



MUSEUMS
ASSOCIATION OF
SASKATCHEWAN



ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025

PRESIDENTS

Dr. C.R. Strother-Stewart 1968 -1969
Gordon Wilson 1969 - 1971
W.H. Howes 1971 - 1973
Austin Ellis 1973 - 1974
Malcolm Wake 1974 -1976
Nancy Dillow 1976 - 1978
Joan Mitchell 1978 - 1980
Bill Martodam 1980 - 1982
Wayne Morgan 1982 - 1985
Jane Turnbull Evans 1985 - 1987
David Klatt 1987 - 1989
Richard Moldenhauer 1989 - 1991
Mary Mahon-Jones 1991 - 1992
Ingrid Cazakoff 1992 - 1996
Frances Westlund 1996 - 1997
Geri Jacques 1997 - 1999

Sheila Kelly 1999 - 2001
Katherine Fitton 2001 - 2003
Chad Debert 2003 - 2004
Brenda Barry Byrne 2004 - 2007
Terry Graff 2007 - 2008
Royce Pettyjohn 2008 - 2009
Céline Perillat 2009 - 2011
Rhonda Lamb 2011 - 2013
Crystal Craig 2013 - 2014
Robert Hubick 2014 - 2016
Yvonne Hotzak 2016 - 2018
Teresa Carlson 2018 - 2019
Corinne Daelick 2019 - 2020
Merissa Scarlett 2020 - 2022
Tracene Harvey 2022 - 2023
Helanna Gessner 2023 - present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Wayne Mitchell 1976 - 1979
Virginia Hatch 1979 - 1985
Gayl Hipperson 1985 - 1998
Lee Boyko 1998 - 1999
Joan Kanigan-Fairen 2000 - 2006
Brenda Sherring 2006 - 2009
Brenda Herman & Wendy Fitch 2009 - 2012
Wendy Fitch 2012 - 2022
Emma Morris 2022 - Present



**Museums Association of
Saskatchewan**

424 McDonald Street
Regina, Saskatchewan S4N 6E1

Telephone: (306) 780-9279

Email: mas@saskmuseums.org

Website: www.saskmuseums.org

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP

262 Institutional
12 Associates
193 Individuals

467 TOTAL

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF SASKATCHEWAN

MAS strengthens Saskatchewan museums through community leadership, building capacity, and acting as the collective voice for our members.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) is a non-profit, collective organization of over 250 member museums and a total membership of over 400, including individuals and associates. The Association is governed by a member-elected Board of Directors, representative of the museum community. MAS staff oversee the organization's budget, membership, programming, and communications.

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan supports Saskatchewan museums through a variety of education, advisory, resource, and networking programs.

MAS was founded in 1968, and has been committed to supporting the advancement of museums in Saskatchewan for over 50 years.

VISION

Museums are safe spaces for everyone to engage in learning about our past, present, and future.

MAS is known as a partner in creating sustainable futures for museums.

VALUES

Truthful: We expect honest storytelling to represent diverse heritages.

Inclusive: We champion safer spaces that are accessible, free from prejudice, and embrace diversity.

Innovative: We act with curiosity and courage to question methodologies; and, introduce new ideas and ways to engage.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MAS's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 currently known as the Province of Saskatchewan, comprised of the territories of the Nêhiyawak, Anihşināpēk, 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 acknowledge the role of museums in colonial practices in Canada and 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.

MAS is funded by SaskCulture, The Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund, and Canadian Heritage.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This year, MAS members celebrated milestone anniversaries, launched new and exciting exhibitions for their communities, and hosted some truly memorable events!

As I reflect on the past year, several key moments stand out. MAS's work in facilitating the repatriation of Indigenous belongings has received national recognition. With the hiring of Gabriel Essauce Lamarche as our inaugural Repatriation and Community Liaison, members have had valuable support navigating the repatriation process. It was especially encouraging to hear from Emma about the growing engagement from members in these initiatives.

In 2024, MAS hosted a variety of events for its members, including a virtual AGM in June. A notable addition was the launch of the MAS Reading Group, which explored the CMA's Moved to Action report and the Small Museums Handbook. This initiative provided members with a regular opportunity to connect and engage in meaningful discussions on important topics.

This year also marked a shift from our traditional conference format to a Fall Symposium, aimed at making participation more accessible and affordable. The event was well-attended and affirmed the value of this new format. We were honored to welcome keynote speaker Sierra McKinney, who shared her research on how museum collections can foster dialogue and help non-Indigenous Canadians process the complex emotions that museums can evoke.

