



Board & Staff QUARTERLY REPORT

Fall 2023

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful autumn we are experiencing here in Saskatchewan. After a busy summer it is important to celebrate all the work that has taken place and recognize the hard work of the staff and volunteers. Whether you celebrate with an annual BBQ or in another way, I want to thank each and every one of you who has given your time and dedication to our museums.

As the fall season takes off, many of our seasonal member museums are beginning their annual fall clean up and winterization, an important task to ensure the longevity of our heritage. With the new school year, the museums who operate year-round are preparing for upcoming exhibitions and programming. Many of you participated in Culture Days this September and October. This is a great opportunity to celebrate culture, heritage, and art on a national level and it was amazing to explore the variety of programs and events hosted around Saskatchewan. Congratulations to all who worked to celebrate your community's heritage! Canada also marked the third National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, 2023. Commemoration of the painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is vital to reconciliation; we would like to encourage our members to share how they commemorated this day or what support is needed to actively participate in the future.

This time of the year also means that MAS Network meetings are underway. The Board of Directors is excited to see how these networks will enter into a new phase of collaboration with the sports, recreational, and parks districts, where member museums will still have the opportunity to network with other museums, develop important community connections, and meet with MAS staff. This new opportunity will foster greater interaction with community groups outside of museums such as libraries, archives, and cultural groups, while benefiting from the districts expansive funding, engagement, and learning opportunities. As I am connected to my community museum in Wakaw, I see the benefits firsthand of rural museums working together and communicating with each other and look forward to watching these new connections blossom.

I would also like to congratulate the museums and galleries who applied for and received the Technology Microgrant over the summer. We look forward to hearing your stories of how this grant has helped your organizations!

The MAS Board continues to meet regularly. We held an in-person orientation in August in Regina, and it was a great opportunity to meet our newest board members and plan work for the upcoming year. Our duty to the MAS membership is strengthened when we hear your feedback about the challenges, celebrations, and needs of our members. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of our exceptional staff and check out the new MAS website and the amazing resources available there as well.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for all your continued support of MAS and Saskatchewan's culture and heritage and we wish you a happy holiday season!

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

Nathanial 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 so grateful for a very full summer with MAS museums.

It would seem that many member museums are back to their regular tourism seasons and seeing a lot of interest in tours, as well as ongoing interest in other programs that were created during the pandemic. MAS remains committed to making sure that museums in Saskatchewan are safe and accessible spaces that are woven right into the fabric of their communities, where people feel welcome and where their stories are valued. As such, we have prioritized training opportunities and support resources around equity, justice, diversity, and inclusion. It is our hope that ongoing access to this kind of support and education will strengthen museums in Saskatchewan and better equip us to lead the changes that our communities, collections, and funders are calling for.

Repatriation efforts continue to be a significant aspect of this work, and in response to the significant challenges in initiating the processes, MAS has developed some professional development opportunities and has initiated the creation of support resources and processes for our members.

The redevelopment of 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) is well underway. With the renewal, we are happy to

announce that we will be making the courses available as self-serve modules on an online basis, as well as through our existing in-person and online formats to further increase access.

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 July 1st and September 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

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 to support technology purchases in Saskatchewan museums. The grant was well received, and we received 59 complete applications, 21 of which received their full request for funding. The follow up reports were due on October 30, and we look forward to reporting the many positive impacts of this funding back to the Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport later this fall.

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.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

Over the summer all MAS course offerings went on hiatus to accommodate the busy schedules of staff and volunteers at museums and galleries throughout the province. Although no training or certificate programs were offered, MAS staff were busy with the development and coordination of classes for the fall and winter months. At present two Certificate Program courses are scheduled to be offered online. In addition, Museums 101 is being offered in person in cooperation with the Department of History at the University of Regina to provide early-career heritage professionals with a background in museum studies and operations.

Organization and bookings were also finalized for two Special Topics courses being offered in partnership with external organizations. Introduction to Basic Archives class will be presented by the Saskatchewan Council for Archives and Archivists (SCAA), an online session provided free of charge to participants. In partnership with the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS) a two-day course and workshop is being offered in Saskatoon and Regina. This program

will provide participants with information on the handling of archaeological collections and data, the archaeological history of the province, Saskatchewan heritage legislation and how it can impact museum collections, and the identification of Indigenous archaeological materials.

A further two courses are currently in the final stages of planning for early 2024, consisting of an online offering of Marketing the Museum as part of our Certificate program, as well as an in-person Special Topics session on how to conduct oral history interviews and how to use the information gathered. This latter course is being offered in partnership with Heritage Saskatchewan and Kristin Catherwood, their Director of Living Heritage.

Please contact Tim Panas, Learning Program Lead programs@saskmuseums.org with any questions you may have.

RESOURCE LIBRARY

Work on our library continued over the summer, with our major efforts being directed towards the recataloguing of our collections using the Library of Congress system. These efforts will allow users to more readily find resources related to a topic they are interested in, as well as make it compatible with other academic and research-based libraries. During this process we are also continually acquiring new volumes and resources to provide users with the most up to date information on museum operations, programming, and theoretical approaches.

