



# Board & Staff QUARTERLY REPORT

Summer 2023  
VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The canola is blooming, the lakes and parks are filled with vacationers, and seasonal museums across Saskatchewan are now open regularly which means—it's summer!

It is my pleasure to greet you all as the President for the MAS Board of Directors. I am humbled to have been elected by the Board of Directors to this position and am committed to fulfilling this role with my passion for our local, regional, and provincial museums.

The Board of Directors met virtually in February and in person in May. During this time, the Board continued to work diligently on reviewing MAS Board policy, by-laws, and procedures. The Ownership Linkage Committee developed the member forum for this year's mini-conference by utilizing themes and items of interest that were discussed at the Fall Network Meetings and through Board discussions on trending topics in the museum sector. The Nominations Committee put forward incredible efforts to update our list of potential candidates for the MAS Board prior to the 2023 AGM, as well as explore recruitment priorities for the future.

Returning to the Board of Directors this year are Delta Fay Cruickshank (Biggar Museum and Gallery, Biggar), Vincent Houghtaling (Moose Jaw Museum and Art Gallery, Moose Jaw), Dr. Barbara McNeil (Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum, Regina), Joanna Munholland (Strasbourg) and Dr. Angelina Weenie (First Nations University of Canada, Regina). Joanna was elected as Vice-President alongside myself as President at the AGM in June where we also acknowledged departing Directors Tracene Harvey (Museum of Antiquities, Saskatoon), Valerie Mulholland (Regina), Merissa Scarlett (Estevan), and Andrew Whiting (Saskatoon). I want to share my sincere gratitude to the outgoing Directors

and thank them for all the years and knowledge they shared with MAS.

With so many Directors completing their terms, the remaining Board members are excited to welcome Nathaniel Day (Regina), Ally Forand (WDM Saskatoon), Courtney Tuck-Goetz (WDM Saskatoon), and Caitlin Woloschuck (Saskatoon). We look forward to working with them on furthering MAS's goals.

This year's mini-conference and AGM was held at Wanuskewin Heritage Park on June 10, 2023 and the MAS Board was excited to see everyone who attended. The day was filled with incredible presentations, the member forum, MAS Awards, and the AGM with the theme of "No Stuff Without Stories" to guide us. The member forum focused on volunteer recruitment, community engagement, and deaccessioning, using discussion circles and online polls to gather members' ideas and questions that can be utilized to improve the Board's advocacy. The presentations began with Stephanie Danyluk who showcased how the Canadian Museums Association's (CMA) Moved to Action toolkits can be utilized by Saskatchewan museums. The afternoon saw Dr. Karin Steuber highlight the development of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society's (SAS) new book "Points of View: A Guide on Saskatchewan Projectile Points with Indigenous Perspectives", with the conference ending with a flint knapping demonstration with Gabriel Lamarche that had attendees enraptured. I would like to thank each of the presenters for being with us and providing the membership with this valuable experience and recognize the hard work of the MAS Staff in putting together an amazing event.

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

Helanna Gessner  
MAS President

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## President

**Helanna Gessner**  
Diefenbaker Canada Centre,  
Wakaw

## Vice President

**Joanna Munholland**  
Strasbourg

## Directors:

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

## Ally Forand

Western Development  
Museum, Saskatoon

## Vincent Houghtaling

Moose Jaw Museum  
& Art Gallery, Moose Jaw

## Nathaniel Day

Regina

## Caitlin Woloschuk

Saskatoon

## Courtney Tuck-Goetz

Western Development  
Museum, Saskatoon

## Dr. Barbara McNeil

Saskatchewan African  
Canadian Heritage Museum,  
Regina

## Dr. Angelina Weenie

First Nations University  
of Canada, Regina

## OFFICE REPORT

We are feeling energized and ready to gear up for the busy summer months at the MAS office. We were thrilled to get some face-to-face meetings with the students starting up at Saskatchewan museums during our two Freshie Weeks, where we heard from them about how we can support them, what they are interested in, and their hopes for the future of museums in our province. We were also happy to see so many people at the Mini Conference at the beautiful site of Wanuskewin on June 10th. We were fortunate to hear from such engaging speakers, and were able to highlight the achievements of a few deserving recipients with awards and recognition. We want to thank outgoing Board Members, Merissa Scarlett, Valerie Mulholland, Andrew Whiting, and Dr. Tracene Harvey for your innumerable contributions to our organization through your commitment to the Board. We are also happy to welcome four new Board members: Nathaniel Day, Caitlin Woloschuk, Ally Forand, and Courtney Tuck-Goetz.