Our Community Chats continued with engaging topics such as digital archiving and difficult inheritance. We also introduced a new initiative: Coffee Chats with our Repatriation Liaison, held every second Tuesday. These informal sessions with Gabriel provided a space for questions and learning, including presentations on topics like feather identification and repatriation policy development.

Another exciting initiative was the launch of the Stickers of Excellence program, which formally recognizes the outstanding work of our members. The Board was thrilled by the number and quality of submissions and extends heartfelt congratulations to all this year's recipients.

The 2024–2025 Board of Directors included myself, President Helanna Gessner; Vice-President Vincent Houghtaling; and Directors Delta Fay Cruickshank, Nathaniel Day, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, Ally Forand, Courtney Tuck-Goetz, Dr. Barbara McNeil, and Cat Woloschuk. This year, we bid farewell to Dr. Barbara McNeil mid-term. I want to sincerely thank her for her dedication and service to the Board and MAS members.

The Board engaged in several professional development activities, including a Reading Group on the Carver Policy Governance Guide and participation in the Intercultural Development Inventory Assessment. The Executive Committee also attended the Non-Profit Governance 360 Director's Summit in Saskatoon. Over the year, the Board met five times—both in person and virtually—with numerous committee meetings supporting our ongoing work. These gatherings are vital for monitoring policies, conducting environmental scans of the cultural heritage sector, and supporting our membership.

On behalf of the MAS Board of Directors, I extend our sincere thanks to our funders: SaskCulture, Saskatchewan Lotteries, and the Department of Canadian Heritage. We also thank the Government of Saskatchewan and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport for their continued investment in our communities, including the Museums Improvement Micro Grant for Community Museums in spring 2024 and its renewal in spring 2025.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation to Executive Director Emma Morris for her dedication and leadership in expanding MAS's reach and offerings. The Board was thrilled with the plans for 2024–2025, and the MAS team delivered. Thank you to Brenda, Terri, Sarah, Amber, and Gabriel for your incredible contributions in making MAS a leader in the museum and cultural heritage sector.

And to our members: the Museums Association of Saskatchewan would not exist without your continued support and commitment to our local museums and cultural heritage. I wish you all the best as the 2025 summer season opens and look forward to seeing the incredible things you accomplish.

As this is my final message as President of the Board of Directors, I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the Directors I've had the privilege of working with over the past six years. As I complete my third term, I reflect with pride on all I've learned about Saskatchewan's diverse museums and the evolving direction of cultural heritage in our province and country. There is still important advocacy work ahead to ensure continued public and financial support at all levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Helanna Gessner (she/her)

President, MAS Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We have had such an incredibly busy and exciting year working with museums in Saskatchewan. Engaging with our members has given us the opportunity to expand our work beyond our specific expertise, and we have had the chance to be problem-solvers, co-conspirators, case study researchers, and friends. We had to be thoughtful, flexible, innovative, and creative. I am proud of MAS's work this year, and I am grateful for the support and expertise of the MAS staff and Board as Saskatchewan's museum professionals continue to strive for excellence. We all know that Saskatchewan is rich in story and that we have a unique collection of cultures within Canada. This has become especially apparent in the face of perceived threats to our sovereignty and cultural identities. Museums have the incredible privilege of being one of the places where our communities keep their stories, and we are so grateful for the opportunity to work so closely with communities through our museum members.

Over the past year, MAS has focused on strengthening the sector through high level advocacy around the need for policy and funding to support sustainable practices and new priorities, such as repatriation. We have also partnered with Heritage Saskatchewan to look at cultural heritage as an economic driver within our province. We have delivered several courses, workshops, and Community Chats, and delivered resources that support relevance and sustainability. We have also focused on nurturing the relationships with our membership, stakeholders, and the public. Many museums are facing challenges with funding and sustainability, and we are committed to addressing these challenges through advocacy, education, and capacity-building.

As museums continue to examine their roles in communities going forward, it is becoming clear that we cannot go back in time, nor should we wish to. We are in a time right now that allows us to bring about meaningful change within our museums that can have positive impacts on our communities for generations to come. A commitment to building and nurturing meaningful relationships with diverse communities is foundational to MAS's leadership role with museums in Saskatchewan.

We were grateful to receive an increase in our Annual Global Funding from SaskCulture to support hiring Gabriel Essauce Lamarche in the position of Repatriation and Community Liaison. This role has been necessary to build capacity and understanding with our members and to begin building trust between Indigenous communities, museums, and the public as we all navigate our shared heritage through stories, artefacts, and records.

