

Welcome to our First Quarterly Report!



Céline Perillat
President
MAS Board of Directors

A warm hello to all of our members from the MAS Board!

We hope you have all had busy and successful summer seasons, and are looking forward to the fall and the many activities and professional development opportunities the MAS staff are preparing for us.

I would also like to welcome you all to our newly revamped MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report. This report replaces MAS En Masse; we hope you will enjoy the streamlined format, while still getting all of the information you need to know about our great organization.

Please refer to the box below this message to be sure you will receive this report in the format you need – in an effort to be more fiscally and ecologically responsible, we would like to send most of our member communications by email, but we know this will not work for everyone. So if you need to receive printed copies of these reports, you need to contact the MAS Office before our next issue in January.

The Board has met twice since our very successful Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon at the end of May. You can read the highlights of our meetings in this report; full board meeting sum-

maries are also being posted regularly to the MAS website if you prefer to log on. We have primarily discussed staff and grant issues, and our planned organizational review and audit, trying to get MAS back on the right track. We appreciate your shared commitment to making our organization stronger!

With respect to staffing, I would like to make sure you are aware that our organization is now being led by Brenda Herman, our Director of Finance, and Wendy Fitch, our Director of Museum Development.

Brenda and Wendy have agreed to co-manage the organization while we wait for the results of the organizational review and audit to assist us in choosing new leadership for the organization. The Board has been very pleased with their efforts and thanks them both for their extra commitment of time and energy!

We are also pleased to welcome back Tammy Blancher as our Administrative Assistant, and Jessica Leavens, who is our Professional Development Coordinator this year. Lisa Thomson is also rejoining us in Communications, though she will be sharing her time between MAS and our exciting new GPS Project partnership you can read more about in

the Staff Report section.

MAS' organizational review and audit is expected to begin by early October. This is a very important step in making our organization stronger and more relevant, and we appreciate the support of SaskCulture for this initiative; I would encourage you to read more about this in the Board Meeting Summaries section of this report.

Overall, we're looking forward to an exciting year of growth and strengthening our organization. Your input, as members, is always important to us as we move forward. You can obtain contact information to reach any of the board members by calling the MAS Office at 1-866-568-7386.

We look forward to working with you again this year, and helping you achieve every success!

Sincerely,

Céline Perillat
President
Board of Directors
Museums Association of Saskatchewan

Do you need a printed copy of future issues of the MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report?

In an effort to be both fiscally and ecologically responsible, the MAS Board & Staff Quarterly Report will only be emailed to members, unless they request a printed copy be mailed to them. To get your next issue by regular mail instead of email, please call the MAS office toll-free at 1-866-568-7386. We will publish again in January 2010. Check out our website in the meantime at www.saskmuseums.org

The Museums Association of Saskatchewan's Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published in September, January, and March.

For more information, please contact us at:

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Regina, SK S4N 6E1
1-866-568-7386
www.saskmuseums.org*



Highlights—June 2009 Board Meeting

Federal MAS Funding for 2009-10

The Department of Canadian Heritage has approved MAS' application for funding for Education (Museum Development Project) with only minor reductions, which will allow MAS to continue to offer its full range of learning options this year.

Funding for the Aboriginal Initiatives project (Responsible Care and Handling of First People's Heritage Development Project) was not approved for this year. MAS was advised that "Assessors acknowledged the value in the project; however, concerns were raised regarding the project design and the level of community support demonstrated in the application."

This means that the Director of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage position will be vacant until further notice. However, MAS is still committed to moving forward with its Aboriginal initiatives in other ways, such as continuing the First People's and Saskatchewan Museums Committee and work on the projects already underway, such as the new First

People's Museums Studies course - 'Rethinking the Museum'.

Organizational Audit and Review

As our members know, MAS has recently experienced significant upheaval and, as a result, may have strayed from its foundation and goals. We are pleased to advise you that rebuilding is underway!

We have received a strong vote of confidence from SaskCulture, which has offered to fund an organizational audit and review for MAS. We have gratefully accepted this offer.

This organizational audit and review will include:

- a review of MAS documents and reports;
- discussions with the Board and staff to determine what MAS wants to do, for whom, and with whom, and identifying the financial and human resources necessary for accomplishing these goals;

- developing monitoring processes for the board and determining the governance structure which would best suit the needs of the organization; and

- developing an implementation plan to help us start moving forward.