With regard to our major priorities, we are committed to making museums in Saskatchewan safe and accessible spaces that are woven right into the fabric of their communities, where people feel welcome and where their stories are valued. Repatriation efforts are a significant aspect of this work, and we understand the challenges presented by beginning to undertake this process. We have engaged in several professional development courses and early discussions, and have initiated the creation of support resources and processes for our members that we look forward to making available over the coming year.

With regard to resources and tools, we have officially launched our new website, which we believe will better serve both our members and the public, be much more navigable, and allow us to better highlight the upcoming events and celebrate the achievements of museums in Saskatchewan. Finally, we have begun the work of redeveloping our Certificate Program in Community Museums courses to reflect current best practices, the most recent Standards for Saskatchewan Museums (2022), and inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA).

We remain committed to our new style guide to improve brand recognition across all platforms, and we strive to model our Safer Spaces Guidelines every day. As before, 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, and that together we build a valuable perspective to better serve Saskatchewan's museums.

Read on and see some of the things we were busy doing between April 1st and June 30th.

## STAFF

### Emma Morris

Executive Director

### Brenda Herman

Director of Finance

### Sarah Durham

Museums Advisor

### Amber Hanover

Community  
Engagement Lead

### Tim Panas

Learning Program  
Lead

### Terri Morris

Administrative Assistant

# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

## PARTNERSHIPS

### CMA Moved to Action

The Canadian Museums Association (CMA) Moved to Action Report, which supports the UNDRIP and TRC Call to Action #67, 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. As part of this report, the CMA has created and identified helpful resources to support museums in their decolonizing efforts. This includes Printable Downloads, Quick Reference Guides, and Self-facilitated Sessions. The Moved to Action Resources can be found here: <https://www.museums.ca/site/movedtoaction/resources>

The Small Museums Toolkit is designed to provide guidance to support Indigenous self-determination where only one or a few are taking on this work. It is divided into four sections: repatriation, engagement, governance, and operations, that provide step-by-step support. As an interactive workbook, there is also space for notes to reflect and record your progress, as well as links to relevant resources, recommended case studies, and crowd-sourced solutions to some common hurdles. Click here to download this resource: <https://museums.in1touch.org/uploaded/web/cma/cmanews/Small-Museums-Toolkit-final-june-23-EN.pdf>.

### Reconsidering Museums

Led by the Alberta Museums Association (AMA), and in partnership with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), MAS, and a consortium of provincial and territorial museums associations, Reconsidering Museums sets out to better understand what museums mean to Canadians and to support our sector with the tools and language necessary to advocate for the value of museums. The resources developed through this project provides adaptable values-based messaging that bridges the gap between museums and their publics, substantiates the value of museums with data-driven insights, and helps shape public dialogue around the vital role of museums in our society. Find the website and toolkit at <http://reconsideringmuseums.ca/>.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE

The Department of Canadian Heritage released the the 2021 report on the Government of Canada Survey of Heritage Institutions (GCSHI), which collected financial and operating information for the 2020 data year on not-for-profit heritage institutions, including museums, art galleries, archives, historic sites, zoos and botanical gardens. The 2021 survey recorded the initial effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated public health measures which forced the temporary closure of heritage organizations across the country.

The Department would like to thank all heritage institutions who responded to the 2021 survey. Your input contributed to making the survey a success.

Discover some of the latest results from the 2021 GCSHI report here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/corporate/publications/general-publications/about-survey-heritage-institutions.html>

## TECHNOLOGY MICRO GRANTS

MAS was pleased to receive \$45,000.00 from the Province of Saskatchewan, Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport again this year. This fund is intended to support museums in Saskatchewan to purchase technology and equipment to better serve their staff, volunteers, and communities. The grant closed on June 30th, and we received 59 applications. Of those applications, we were able to provide full funding to 21 applicants, and partial funding to another 34 applicants through a thorough adjudication process.

We want to thank everyone who took the time to submit an application. We also want to thank the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport for investing in Saskatchewan museums by providing this funding again this year.