The key provincial organizations MAS works with through direct partnership and shared outcomes continue to be: SaskCulture, Heritage Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Archaeological Society, the Districts for Sport, Culture & Recreation, Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society, Saskatchewan Council of Archives and Archivists (SCAA), Saskatchewan Arts Alliance, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Parks, Culture & Sport, Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Council (OSAC), the University of Regina Department of History, and USask Departments of Archaeology and Anthropology. The working relationship MAS has established with each is valued by the organization and enhances our ability to be a leader in the museum sector in Saskatchewan.

Federally, MAS works with the Canadian Museums Association, the National Trust for Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canadian Conservation Institute/Canadian Heritage Information Network, and Digital Museums Canada. MAS also works with the other provincial and territorial museum associations (PTMAs) to share resources, advocate about national issues, and

come together to strengthen the sector on a national level.

MAS staff were also able to participate in several stakeholder events, including regular CMA/PTMA virtual meetings, the CMA's Symposium on Museum Education, SaskCulture's annual meeting and Eligible Cultural Organization meetings, as well as numerous informational webinars and conferences, both provincial and national in scope.

MAS's work is guided by the needs of the sector and our evergreen Strategic Plan. We have instituted an Annual Planning Session with the MAS staff, which was a full-day planning session in March this year. This team approach will help with our work management and scheduling to ensure staff capacity and that we are able to deliver on all of our deadlines and commitments.

Finally, MAS was successful in receiving a Museum Assistance Program grant through the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage to support the creation of MAS Active Access: Bringing History Home, an Elder-led repatriation database. We are now a full year into this project, and we are looking forward to working more closely with our members as this database is populated. This project will support the future of museums in our province through connecting museums and Rights Holders, facilitating repatriation discussions, and organizing records for future reference and use.

As we get into our busy tourism season, I urge us all to think about how we can work towards the success of our spaces in terms of activation, inspiration, and actively building the future we want for the next generations in our communities.

Emma Morris (she/her)

Executive Director, MAS



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAS is a member-driven organization governed by an elected 10-member Board of Directors, which governs according to the principles of policy governance. During 2024-2025, the Board met several times via Zoom and in person, and was diligent in ensuring it provided strategic guidance and leadership to MAS. Additionally, the Board participated in professional development to better understand Policy Governance.

The Board continued to follow a strategy based on self-assessment to ensure critical areas are addressed. The Board has continued to focus on the relationship between itself and the membership during 2024-2025.

BOARD MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025

President

Helanna Gessner - Diefenbaker
Canada Centre, Saskatoon

Vice President

Vincent Houghtaling - Moose Jaw
Museum & Art Gallery

Directors

Ally Forand - Wanuskewin
Heritage Park

Delta Fay Cruickshank - Biggar
Museum & Gallery, Biggar

Cat Woloschuk - National
Doukhobor Heritage Village

Jennifer Fitzpatrick - Humboldt
& District Museum & Gallery,
Humboldt

Courtney Tuck-Goetz - Western
Development Museum,
Saskatoon

Nathanial Day - Regina

“ For too long, museums have been defined by their past. They have measured their success by the size of their collections, the number of visitors they attract, and their ability to preserve and interpret history. But what if we measured success differently? What if museums were defined not by what they house, but by what they activate? Not by what they preserve, but by what they inspire? What if museums became spaces where the future was not only imagined but actively built? ”

- Mike Murawski, author of *Museums as Agents of Change*, 2021.

SAFER SPACE GUIDELINES

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) is dedicated to providing a safer space for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, age, language, body size, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, socioeconomic standing, or otherwise. This applies to all MAS spaces and programs, including workplace, in-person and online events, in-person online synchronous and online asynchronous programming, as well as all online platforms, emails, and any other spaces that MAS hosts.

MAS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or any inappropriate conduct. This includes but is not limited to: racism, white supremacy, sexism, heterosexism/homophobia, cissexism/transphobia, sizeism, ableism and ageism, sexualized violence, and harassment. Anyone who acts in any type of behaviour that is considered harmful, violent or aggressive may be prohibited, expelled, or banned from these spaces.

MAS acknowledges that the work of creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive spaces and experiences for everyone is an active process.

As we work together as a sector towards inclusion, MAS expects and encourage our members, participants, and users to:

- Respect others' physical and emotional boundaries;
- Respect others' identities and backgrounds, including pronouns and names;
- Do not assume or make judgments on anyone's gender identity, sexual preference, survivor status, health status, economic status, religion, background, beliefs, opinions or otherwise;
- Report any inappropriate behaviour to MAS staff;
- Care for yourself and others.

What is a safer space?

A safer space is a supportive, non-threatening environment, intended to be free of bias, conflict, criticism, or potentially threatening actions, ideas, or conversations. We use the word safer to acknowledge that safety is relative: not everyone feels safe under the same conditions. By acknowledging the experiences of each person, we hope to create as safe an environment as possible. Using the term safer space also reflects the fact that discrimination and harassment can and do occur even in spaces where norms, policies, and procedures have been put in place to prevent such behaviour, and that the work of increasing safety is an active process that should never be considered done.