For more information about the library, please contact Tim Panas at 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 or by phone at 306-780-9280 ahead of your visit as we continue with a hybrid work model.

ADVISORY

Advisory Services are available all year to MAS Members. Requests are frequently made via e-mail and phone and are similarly followed-up with phone calls, e-mails, Zoom meetings, or site visits where appropriate.

From July to September there were 78 inquiries, with submissions slowing down in September. All submissions to the Advisory are carefully tracked

COLLECTIVE VOICE

ADVOCACY

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 mounting materials for exhibitions (from military medals to floral specimens), collections storage, acquisition and collecting, repatriation, exhibiting sacred/sensitive materials, MAS equipment loans, travelling exhibits, starting a museum, and many more.

Inquiries to the Advisor predominately come from MAS Members, but approximately 14% of inquiries this quarter came from non-members.

The SaskCollections initiative also falls under the oversight of the Museums Advisor. This quarter two new museums joined SaskCollections, bring the total number participating museums to this initiative to 37 across the province. You can find more information about SaskCollections and how to join, on our website (<https://saskmuseums.org/saskcollections/>). The SaskCollections Research Portal (<https://saskcollections.org>) is open for any current SaskCollections participants to join to share their collections publicly. Any SaskCollections participants interested in joining the Research Portal are encouraged to reach out to the Museums Advisor to begin the process.

It has been a year since MAS launched the Indigenous Materials in Saskatchewan Museums survey to our members. If you have not yet completed this survey, you are strongly encouraged to do so, the survey is still open and can be found on our website (<https://saskmuseums.org/indigenous-material-in-saskatchewan-museums-survey/>) or e-mail the Museums Advisor directly (advisor@saskmuseums.org). In this survey and in MAS publications, "Indigenous" is used as an inclusive term referring to the diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis groups of Canada, and we ask our members to keep this in mind as they complete this survey.

And as a reminder, you can find PDF copies of all of our Tip Sheets, Bulletins, and the latest edition of Standards for Saskatchewan Museums as well as copies of Collections Documentation Forms available for free to download on our website from the Member Area under the Online Resources section (<https://saskmuseums.org/members/online-resources>).

MAS's major advocacy has been around resourcing for initiatives that respond to 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, and have engaged in many discussions with various funders and levels of government about where these resources may come from so that the work is possible and sustainable for museums in Saskatchewan.

Our work around repatriation is still focused on international best practices and the CMA's document "Moved to Action," how repatriation should work in practice in Saskatchewan, and on identifying the processes, challenges, need for broad education and resourcing, and how we can 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.

Visit our Advocacy page and some resources we have made available on our website at <https://www.saskmuseums.org/services/advocacy/>.

“ The most important work of museums is in collecting perspectives: in showing us how our stories are told. ”

- Reconsidering Museums Project

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](#).

Recent Chats:

July 26 - What is in a Name? Indigenous Place Names in Museums with Dr. Tim Panas

August 23 - Repatriation, Where and How to Start, Sarah Durham, Museums Advisor MAS

September 27 - SaskCulture Grant Writing Workshop, Tara-Leigh Heslip, SaskCulture Outreach Consultant

EVENTS

July

- 5 Tech Microgrants adjudication (all staff)
- 25 Rivers West Rec Practitioners Presentation (Emma)
- 26 Community Chat: What's in a name? (Tim)
- 27 Unarchived and Passage Beyond Fortune film screening at the MacKenzie Art Gallery (all staff)

August

- 5 MAS Board Meeting Orientation (Emma and Brenda)
- 23 Community Chat: Repatriation, When and Where to Start (Sarah)

September

- 14 AMA Federal Support for Indigenous Heritage Projects Webinar (Sarah)
- 15 Yorkton Historic Flour Mill - Sod Turning Ceremony (Sarah, Amber)
- 25 MAS Museum Network Updates and Q and A (Emma)
- 27 Community Chat: SaskCulture Grant Writing Workshop
- 28 Cultural Gathering: North West Museum Network Meeting & Rivers West District (Amber, Sarah, Tim)
- 30 Qu'Appelle Network Meeting (Amber)

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 bi-weekly all staff meetings, CMA and PTMA meetings, and Program Staff Meetings.

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

17,000

Sessions

July 1 - September 30

Youtube

Watch Time

10.6 hours

Video Views

88

Facebook Followers

1553

up from 1519

Twitter Followers

1776

down from 1789

Instagram Followers

1102

up from 1094

OPERATIONS

The MAS staff are available to answer questions and respond to needs and concerns by phone or email during our regular office hours: Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm.

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.

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:



MAS's 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, Anihšînāpêk, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Michif/Métis, and Nakota nations. We are committed to focus on repairing the relationships between immigrant Canadians who have settled here over centuries and the First Nations people who have walked these lands since time immemorial. MAS recognizes the roles of museums in perpetuating colonial practices in Canada both directly and indirectly through collection and display practices, policy, and harmful rhetoric. We commit to explore our roles in nurturing meaningful relationships and building understanding. We dedicate our efforts to working together in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation. We are all treaty people.