## NETWORKS

The Spring Network meetings were held in a combination of in person and virtually throughout April and May. In conjunction with the MAS AGM and Mini-Conference, a Networker meeting was held in Saskatoon on June 9th, where we had the opportunity to reflect on the previous year, as well as converse on Network projects, concerns, and successes.

For any questions regarding networks, please 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

MAS offered two of our certificate courses in both virtual and in-person formats this past spring. On April 22, an online session of Organization and Management was facilitated by Joan Kanigan to 15 registrants, while the in-person Exhibit Design course facilitated by John Snell drew 10 registrants. This latter course was offered in partnership with the Gabriel Dumont Institute for both their staff members and the public, and took place at their classroom facilities in Saskatoon.

Scheduling and development has taken place for the course offerings in fall and winter of 2023-24, including Special Topics Courses in partnership with the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists and the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS). Details, including a schedule of courses when available, can be found in the Education portion of our website <https://www.saskmuseums.org/education/>.

With MAS's intent to review all the Certificate Program Courses, we have contracted the update of the Organization and Management course. Over the course of this fiscal year we anticipate revising half of the Certificate in Museum Studies Certificate courses, with the remaining offerings being examined during the 2024-25 year.

Please contact Tim Panas, Learning Program Lead [programs@saskmuseums.org](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org) with any questions you may have.

## RESOURCE LIBRARY

Over the spring and early summer months, MAS continued to increase both the capacity of our resource base and the ability of members to easily access it. We are working towards completing a formal inventory of our equipment and updating our loan paperwork to make it more comprehensive and efficient for both our users and ourselves. We are also transitioning our library cataloguing system away from the ad hoc subject matter classification it was previously to one that is based upon the Library of Congress system. This change will make it easier for both staff to access resources for patrons and for users to easily find materials on related subjects.

MAS has added several new volumes to our library within subject areas our members have requested

guidance in, including reconciliation and Indigenous engagement.

For more information about the library, please contact Tim Panas at [programs@saskmuseums.org](mailto:programs@saskmuseums.org) or by phone at 306-780-9241.

If you wish to stop in to the office to have a look at our library, we invite you to do so. Please contact Emma at [ex\\_director@saskmuseums.org](mailto:ex_director@saskmuseums.org) or by phone at 306-780-9280 ahead of your visit as we continue with a hybrid work model.

“ The benefits of museums go far beyond simply providing knowledge. While learning is key from a purely practical and academic standpoint, there is a huge psychological element that we must never forget. ”

Rebecca Carlsson,  
MuseumNext

## ADVISORY

Advisory Services are available all year to MAS Members. Requests may come in via e-mail and phone, and may be answered by phone call, e-mail, Zoom meetings, or site visits where appropriate.

From April to June there were a total of 95 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 financial management, strategic planning, risk management, general collections management (including accessioning and de-accessioning), conservation and collections storage, and some requests for research and information. Inquiries to the Advisor mostly come from MAS Members, 78% this quarter were from Members (with 93% of those inquiries coming from Member Institutions submitting multiple inquiries) and approximately 21% of inquiries came from Non-Members.

The SaskCollections initiative also falls under the purview of the Museums Advisor. The SaskCollections



Research Portal <https://saskcollections.org/> was launched at the beginning of this quarter. The Research Portal is a publicly accessible umbrella SaskCollections webpage to which all participating SaskCollections users may contribute their collections information. Two new Members have joined the SaskCollections initiative this Spring, for a current tally of 37 participating Member Institutions throughout the province.

MAS Tip Sheets, Bulletins, Self-Assessment Workbooks, and the latest edition of Standards for Saskatchewan Museums are available as PDFs for free to download on our website from the Resources section <https://www.saskmuseums.org/resources/online-resources/>.

The Museums Advisor can be contacted at [advisor@saskmuseums.org](mailto:advisor@saskmuseums.org), 306-780-9266.

## COLLECTIVE VOICE

### ADVOCACY

MAS's major advocacy has been around IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility), repatriation, reconciliation, the role of museums, and the ongoing commitment that this work entails. We have continued to focus on providing resources and framework for members to commit to this work.

Our work around repatriation has focused on international best practices, how repatriation should work in practice in Saskatchewan, and identifying the processes, challenges, need for broad education and resourcing, and how we will support our members through this important work.