Our Safer Space Guidelines can be found in full, including acknowledgements and resources at <https://www.saskmuseums.org/about/safer-space-guidelines/>

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Using the lessons we have learned over the past several years, MAS has continued to move forward in the area of capacity development to better meet the needs of our members. We have also focused on how we can serve our members and the cultural heritage sector more broadly through outreach, engagement, resource development, and program delivery.

Much of our work this last year focused on building capacity with our members around repatriation and sustainability. This focus is a direct response to the needs we have heard about from our members. Museums in Saskatchewan are concerned about their future. So, beyond developing and promoting resources, educational opportunities, and direct support, MAS has also partnered with Heritage Saskatchewan to build awareness about how cultural heritage acts as a major economic driver in our province. It is our goal that, alongside hard data to support this claim, this will result in a more sustainable sector through the creation of jobs and funding.

We also heard that our members need support to initiate repatriation actions, as is their role in accordance with UNDRIP and the CMA's Moved to Action Report. In response, we are creating the Repatriation Portal to connect members directly with Rights Holders, we have developed and promoted a variety of resources, webinars, and educational opportunities on the subject, and even initiated the creation of a documentary to highlight the power of repatriation in Saskatchewan museums. Gabriel Essauce Lamarche joined our team in the role of Repatriation and Community Liaison in 2024, and has been working directly with our members to build understanding and to support repatriation practices. MAS remains committed to supporting our members as they work towards their goals for the future.

CERTIFICATE IN COMMUNITY MUSEUM STUDIES PROGRAM

The Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies offered by the Museums Association of Saskatchewan provides individuals with the basic skills and knowledge to be able to work within a cultural or heritage setting, regardless of its size. Reflecting the diversity of the individuals who work within a public museum setting, the courses that make up this program are designed to be easily accessible to individuals with a wide range of backgrounds, including museum employees, volunteers, and early career professionals. Consisting of ten courses in total to obtain the final certificate, individuals can take as few or as many courses they need in order to meet their professional needs and that of their institutions.

To make our programming more accessible to students both within the province and beyond, we fully revitalized all of our course offerings for the Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies over the 2024/25 winter season.

In 2024/25, we offered:

Exhibit Design and Planning, October 5-6, in person at the Biggar Museum and Gallery. This was delivered by John Snell, Manager, Programming and Exhibits, Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Organization and Management, February 8-9, in person at the Gabriel Dumont Institute in Saskatoon. This was delivered by Joan Kanigan, CEO, Western Development Museum.

In early 2025, we were pleased to release a complete course calendar for the Certificate Program in Community Museum Studies spring semester. In order to make our programming more available to students both within the province and beyond, we have committed to offering all ten courses virtually over the course of two years. Additionally, we are happy to offer in-person courses with a minimum attendance and the provision of a physical space.

Through the renewed Certificate Program, we will support the established and emerging professionals to uphold global best practices and standards throughout the province.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES

Acting as supplementary educational opportunities to our Certificate program, MAS provides Special Topics workshops and courses that provide participants with relevant information and training to members of the cultural heritage community. The purpose of these Special Topic Workshops is to address topics beyond the core curriculum covered through the Certificate Program to aid organizations to better meet their programming needs and their mandates.

MAS offered a workshop entitled "Keeping Stories: Preserving Living Heritage Through Gathering of Community Oral History." This was held in-person at the University of Saskatchewan, on April 4, 2024. This was instructed by Kristin Catherwood Mantta, Director of Living Heritage, Heritage Saskatchewan, and participants learned the basics of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), why documentation of local history and traditions is so important, how to conduct an oral history/ oral traditions interview with proper recording techniques, and what to do with the data once it was collected. This workshop was offered through the partnership of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan with the Department of Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan.

To further expand on supplementary opportunities for learning and engagement, MAS launched a Reading Group, where members, lead by MAS staff, would meet virtually to have an open forum discussion and share comments and experiences related to the selected reading material.

MAS ran two separate Reading Group sessions in 2024; the first looking at the Canadian Museums Association's (CMA) "Moved to Action: Activating UNDRIP in Canadian Museums" (June 11- September 17), and the second for the CMA's "Small Museums Handbook: A Handbook in Support of Moved to Action" (November 6 - December 4).



Image: MAS Staff, Board, and Elders Committee.
Photo courtesy of Sawyer Morris.



Image: 2024 Summer Walking Tours, Heritage Regina, Regina, SK.. Photo courtesy of [Heritage Regina](#).

