

# MAS Stickers of Excellence 2024

## Standards based recognition of achievement in Saskatchewan museums.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) wishes to celebrate the excellent work within our membership and to help encourage tourism and community pride.

MAS member museums are invited to submit applications for recognition, with accompanying evidence, for evaluation. The evaluation criteria are based on the [Standards for Saskatchewan Museums, Sixth Edition](#) three main pillars: Governance and Management, Collections, and Communications, as well as recognition of work on Reconciliation and IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity Equity & Access).

Applicants will be notified by MAS via email once the application(s) has been processed, and whether they meet the criteria to receive a “Sticker of Excellence”.

*\*Please be aware this is a pilot year for MAS Stickers of Excellence, and that limitations on applications or deadlines may change due to capacity.*

## Reconciliation

[Standards for Saskatchewan Museums](#), Governance and Management, “Reconciliation” (pg. 19-20).

Museums must understand their role and obligations when it comes to reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) defines reconciliation as an ongoing process of establishing and maintaining respectful relationships. A critical part of this process involves repairing damaged trust by making apologies, providing individual and collective reparations, and following through with concrete actions that demonstrate real societal change.

Accepting UNDRIP means supporting the right to Self-Determination for Indigenous peoples. In a museum context, this means equal voice and equal control in how Indigenous stories are told. There should be a commitment to telling Indigenous stories, and Indigenous communities are to be consulted, acknowledged, compensated, and fully involved in how these stories are shared.

### Evaluation metrics: Grading scale 1(Poor) - 5(Excellent) for each point of evaluation (5):

- **UNDRIP:**
  1. The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) adopted as the framework for reconciliation (for example):
    - Institutional Policies in the spirit of UNDRIP and reconciliation;
    - Formalized processes to ensure Indigenous access to collections.

- **Land Acknowledgments:**

2. The museum uses Land Acknowledgments (as examples):
  - Offered before events, on institutional websites, social media biographies, and email signatures;
  - Exhibitions, whether permanent, temporary, travelling, or virtual, clearly state the treaty or unceded territory in an acknowledgement panel.

- **Exhibits:**

3. The museums has dedicated permanent and temporary exhibits that tell range of stories and histories from pre-contact to present day (including residential school systems), with Indigenous involvement:
  - The museum uses inclusive and appropriate language and terms in all exhibit and programming materials.

- **Programming:**

4. The existence of Indigenous programming dedicated to Indigenous content, with Indigenous involvement (“Nothing about us without us”):
  - The museum publicly acknowledges Indigenous peoples and their histories;
  - Recognizes the need to integrate tangible and intangible aspects of heritage.

- **Indigenous Involvement:**

5. The museum actively encourages and supports the involvement of Indigenous people in museum activities and operations (as demonstrated through):
  - The museum ensures the full participation of Indigenous people in the planning, development, and production of exhibitions about Indigenous items, stories, and culture;
  - Indigenous peoples are actively involved in the management and governance of the museum;
  - Dedicated paid Indigenous positions;
  - Evidence of partnerships with Indigenous communities;

Examples of evidence for evaluation include:

- Video walk-through of exhibitions;
- Thorough writeup of exhibitions;
- Breakdown of the percentage of exhibition space dedicated, permanent and/or temporary;
- Letters of support;
- Testimonials;
- Policies and Bylaws;
- Contracts.