We are also continuing to operate with a deliberate and thoughtful approach to our social media presence. Also, we are thrilled to roll out our new website, which allows us to use our online presence a bit more strategically to promote our museums and share information and resources.

Finally, we are continuing to use and encourage use of our commitment to making museums safer spaces for everyone with a variety of resources and examples, including our [Safer Spaces Guidelines](#).

## COMMUNITY CHAT

MAS Community Chats are an essential virtual program that have become the mechanism for providing informative sessions on a wide range of accessible topics. Recordings of the sessions are posted on the MAS [YouTube channel](#).

Elder Sid Fiddler of Waterhen Lake Cree First Nation joined us on June 28th, 2023 for a Webinar to discuss how museums in Saskatchewan can make their spaces more welcoming to Indigenous people. Elder Sid Fiddler has shared with MAS suggestions on how we can make our museum spaces more welcoming and inclusive. MAS believes that these are attainable goals that museums can achieve this summer and is here to support our members through this work. You can watch the chat here <https://youtu.be/YiJCBEZckVg>.

## EVENTS

### April

- 5 Heritage Heartland Network Meeting (Emma)
- 5 U of R History Dept Review (Emma)
- 6 South Central Network Meeting (Emma)
- 13 Meeting with OSAC (Sarah)
- 15 River Valley Network Meeting (Tim)
- 17 Quill Plains Network Meeting (Amber)
- 24 West Central Network Meeting (Amber)
- 24 PTMA Meeting (Emma)
- 26 Prairie Trails Network Meeting (Amber)
- 27 Community Chat: Reconsidering Museums

### MAY

- 1-5 Student Freshie Week in Regina and Saskatoon
- 2 North East Network Meeting (Tim)
- 2 District Consultants Meeting (Emma)
- 6-7 Exhibit Design Course in Saskatoon (Amber)
- 6 MAS Board Meeting (Emma and Brenda)
- 6 Qu'Appelle Valley Network Meeting (Sarah)
- 8 Parkland Valley Network Meeting (Sarah)
- 11 Lottery Agreement Signing (Emma)
- 19 Power and Privilege Discussion Circle and the Diefenbaker Centre (Emma)
- 23-35 Student Freshie Week in Regina and Saskatoon
- 23 Presentation on Strategic Direction to SaskCulture Program Team (Emma and Sarah)

## JUNE

- 9 MAS Board Meeting (Emma and Brenda)
- 9 Networker Meeting (Emma and Amber)
- 9 SaskCollections Symposium (Sarah)
- 10 MAS Mini Conference and AGM in Saskatoon
- 14 Provincial Heritage Fair in Regina (Emma)
- 16 SaskCulture AGM (Emma)
- 19 Sask FilmPool Meeting (Amber)
- 22 Meeting with OSAC (Sarah)
- 26 PTMA Meeting (Emma)
- 27 Repatriation event at RCMP Historical Collections Unit (Emma)
- 28 Community Chat: Safer Spaces Webinar with Elder Sid Fiddler

In addition, several staff members have also taken the opportunity to attend a variety of informative virtual courses and web series. There were also regular meetings, such as weekly all staff meetings, CMA and PTMA meetings, and Program Staff Meetings.

## OPERATIONS

The MAS staff have made a permanent shift to a hybrid work model, both remotely and in the office. Additionally, we have moved to cell phones, so we are fully accessible during our regular office hours: Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm and by leaving a message or sending an email.

We are continuing to focus on our new strategic direction to serve our members, respond to shifts within the sector, and work more closely with several similarly-aligned non-profit organizations in Saskatchewan.

MAS submitted the required Follow-up report for the 2022-2023 Annual Global Fund operational grant in June.

As you know, 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, Saskatchewan is the envy of the rest of the country for both the stability and amount of funding that the museum sector, including MAS, receives annually through the Lotteries Trust Fund.

- Emma Morris, Executive Director, MAS

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



## SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

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



### Website Visits

18,691

### Sessions

April 1 - June 30

### Youtube

### Watch Time

16.2 hours

### Video Views

114

### Facebook Followers

1519

up from 1,505

### Twitter Followers

1789

down from 1812

### Instagram Followers

1094

up from 985

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, Anihšînâpêk, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Michif/Métis, and Nakota nations.