

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I hope everyone is having a great summer so far! I am delighted to have recently been elected as

the President of the MAS Board of Directors at the AGM in June, and I very much look forward to serving in this role. I want to take this opportunity to welcome Joanna Munholland (Regina) to the Board of Directors, but also to extend sincere gratitude to Corinne Daelick (WDM Corporate Office, Saskatoon), who has completed her time on the Board and her term as Past President. Thanks so much to Corinne for her service and we wish her all the best. Returning to the MAS Board of Directors are Helanna Gessner as Vice-President (Diefenbaker Canada Center, Saskatoon), Merissa Scarlett as Past President (Regina), Vincent Houghtaling (Museum Jaw Museum and Art Gallery, Moose Jaw), Valerie Mulholland Regina), Dr. Barbara McNeil (Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, Regina), Delta Fay Cruickshank (Biggar Museum & Gallery, Biggar), Dr. Angelina Weenie (First Nations University, Regina) and Andrew Whiting (Saskatoon).

On June 10-12, 2022, MAS held its first in-person conference and AGM since the pandemic. The conference/AGM took place in Estevan. The conference began with the Member Forum where Board members facilitated table discussions on two questions: What lessons and/or skills did you learn during the pandemic; and What additional supports does your museum need to move forward responding to the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action? The Board will use the feedback as part of our planning for the coming year. The format of the conference allowed presenters the opportunity to choose how they participated (there were virtual presenters from BC and Saskatoon, as well as one in-person from Alberta). Outgoing MAS president Merissa Scarlett sent greetings to conference attendees via Zoom as she could not attend in-person. Board members not able to make the trip to Estevan were able to attend the AGM via Zoom. While there were modest in-person numbers at the conference, it was great to have people participating in-person again and to see people virtually as well.

There were a number of wonderful activities and presentations at this year's conference. Throughout the conference, almost every session touched on the ideas

of co-curating, and co-leading with communities and groups. Some highlights included presentations by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan and the Alberta Museums Association. The Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan highlighted the need for museums to address diversity in their work and actively cultivate respectful partnerships with ethnocultural communities that are not represented in their spaces. A standout session was the Alberta Museums Association's 'Reconsidering Museums'. This data driven session highlighted that museums still have the public trust, but need to find ways to represent more communities in their space. Attendees are eager to utilize their toolkits once they become available this fall.

The opening reception at the Estevan Museum and Art Gallery invited participants to experience an exhibit opening for two new exhibits from artists Tracy Peters and Ruth Langwieser.

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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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## President

**Dr. Tracene Harvey**  
Museum of Antiquities,  
Saskatoon

## Vice President

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Diefenbaker Canada  
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## Past President

**Merissa Scarlett**  
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**Delta Fay Cruickshank**  
Biggar Museum & Gallery,  
Biggar

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

**Dr. Barbara McNeil**  
Saskatchewan African  
Heritage Museum  
Regina

**Valerie Mulholland**  
Regina

**Dr. Angelina Weenie**  
First Nations University of  
Canada, Regina

**Andrew Whiting**  
Saskatoon

**Joanna Munholland**  
Strasbourg

Thanks so much to Director/Curator Amber Anderson and staff at the EMAG for hosting this event.

The conference banquet gave the MAS community the opportunity to wish outgoing/interim MAS Executive Director Wendy Fitch all the best as she is about to embark on retirement, and to thank her for her many years of service and for the wealth of knowledge and expertise she has provided to the MAS community over the years. A slide show of highlights from Wendy's career with MAS was shown and enjoyed by all. Thanks to MAS Board member Helanna Gessner and MAS Finance Director Brenda Herman for putting the presentation together. The conference also gave the MAS staff, board and members the opportunity to meet and welcome incoming MAS Executive Director Emma Morris. While Wendy will be greatly missed, we all look forward to working with Emma over the coming years.

The MAS Board continues to work diligently on reviewing MAS board policy, by-laws, procedures. Several revisions/amendments will be worked on in the coming months. The Board will also be holding its annual Orientation Meeting in Regina in July, which provides an intro for new board members and a review for returning board members regarding MAS operations and policies.

The Board is looking forward to the upcoming year. On behalf of the Board, thank you for your ongoing support for MAS and we look forward to seeing you at the various network meetings in the Fall. Have a great summer!

Dr. Tracene Harvey  
President - MAS Board of Directors

# OFFICE REPORT

As we all work to figure out what the 'new normal' will look like it's important to keep in mind that each of us has a different perspective based on our own life experience and that it's not going to be exactly like it was before. It's going to take a while to settle into new routines so with patience we will preserve.

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

*"The only way to make sense out of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance."*

- Alan Watts

# STAFF

**Wendy Fitch**  
Executive Director

**Brenda Herman**  
Director of Finance

**Dan Holbrow**  
Program Director

**Sarah Durham**  
Museums Advisor

**Amber Hanover**  
Community Engagement Lead

**Terri Morris**  
Administrative Assistant

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

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## SaskCulture

Wendy Fitch, Executive Director (ED), attended the Eligible Organization meetings this quarter (virtually), participants learned of the decision to extend the current Annual Grant Fund (AGF) the operational grant MAS receives from Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust to a fourth year because of the lottery license agreement's renewal in 2023.