RESOURCE LIBRARY AND EQUIPMENT LOANS

Comprising over 1800 volumes, the MAS library is a significant source of information and resources for all aspects of museum work. This extensive collection is available to MAS members through both in-office use and on a short-term loan basis. Through 2024-2025 MAS has continued to enhance the library with the most current information and scholarship in such areas as collections management, museum operations, reconciliation, and accessibility.

MAS maintains an assortment of equipment that is made available to loan to member organizations to assist in protecting, preserving, and documenting their diverse collections. Kits available include environmental monitoring equipment, scanners, audio and video recorders, and microphones. This past year has been spent updating and completing an assortment of these kits. Equipment loans are available on a short-term loan basis (ranging from 2 to 4-week periods).

A complete list of all kits and equipment available as part of this program can be found on the MAS website (<https://saskmuseums.org/resources/equipment-loans/>). Requests for equipment loans can be made online through the submission form on our website or by e-mailing MAS.

Kits are designed to be easily used (containing all necessary component parts and resources to assist users with completing their projects). Any questions about the Equipment Loans may be directed to the Museums Advisor (advisor@saskmuseums.org).

TECHNOLOGY MICRO GRANT FOR COMMUNITY MUSEUMS

MAS was grateful to receive \$45,000.00 from the Government of Saskatchewan's Department of Parks, Culture, and Sport to administer to Saskatchewan museums again this year. There was a significant uptake in the program with 82 applicants and a total request of \$156,850.00. Of the applications, we were able to fund 27 members to support their exciting projects in our province. This funding addressed a variety of needs and opportunities to explore exciting programming opportunities within our membership.

MAS would like to thank the Government of Saskatchewan and PCS for this ongoing financial support for museums in Saskatchewan. The impacts for our members are significant, and MAS is grateful for the Government of Saskatchewan's recognition of this need and investment in our communities through museums. The maximum application was \$2,000.00, and many applicants were funded fully for their projects. MAS looks forward to seeing these projects implemented and how they will serve our members and the people of Saskatchewan over the coming years.

ADVISORY SERVICES

The Advisory Services are primarily intended to support MAS Institutional Members in achieving their goals and is based upon the *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums*. Advisory consultations are confidential. Consultations may be done via email, phone, online, referral, and/or site visit.

In 2024-2025, the Advisory Services fielded 372 requests, with the majority of those requests (76%) coming from institutional members, with 23% of all submissions made by members of the general public.

To help our members realise their institutional goals, the Advisory Services have produced many resources over the years. These resources, like the Tip Sheets, Bulletins, Workbooks, and the sixth edition of *Standards for Saskatchewan Museums* are fully accessible online in the Resources section of the MAS website under Online Resources as PDFs (<https://saskmuseums.org/resources/online-resources/>). Templates of Collections Documentation Forms are also available on our website as direct download Word Documents.

REPATRIATION AND COMMUNITY LIAISON

The liaison assists and supports member organizations in activating the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in particular the mandate to return control over items of Indigenous cultural patrimony to the families and communities from which they were taken.

This support includes offering guidance for identifying artefacts, and prioritizing items for repatriation, so that the most pressing cases, e.g. sacred belongings, are given appropriate attention, as well as connecting with appropriate rights-holders and knowledge-keepers, out-reach and trust building activities, and developing formal policy and procedures for repatriation, so that our member organizations can make confident strides in the direction of truth and reconciliation, and their duties to the broader communities they serve.

Engaging in repatriation benefits the museums, by uplifting both the reputation and trustworthiness of their organization, and builds meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities, which can allow for further partnerships and invites opportunities for collaborative projects to be shared in the museum space.



Image: Great Sandhills Museum & Interpretive Centre, Sceptre, SK
Photo courtesy of [Great Sandhills Museum & Interpretive Centre](#).



Image: Children look at the work "Spinner Forest" by Nick Cave, Remai Modern. Photo courtesy of Carey Shaw

SASKCOLLECTIONS

SaskCollections is a cloud-based collections database using the CollectiveAccess platform to address the needs of small to medium-sized institutions and is hosted by MAS. It is intended to serve the needs of our members in two ways:

1. Collections Management – by providing a collections database for each participating institutional member;
2. Public Access – by providing a centralised publicly accessible webpage where participating institutions can share their collections with the wider public online.

Any MAS Institutional Voting Member is eligible to apply to SaskCollections. As of March 31st, 2025, there were a total of 42 Institutional Members participating in the SaskCollections initiative with individual institutional collections databases. Across all SaskCollections systems 251,968 objects have been catalogued, with 10,654 new objects catalogued this fiscal year, which amounts to a 4% annual increase.