Members will be kept informed of the progress of the review and asked for input at an appropriate stage in the process.

In the meantime, MAS will continue to conduct its activities, including applying for its annual grants and providing education, museum development, networking and communication opportunities to its members.

MAS 2009-10 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT
Céline Perillat

VICE PRESIDENT
Lucille Bullerwell

PAST PRESIDENT
Royce Pettyjohn

DIRECTORS
Ingrid Cazakoff Crystal Craig
Wayne Fennig Susan McKenzie
Gordon Steele Gary Young

Highlights—September 2009 Board Meeting

Organizational Audit and Review

The organizational audit and review, which was to have begun over the summer, has been delayed because the consultant, who is to be hired by SaskCulture, will not be available to start until late September or early October.

Recognizing the importance of the review, the Board has decided to begin its own review immediately, to compliment the organizational audit.

The two components of the Board's review at this time are:

- An ad hoc Policy Review Committee made up of Lucille Bullerwell, Ingrid Cazakoff, Crystal Craig and Wayne Fennig will begin immediately reviewing all current governance policies, and provide recommendations for changes. Operational policies will be reviewed next to ensure they comply with the policies. The goal is to have a set of policy documents which provide clear, consistent guidance to the Board and staff.

- As well, the Board will proceed with the review of the existing strategic plan and the development of a new one as soon as possible. A facilitator will be hired to guide the process. There will be opportu-

nities for member/stakeholder participation in the development of the new strategic plan built into the process.

Municipal Election Advocacy Guide

A Municipal Election Advocacy Guide will be sent to all institutional members at the end of September. It will include sample questions for both council and school board. It will also include information highlighting the impacts museums have on their communities – economically, socially and environmentally.

Highlights—September 2009 Board Meeting Continued

“Leadership 101”

Seven members of the Board plus both Brenda Herman and Wendy Fitch will attend the SaskCulture Gathering and AGM “Leadership 101” in Regina October 23rd, 24th & 25th.

SaskLotteries Trust

Work has begun on the application to SaskLotteries Trust for two-year operational funding. The Board has been actively involved, providing input into the

questions relating to governance evaluation and planning. Board members will represent MAS at the formal interview with members of the Cultural Advisory Committee (the group which juries the grant applications on behalf of SaskCulture) which is an important part of the application adjudication process.

2010 MAS Conference and AGM May 26-28 – Saskatoon

The dates and location for the 2010 MAS Conference and AGM have been finalized. It will take place in Saskatoon,

May 26th, 27th, & 28th. Staff at the Gabriel Dumont Institute will be chairing the local arrangements committee. It was also decided that the 2011 Mini-Conference and AGM will take place in Regina and that subsequent full conferences will be determined by an open bidding process. The bidding process will be in place in time to announce the location of the 2012 Conference and AGM at the Mini-Conference in 2011.

The preceding highlights have been taken from full Board Meeting Summaries which are posted after each meeting to the MAS website at

www.saskmuseums.org

Staff Report

Member Program Update

Board, staff and members all agree it is very important to rebuild relationships and strengthen connections between MAS and members who are mid-to-advanced career professionals. The institutions and individuals representing this group are an important part of MAS and MAS acknowledges the unique and integral voices of the members within this sector of the museum community. Currently, the Special Interest Program - including Special Interest Groups, Special Interest Group Representatives, specialized professional development, and the Coaching Program - is the key mechanism through which MAS connects with these members.

MAS has renewed its commitment to the mid-to-advanced career professionals and specifically, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The SIGs underwent change last year and are currently undergoing a membership renewal process in order to ensure the nine existing groups have demonstrated interest and relevance to their respective members. In the next year, staff will be reviewing the Special Interest Program in consultation with members of the Special Interest Groups in order to strengthen relationships and de-

velop professional development that meets the needs, priorities, and concerns of our diverse membership.

Grant Applications

The SaskLotteries Trust application for the MAS annual operational grant is due October 15. The Museums Assistance Program (MAP) professional development project grant application is due November 1. Staff are very busy working on both grant applications.