In other SaskCulture news, the SaskCulture held its Annual General Meeting in June, the new President of the SaskCulture Board of Directors is Jan Seibel. Also, Past President Joanne McDonald was presented with an Honorary Life Membership to recognize her many years of leadership of the organization.

## CMA & PTMAs

The ED has continued to be involved in several activities at the national level during this reporting period.

In April CMA invited the Provincial/Territorial Museums Assoc. (PTMAs) to attend a virtual meeting to discuss how the Canadian museum sector can assist our colleagues in Ukraine. It was decided that those that are able will work through international agencies such as the International Centre for the Study of Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) an international cultural organization which is already providing assistance in Ukraine.

CMA held a virtual conference April 26 & 27. The presentations were exemplary this year beginning with

the keynote by LaTanya Autry who exposed the myth that museums are neutral. Sharon Myangwesco gave two presentations. The first was entitled Building Equity from the Inside with a key message being that providing more training is Not the answer taking action to address the actual structural inequities is. Her second session explored designing for justice and inclusion within the institution. Another highlight was the session presented by Lucy Bell from Haida G'wai (formerly with the Royal BC Museum) and Puawai Cairns of Ta Papa Tongarewa in New Zealand who discussed whether it was possible to decolonize the museum – a fundamentally colonial institution. Their conclusion was that it was possible but would take a very long time and a great deal of work. Other sessions dealt with intangible cultural heritage in museums, non-traditional museums, accessibility and the Fellows lecture by Senator Patricia Bovey. the wrap-up plenary was given by Dr. Syrus Marcus Ware – artist, curator, educator and one of the creators of Black Lives Matter Canada. They spoke about the need for all people to be considered inherently valuable and represented. While much of what they said was hard to hear it was also a very hopeful presentation to end the conference on. All in all, possibly the best CMA conference – in terms of session content, the ED had ever attended. In May CMA held their AGM. It was sobering to hear the honesty with which both the Board and staff described the very dire situation CMA finds itself in both financially and organizationally. There does seem to be a real desire and effort to make the improvements necessary to continue to serve Canada's museum sector.

Also in May, the ED attended, virtually, the National Culture Summit which had an in-person component hosted in Ottawa

by the Department of Canadian Heritage. There was much dismay expressed by members of the heritage sector present when it was discovered that the topics discussed and the panelists chosen all came from the performing arts sector. That said the Minister – Pablo Rodriguez attended the entire summit and joined the three provincial museum assoc. representatives for lunch where they were able to bring our concerns and issues to his attention. A final report on the summit is expected in early fall.

## PARTNERSHIPS

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### Museums for Me Consortium

MAS is a contributing partner in this AMA led project whose purpose is to determine the role of museums in Canada in the 21st Century. From the various surveys and consultations undertaken we have a much better understanding of how museums are viewed by Canadians. The data indicates that the percentage of Canadians visiting museums has not changed significantly over the past 50 years. We also learned that museums may not reflect the heritage of many of the museum-goers in 2021. However, the vast majority feel that museums are good for children and are seen as a source of trusted information. The role of museums, as seen by those consulted, is preservation with a strong focus on the preservation of Indigenous history. The educational role, while still important, is declining in significance while the tourism role has declined substantially over the 50 year timeframe. In the conclusion to the Trust & Values: The Role of Museums in Canada in the Twenty-First Century (2021) report – "Canadians today still like going

to museums, and they trust them. They see museums, like public libraries as community institutions, but they are uncertain if museums can rise to the challenges the future holds.”

The next phase of the project involves the development of tools museums can use to better share their value to community. This has included the use of pilot sites to test various aspects of the new tools. 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

## Heritage Audience Development Project

This is a project led by the National Trust for Canada, is a multi-year project looking at better understanding the connection between Canadians and Heritage Places (historic sites, landscapes, traditional landscapes). The findings of their national surveys are just being made public and will give insights into who is the current 'audience' for heritage places and who is the potential 'audience' and most importantly where there may be gaps.

These two projects are running parallel and will both provide valuable resources to the Saskatchewan museum sector.

## Networks

Most of the spring Network meetings were held in person this year in April and May. MAS staff were able to attend at all but one of the meetings and enjoyed the opportunity to get back on the road and visit with members.

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](mailto:mas@saskmuseums.org) or Amber Hanover at [community@saskmuseums.org](mailto:community@saskmuseums.org)

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### Courses and Workshops

Three Certificate Program Courses was successfully held during this quarter. The Research course was held over 2 days via ZOOM while Museums 101 was held virtually using our Moodle platform. Care of Collections was held in-person – the first one since 2019.

The fall Education calendar will be released in the next few weeks outlining the upcoming Certificate Program and Special Topic workshops on offer this fall. Watch your inbox for E-Phemera for details.