The SaskCollections public page (<https://saskcollections.org/>), allows participating SaskCollections members to contribute their institution's collections to a publicly accessible website. Visitors may browse collections from all current participating MAS members, showcasing the artistic and cultural heritage of Saskatchewan. Visitors can also browse the collection of specific participating institutions.

There are currently 11 contributors to this public SaskCollections page: Avonlea Heritage Museum, Diefenbaker Canada Centre, Estevan Art Gallery & Museum, F. T. Hill Museum, Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, Grand Coteau Heritage & Cultural Centre, Kenderdine Art Gallery, Melfort & District Museum, Prairie Wind & Silver Sage, Swift Current Museum, and the Whitewood Tourism and Heritage Association.

COLLECTIVE VOICE

MAS undertakes various activities directed at different audiences to create greater public awareness and understanding of the past, present, and future impact of Saskatchewan's culture and heritage.

During 2024 - 2025, MAS maintained its investment in select, multiplatform, paid advertisements such as ads in the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) magazine *Municipal Voice*, and *Prairies North, the Magazine of Saskatchewan*. In addition, MAS has continued to focus and invest more resources in social media advertising to better address demographics changes.

MAS has continued the Community Chats that were launched during the pandemic, though on a less frequent schedule. Further, we have hosted a variety of Q and A sessions on special topics, as well as Coffee Chats with Gabriel Essauce Lamarche, Community and Repatriation Liaison. We find these frequent check-ins to be valuable tools and that they continue to address opportunities within our membership to learn and engage with each other.

MAS has also increased our focus on advocacy at the provincial and federal levels to ensure that momentum around sector discussions is maintained and that we are not missing opportunities to speak to the current challenges and opportunities with government agencies, funders, and other non-profits. Some of the priorities for our advocacy continue to be around making museums safer spaces for everybody, accessibility and diversity, the role of museums in social justice and self-determination, repatriation, funding, and policy development.

MAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MAS held a virtual AGM on June 10, 2024, and the membership voted to update MAS's definition of a museum to reflect the new ICOM definition. "A museum is a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection and knowledge sharing." (In Prague, on 24 August 2022, the Extraordinary General Assembly of ICOM has approved the proposal for the new museum definition.)

Prior to the bylaw change, the membership voted to re-elect Vincent Houghtaling for a two-year term. Angelina Weenie was thanked for her service, she left the Board to pursue another position earlier in the year. And Jennifer Fitzpatrick was welcomed, after joining the Board following Angelina's departure.

At the Board meeting immediately after the AGM, Helanna Gessner was re-elected as President and Vincent Houghtaling was elected as Vice-President. No one moved into the Past President position.



Image: Filming of "Finders Keepers". Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatoon, SK.
Photo courtesy of MAS.



Image: Filming of "Finders Keepers", Saskatoon, SK..
Photo courtesy of MAS.

COMMUNITY CHAT

In 2024-2025 MAS committed to continue to present our Community Chats, a public online presentation, via Zoom, where museum folks from across the province connect for an online personal development opportunity, a chance to network with other museums, to chat, ask questions, and seek advice. The following Community Chats were presented:

- Young Canada Works (YCW) Information Session
- JW Digital Archiving
- Curtain Razors presents "Tommy and Père"

You can view a YouTube playlist (<https://www.youtube.com/@saskmuseums4669>) of our previously recorded Community Chats online, and you can also find more information on upcoming Community Chats on our website (<https://www.saskmuseums.org/services/community-chat/>).

CORE COMMUNICATION TOOLS

E-Phemera, MAS's e-newsletter, is sent out every two weeks to a mailing list of over 1650 subscribers. It features MAS news/opportunities, member and community news, events, job postings, professional development opportunities and more. In 2024-2025, the E-Phemera mailing list grew by 130 people.

The purpose of MAS's website, <https://saskmuseums.org/>, is to provide accessible and searchable information to our members, museum professionals, volunteers, and the public. All of MAS staff have continued to work diligently on reviewing and updating all of the website content, ensuring member information, news and events, along with MAS events and courses are made available as quickly as possible.

The MAS website had 65,926 users in 2024-2025, for a total of over 74,450 sessions. Users spent an average of 00:01:10 on the site.

The MAS Facebook, Instagram and YouTube accounts are maintained as a way for MAS to share MAS news, events and programming, as well as interesting heritage and museum-related information more widely.

There was an 8% growth rate in Facebook followers (1628) and had over 1362 visits. Instagram also saw growth in the number of followers, an increase of 21% (1300). MAS' YouTube channel has 45 subscribers, with a total of 608 views, amounting to a total of 74 hours of watch time.

