When discussing MAS's collective voice, we have talked at length about posting and sharing with intention rather than reactionary. With this in mind, MAS has developed a space on the website for organizational statements on specific issues, days, and events, such as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We feel that this better reflects our position within the province, our stance that "Museums Are Not Neutral," and better situates us to highlight the work that our membership is doing to support these initiatives through our social media channels.

EVENTS

JULY

- Community Chat with Saskatchewan Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Redefining the Non-Profit Sector Youth Engagement Panel - Amber
- 2022 CMA Awards | Prix de l'AMC - Wendy
- What Do Heritage Places Mean to Canadians? (A Special Preview of Environics Poll Results for National Trust Donors - Wendy
- Presentation of MAP's Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations - Wendy
- Cultural Resilience :Using Innovation to Stabilize in Times of Crisis: Creative Cities Network of Canada, Cultural Human Resources Council - Amber
- Board Orientation Meeting - All Staff

AUGUST

- Community Chat with CNIB
- Wendy retired and Emma started as new ED on August 29
- Participated in BCMA Strat Planning session with CMA rep. – Emma
- Community Chat with Autism Resources Centre
- Engagement and Collaboration for Organizations: CARFAC Protocols.art - Amber, Sarah

SEPTEMBER

- Sales Tax Webinar for Sports, Culture, and Rec Groups - Staff
- CCDI Webinar: Evolution of DEI language - Amber, Sarah
- Exhibit Design Course in person, Swift Current – Amber, Sarah
- MCoS meeting – Emma
- PTMA's meeting with CMA – Emma
- Sask History and Folklore Association meeting – Emma
- Museums and Community Course, online
- Met with Dennis from Sask Culture – Emma
- Met with Enterprise Risk Management facilitator – Emma
- Met with Strategic Planning facilitator – Emma
- Community Chat with Erin Folk on Conflict Resolution
- Participated in Sask Arts consultation for their Strategic Plan – Emma

OPERATIONS

The MAS staff continue to work in a hybrid model, both remotely and in the office. This model is working well for all of us, and we are in the process of moving to cell phones, rather than desk phones to be more responsive to the needs of our members.

We are working through the challenges of a new ED and a vacant Learning Program Lead position as well as several unfortunate health issues. However, we are in the process of hiring a new Learning Program Lead, and are very much looking forward to getting that person in place and to a much healthier winter season all around!

MAS submitted the required Follow-up report for the 2021-2022 Annual Global Fund operational grant in June.

As you are no doubt aware, MAS receives its operational funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust for Sport, Culture, and Recreation, for which we are very grateful. We are particularly thankful this year because of the multi-year funding formula in place, which has meant MAS received stable funding to continue providing programs and services to museums throughout the province. As the only province in the country with an independent Trust distributing Lottery funding, I can assure you we are the envy of the rest of the country for both the stability and amount of funding the museum sector, including MAS, receives annually through the Lotteries Trust.

- Emma Morris, Executive Director, MAS

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

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

Youtube Watch Time

17.4 hours

Video Views

136



Website Visits

17,477

Sessions

July 15 - Oct. 15



Facebook Followers

1,589

up from 1,471



Instagram Followers

939

up from 911



Twitter Followers

1,846

up from 1,843



CONTACT US!

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We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



MAS respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on Treaty 4 territory, and our work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 10 currently known as the Province of Saskatchewan, comprised of the territories of the Nêhiyawak, Anihšīnāpēk, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Michif/Métis, and Nakota nations.