## Advisory

The Museums Advisor has responded to advisory requests via email and has offered to meet with members via Zoom as required.

She continues to work with the new members of SaskCollections both in migrating their data to the new database and training them in how to integrate it into their collections management activities. She is also in the final stages of reviewing and revising Standards for Saskatchewan Museums. This has involved working with an Indigenous Review Panel and a Peer Review Panel. Watch for a new edition of Standards for Saskatchewan Museums to be published in the fall.

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 would 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: [programs@saskmuseums.org](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org).

## Resource Library

Members may have noticed a new library database on the MAS website, which is much easier to navigate. We have also upgraded and expanded the equipment kits – both environmental monitoring and oral history, available for members to borrow. Details on the new kits and the loan procedures will be coming very soon.

### CONTACT US!

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# COLLECTIVE VOICE

## Community Chat

During this quarter, we celebrated the 1-year anniversary of the Community Chats. Initially launched as a vehicle for providing members with a way to stay connected during the pandemic's early days, the Chats have evolved into an essential virtual program. They have become the mechanism for providing brief informative sessions on a wide range of topics that are accessible to the widest possible audience because they are virtual and because the recordings of the sessions are posted on the [MAS YouTube channel](#).

## Awards

Award of Merit - Institution  
(Budget/project under \$50,000.00)  
Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame  
*Never Give Up*, virtual program

Award of Merit - Institution  
(Budget/project over \$50,000.00)  
Moose Jaw Museum & Art Gallery  
*A Prairie Vernacular: Folk & Contemporary Art Narratives of Life on the Canadian Prairies*

Award of Merit - Individual  
Stephanie Kaduck, Education & Public Programs Officers, Swift Current Museum

## Advocacy

The ED attended a virtual meeting hosted by Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program staff to provide a preliminary update on the new Digital Access to Heritage grant. Based on the information received there is such a strong interest in this program that the funds allocated for 3 years will probably be spoken

for after the 2nd intake (2022). MAS was successful in securing funding through this program which will be used to develop a Research Portal for SaskCollections.

The other advocacy initiatives during this reporting period include the National Culture Summit in May which was discussed earlier in this report and the CMA's Standing with Ukraine initiative inaugural meeting. The Standing With Ukraine initiative is intended as way the Canadian museum sector can assist museum colleagues in Ukraine both now and in the post-war period. Presentations were made by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the work they are

doing at the international level to determine what needs to happen and how that can best be achieved to safeguard the cultural heritage of Ukraine. One example is the work being done to digitize and store remotely Ukrainian archival records. Watch for further updates in the coming months.

Finally, the ED participated in discussions with the Saskatchewan cultural community regarding the changes to the PST which comes into effect in October.

## Events

Ten Networks met during this quarter with staff attending.

### MAY

- MAS Board meeting - Wendy, Brenda
- PTMAs meeting (National Culture Summit debrief) - Wendy
- National Trust (Heritage Reset surveys session) - Wendy
- Audit Committee - Brenda, Wendy
- Reconsidering Museums Consortium monthly meeting - Wendy
- Care of Collections CP course (in-person) - Dan
- CMA AGM - Wendy, President
- ECO meeting - Wendy
- SAA advocacy session – Pajama Party Politics (Access) - Amber

### JUNE

- Advisory site visit - Sarah
- MAS Conference, Member Forum & AGM - Wendy, Amber, Brenda, Dan, Sarah
- Post-AGM Board meeting - Wendy
- SaskCulture Cybersecurity Presentation - Sarah
- Reconsidering Museums Consortium monthly meeting - Wendy
- Provincial Heritage Fair awards presentations - Wendy
- SaskCulture AGM - Wendy
- Parkland Valley S,C&H District presentation on volunteerism - Amber
- Melfort Museum Indigenous Heritage & Archaeology Building official opening - Wendy
- Black and Rural Living Heritage Performance - Wendy, Sarah
- CMA Awards Presentations (virtual) - Wendy

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

## OPERATIONS

The MAS staff are beginning to work both remotely and in the office. It is anticipated at this hybrid work model will become the norm.

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.

## JULY

- Redefining the Non-Profit Sector Youth Engagement Presentation - Amber
- PTMAs meeting - Wendy
- PCH Presentation of Recovery Fund for Heritage Orgs - Wendy
- Resilience Training for Arts & Culture Orgs - Amber
- Board Orientation & Meeting - Wendy, Amber, Sarah, Terri

A talented, creative team serves MAS, and I feel privileged to work with them every day. Because of their dedication and hard work, MAS has been able to continue to serve you throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately we have lost one our team when, at the end of June, Dan Holbrow left us for new adventures in Aberdeen Scotland where his partner has landed her dream job. We all wish Dan the best and will miss him.

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

- Wendy Fitch, 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

**16.4** hours

### Video Views

**125**



### Website Visits

**16,000**

Sessions

May. 15 - July. 15



### Facebook Followers

**1,471**

up from 1,386



### Instagram Followers

**911**

up from 841



### Twitter Followers

**1,843**

up from 1,819



We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



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