MAS SPEAKER SERIES

Sierra McKinney, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Montreal, presented a keynote address to MAS members at the MacKenzie Art Gallery on September 14. She presented a session on how museum collections can foster dialogue and help non-Indigenous Canadians address negative emotions, such as shame and guilt, that may develop when learning about difficult colonial history. Her research found that these negative emotions often get in the way of meaningful reconciliation, and focused on the importance of addressing and redirecting these emotions towards more productive feelings, such as feeling inspired to change things for the better. This session was overall well received by our members, and was followed by an informal networking session. You can watch a recording of the session here: <https://youtu.be/Hmk7BKRhA0Q>.

ADVOCACY

MAS recognizes our role in advocacy, promotion, and support for the museum and cultural heritage sector in Saskatchewan. We undertake a variety of activities that fit into the broad definition of advocacy - viewed fundamentally as building positive relationships with decision-makers to achieve desired goals. This process takes place in different ways with several stakeholders, including funders, governments, provincial and federal non-profits. By building positive relationships with stakeholders, MAS lays the groundwork for targeted advocacy activities on behalf of Saskatchewan's museum sector.

In 2024-2025 MAS's advocacy activities included:

CMA and PTMAs, National Museum Policy

MAS continues to participate in collaborative activities with the Canadian Museums Association (CMA) and the other ten Provincial/Territorial Museums Associations (PTMAs), including advising on the revision of the National Museum Policy. This policy was created in 1972 with the most recent revision happening in 1990. This revision is significant, as it is used as the foundation document for all federal museum support programs including the Museums Assistance Program and the Canadian Conservation Institute/Canadian Heritage Information Network. We participated in significant engagement throughout the past year and are eagerly anticipating the renewed policy.

SaskCulture

MAS attended SaskCulture's Eligible Cultural Organization meetings at the provincial level, and have been involved in the Museums Assistance Program administered by SaskCulture on behalf of the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund. Further, we met with the Department for Canadian Heritage and SaskCulture regarding the needs for funding in Saskatchewan to support repatriation.

University of Regina (U of R)

The U of R history department is offering a new certificate program, and we were happy to be able to speak in several courses over the course of the last year. We are hopeful that this relationship will continue to grow and increase interest in professional placements in member museums.

FOR THE RECORD

The Sixth Edition of "Standards for Saskatchewan Museums" is available for free viewing and download here: <https://saskmuseums.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Standards-for-Saskatchewan-Museums-2022-Sixth-Edition.pdf>

MAS publishes a variety of resources, toolkits, and tip sheets for our members. They are available for viewing and download here: <https://saskmuseums.org/members/online-resources>.

The Moved to Action Report is the Canadian Museums Association's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #67. It is available for viewing and download here: https://museums.ca/uploaded/web/TRC_2022/Report-CMA-MovedToAction.pdf.

For all questions and support regarding museum standards and best practices, please contact Sarah Durham, Museums Advisor at advisor@saskmuseums.org.

For all questions and support regarding repatriation, please contact Gabriel Essaunce Lamarche, Repatriation and Community Liaison at repatriation@saskmuseums.org.

NEW: MAS REPATRIATION PORTAL

MAS is committed to upholding the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation and support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples articles. In pursuit of this, in 2024 MAS received a two-year Museums Assistance Program (MAP) grant to build a database to maintain and provide access to the records of objects of Indigenous Cultural Heritage that are currently held in museums across Saskatchewan.

Our hopes for this project serve a dual purpose:

1. To facilitate access to records of objects of Indigenous Cultural Heritage to Indigenous Communities and Rights Holders;
2. and to connect Indigenous Communities and Rights Holders to the museums holding these objects, to help build relationships between them.

The overall intention is to help museums repatriate Indigenous Cultural Belongings to their Originating Communities or Rights Holders and help museums build relationships with those Originating Communities.

The first year of this project has seen the building of the back-end database and a mock-up of the public webpage (not yet live). A unique feature of this database is its compatibility with our SaskCollections systems, which will allow SaskCollections participants to export and share object records of Indigenous Cultural Belongings directly to the Repatriation Portal.

Several Question-and-Answer sessions were held specifically for current SaskCollections users and how the new MAS Repatriation Portal will integrate with their systems. Three sessions were held on:

- 27 February 2025 at 12pm;
- 04 March 2025 at 11am;
- 07 March 2025 at 2pm.

From these sessions a Frequently Asked Questions document was compiled and circulated to SaskCollections users, this document will also be made publicly available once the MAS Repatriation Portal is live.

Any questions about the MAS Repatriation Portal can be directed to the Museums Advisor (advisor@saskmuseums.org).