Office Space

MAS signed a new three-year lease on the current office space in February 2009. Prior to that, MAS viewed a number of potential spaces, but location, size, price and timing seemed to always be the issue. MAS wanted to downsize from 2932 sq. ft. to about 2000 sq. ft. There wasn't much to choose from at the time, so MAS secured its current space with a new lease.

However, we learned the office next door to us was looking for more space, and had the 2000 sq. ft. MAS wanted, so we

MAS 2009-10 Staff

CO-MANAGER
Brenda Herman
Director of Finance

CO-MANAGER
Wendy Fitch
Director of Museum Development

STAFF
Tammy Blancher, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Leavens, Professional Development
Lisa Thomson, Communications

will trade spaces. The savings to MAS are approximately \$10,000/year.

The move is currently scheduled for early November.

Advocacy Guide: Tools & Tips

The final edits to the *Advocacy Guide: Tools & Tips* document will be completed this fall. It will then be ready to be posted on the MAS website as soon as a members-only section is available.

A version of the guide – *Advocacy Technical Guide* — has been developed in partnership with University of Regina Justice Studies lecturer Gloria DeSantis, who will use it as the textbook for her Social Justice course this fall.

MAS Partnerships 2009

Project	Partner (s)	Timeframe
Advocacy Guide (course text)	University of Regina – Department of Justice Studies	2009-10
National History Education Network	The History Education Network/Histoire et Éducation en Réseau (THEN/HiER)	Ongoing
Family of Historic Sites SIG	Parks Canada	Ongoing
GPS Heritage Tour Pilot Project	Canadian Heritage Information Network , Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, Architectural Heritage Society of Saskatchewan, SaskTel, Southwest Tourism, South Central Enterprise Region, RCMP Heritage Centre, Aboriginal Tourism Association of Saskatchewan Inc., Natural Resources Canada	2009-10 pilot phase
Saskatchewan Best Practices/Standards for Visual Arts & Crafts Sector	CARFAC Sask, Sask Arts Alliance, Sask Arts Board, SaskCulture, Sask Professional Art Galleries Assoc., Sask Craft Council, OSAC, CARFAC National, National Association for the Visual Arts – Australia	Ongoing

MAS staff have also prepared a Municipal Election Advocacy Guide to assist members in advocating for museums during the municipal election period. This guide is also available on our website.

GPS Heritage Tour Project

MAS staff have been meeting on conference calls with a wide-ranging group of supporters in an effort to begin a pilot for the GPS Heritage Tour Project.

This project will bring Saskatchewan's heritage to TransCanada highway travellers in a brand new way, developing new audiences and enhancing interest in heritage in all audiences.

It will test the use of GPS and mobile technology as a means to inform travellers of heritage in rural locations. It will also be submitted to the experimental lab within the Virtual Museums of Canada website.

The target audience will be TransCanada

highway travellers. The concept is that, as they travel, audio and video commentary about the heritage that they are passing by will be made available to them via various technological means (GPS coordinates linked to cell phones, MP3 downloads, iPod applications etc.) Tourism visitor centres would integrate these new technologies into their current tourist offerings.

Ten to twelve museums and heritage sites will be selected as featured destinations for the pilot.

This is an innovative project for Saskatchewan, and has received broad-based support from heritage and government agencies across the province. Funding for Stage One of the project is expected from the provincial Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport. In addition, the project has significant support from the Canadian Heritage Information Network (CHIN), which is anticipated to fund Stage Two of the project (January-September 2010).

MAS thanks its sponsors for this project and its many partners who are providing

significant non-monetary support to the project. Networks in the pilot project area will be contacted by MAS staff in the coming weeks to discuss the application process.

Communications

MAS staff are working hard to stay in touch with you!

In addition to attendance at network and special interest group meetings, we also publish the following information items:

The Megaphone is a member feature and information piece published every second week and distributed on email and the website.

E-Phemera is an e-newsletter emailed to members and interested individuals every second week.

Board & Staff Quarterly Report is published in September, January and March and is emailed, posted on the website, and available by mail to members.



Have you enjoyed this inaugural issue of the Board & Staff Quarterly Report?

Are there ways we can improve? We'd love to hear from you! Please contact us:



Canadian Heritage / Patrimoine canadien

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Mail: 422 McDonald Street, Regina, SK S4N 6E1