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan would like to acknowledge funding support for this project from SaskCulture and the Museums Assistance Program from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

STICKERS OF EXCELLENCE

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan (MAS) is pleased to announce our inaugural MAS Stickers of Excellence initiative, an annual opportunity to celebrate the excellent work within our membership and encourage tourism and community pride.

In 2024, MAS member museums were invited to submit applications for recognition for evaluation 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).

Announcing the MAS Stickers of Excellence 2025 recipients:



- Assiniboia and District Museum - Communications: Exhibits
- Biggar Museum & Gallery - Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion, Management, Collections: Conservation & Storage, Collections: Collections Management, Collections: Research
- Humboldt & District Museum & Gallery - Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion, Management, Collections: Collections Management, Collections: Conservation and Storage, Collections: Research, Communication: Exhibits, Communication: Programs
- Indian Head Museum - Communications: Exhibits
- Souris Valley Museum - Reconciliation
- Western Development Museum (all locations) - Reconciliation, Diversity and Inclusion, Management, Collections: Collections Management, Collections: Conservation and Storage, Collections: Research, Communication: Exhibits, Communication: Programs

STAFF

Executive Director
Emma Morris

Director of Finance
Brenda Herman

Administrative Assistant
Terri Morris

Community Engagement Lead
Amber Hanover

Museums Advisor
Sarah Durham

**Repatriation and Community
Liaison**
Gabriel Essaunce Lamarche

FINANCIALS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

As of March 31, 2025

Cat Woloschuk (Chair)
Vincent Houghtaling
Delta Fay Cruickshank

Brenda Herman (Staff)



Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements



To the Members of Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc.:

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at March 31, 2025, and the summary statements of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc. (the "Organization") for the year ended March 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements, in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated May 27, 2025.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Regina, Saskatchewan

May 27, 2025

MNP LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants

MNP LLP

Suite 900, Royal Bank Building, 2010 - 11th Avenue, Regina SK, S4P 0J3

1.877.500.0780 T: 306.790.7900 F: 306.790.7990



MNP.ca

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Summarized Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash	33,882	43,513
Accounts receivable	3,417	4,130
Short-term investments	837,131	526,914
	874,430	574,557
Capital assets	3,980	5,867
Investments	105,102	104,219
Prepaid expenses and deposits	5,067	3,828
	988,579	688,471
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accruals	54,938	60,011
Unearned revenue	358,500	475
	413,438	60,486
Net Assets		
Surplus	400,161	451,118
Investment in Capital Assets	3,980	5,867
General Reserve	171,000	171,000
	575,141	627,985
	988,579	688,471

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Summarized Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenue		
Grants from Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation	618,000	589,000
Canadian Heritage - Museums Assistance Program	50,000	-
Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sports - technology microgrants	47,500	45,000
Self-generated	73,901	67,764
Total revenues	789,401	701,764
Expenditures (Schedule 1)	842,245	688,350
Excess of revenues over expenditures for the period	(52,844)	13,414

Detailed financial statements are available on request.

Museums Association of Saskatchewan Inc.
Summarized Schedule 1 – Expenditures by Division
For the year ended March 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Governance	19,119	16,888
Management	165,862	166,575
Advocacy		
Salaries/Benefits	33,963	29,317
Professional/Government Relations	4,881	2,960
Total Advocacy	38,844	32,277
Communications		
Salaries/Benefits	112,457	101,292
Public Relations	26,274	7,929
Overhead	13,482	12,689
Member Relations	7,279	19,151
Total Communications	159,492	141,061
Museum Development		
Salaries/Benefits	249,883	213,389
SaskCollections	91,825	14,181
Member Funding	47,657	49,200
Training Services	33,381	20,196
Overhead	30,914	29,143
Resource Materials	3,053	4,196
Advisory	2,215	1,244
Total Museum Development	458,928	331,549
Total expenditures by division	842,245	688,350

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAS gratefully acknowledges its major funding agencies for their financial support: The Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation, and the Department of Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program.

MAS would like to thank the Government of Saskatchewan and the Department of Parks, Culture, and Sport for the financial commitment to museums in Saskatchewan by contributing funding to the MAS Small Project Grant/Museums Improvement Micro Grant for Community Museums.

Thank you to SaskCulture for their continued support.

MAS also thanks the governing bodies, organizations, agencies, companies, and individuals who have worked so hard to help the Museums Association of Saskatchewan assist museums in achieving their mandates and being the best they can be.

MAS especially acknowledges the contributions of the many volunteers and staff dedicated to serving museums throughout Saskatchewan.

We thank all organizations, businesses and individuals for contributing to the success of our activities in 2024-2025.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders:

