

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



ASSOCIATION OF
NOVA SCOTIA
MUSEUMS

Land Acknowledgement and Commitment:

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude.

ANSM is a members-based organization that supports museums throughout the province. Due to historical and systemic biases, museums do not currently represent the experience of all Nova Scotians. The loss of language and the colonization of cultural identity, including Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian, Acadian, and Gaelic communities, has resulted in incomplete and inaccurate representations of cultural groups.

Narratives relating to Indigenous peoples, Nova Scotia as the birthplace of African presence in Canada for over 400 years, including enslavement and abolition, and the role of women, people of colour, LGBTQ2S+ people, and recent refugees and immigrants have not been adequately represented or made accessible.

We—ANSM, museums, and the greater heritage community—are actively addressing these challenges together. ANSM is using our training, resources, tools such as NovaMuse, and programs like TRACK, to work towards the inclusion of these stories in partnership with communities. We are creating spaces and collections in which all Nova Scotians will see their reflection.

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President's Message

Dear ANSM Members,

Museums as community hubs, museums as prescribed health care, museums as conversation starters, museums as collectors of intangible heritage, museums as participants in cooperative knowledge sharing and capacity building – these are all ways in which ANSM is helping to position museums as more than static display spaces. Each of these new and innovative identities for museums are supported by ongoing work in ANSM's projects, services, and resources.

And ANSM's work is driven by our members—an impressive and diverse group of museums, heritage institutions, businesses, and individuals across the province, who prove that the museum sector is vital, vibrant, and ever-changing.

We know you accomplish big things often with very little resources. We share your goals and concerns, and hope to be a unified voice for the Nova Scotia museum community. ANSM continues to advocate for museums at all levels of government, to find ways to offer scalable solutions for organizations of all sizes, and to provide inclusive education to ensure our members can continue their important work bettering our communities.

The association's own accomplishments are a result of an outstanding staff. A huge thank you to Devin Casario, Karin Kierstead, Alyssa Giles, Daniel MacDonald and the other staff and interns who have contributed precious time, energy, and expertise in the past year. It has been a pleasure to welcome Devin as the new Executive Director, and he has hit the ground running to ensure that ANSM is a stable, strong, and forward-thinking organization.

I would also like to thank the board, and all working groups and committees for their many volunteer hours, and their dedication to excellence. I hope you continue to find your involvement with ANSM to be a rewarding experience.

I would also like to acknowledge the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage; Canadian Heritage's Museums Assistance Program; Halifax Regional Municipality; and Support4Culture for their funding and support of our organization.

Last but not least, thank you for your membership. Thank you for showing up, for sharing, and for being invaluable parts of our association and the greater museum community. Wishing you all a wonderful summer season and year ahead,



Katie Tanner
ANSM President



Executive Director's Message

Dear Valued ANSM Members,

As I reflect on my short time with ANSM in preparing the 2023-24 Annual Report, I am filled with gratitude. I am grateful for our incredible staff (Karin, Alyssa, and Daniel) and our dynamic board of directors- all who helped make my transition as Executive Director as smooth as possible. I want to further acknowledge our members -our raison d'être- and the efforts put in by all those who serve on ANSM working groups and committees.

The past year was replete with challenges and opportunities both in the sector and as an organization. Museums throughout Nova Scotia continue to face substantial financial, operation, and environmental pressures. ANSM will continue to advocate for the sector at all levels of government and work with museums in addressing these challenges through training initiatives, workshops, and revenue-generating opportunities.

There are many positives to draw on from our collective work in 2023-24. My predecessor Maggie MacIntyre was the driving force behind an impactful provincial advocacy campaign and delivered the most successful and well-attended ANSM conference ever in Baddeck, Cape Breton. Programs Manager and ANSM mainstay Karin Kierstead worked tirelessly in preparation to launch the TRACK program after years of development. Our team brought forth many new projects and initiatives, including Prescribing Museums and the 'Père D'Entremont – Introducing Acadia's Historian to the World' project to be displayed at Le Congrès mondial acadien later this summer in Southwest Nova Scotia. The aforementioned is but a small sample of the work the ANSM team conducted over the past year- which you can read about in greater detail in the following pages of this report.

I know many of you have just opened or are in the process of opening your museums for the summer season. I wish everyone a successful year, and on behalf of ANSM, I reiterate our commitment to you in delivering our services and programs at the highest possible standard during the upcoming year and beyond.

Sincerely,



Devin Casario
Executive Director



Association of Nova Scotia Museums

Our Purpose: To nurture excellence in and champion on behalf of museums in Nova Scotia.

Land Acknowledgement and Commitment:

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums (ANSM) is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude.

Our Vision: ANSM is a vibrant not-for-profit organization led by our members. We are a national leader in the museum community that collaborates with many and diverse partners to provide relevant and engaging services that strengthen museums. We celebrate that museums in Nova Scotia are ever-changing. They reflect and are actively engaged in their communities, are environmentally and financially sustainable, and operate according to professional standards. Our natural and cultural history becomes inspiration for a better tomorrow.

Our Values: The following values underpin what ANSM does and how we work:

- Service - meet the needs of member museums so that we can together meet the needs of communities;
- Advocacy - act as a champion on behalf of and raise awareness about museums in Nova Scotia;
- Collaboration - engage in activities with local, provincial, national, and international partners that benefit our members and the museum sector as a whole;
- Inclusivity - recognize historical and systemic practices in museums, decolonize these practices, and work with museums and equity-deserving groups to find appropriate solutions;
- Sustainability - operate in environmentally responsible ways and work to ensure that ANSM and member museums have the resources they need to serve their communities.

ANSM Museum Definition: Museums are public institutions in the service of society and its development, with a shared responsibility to collect, preserve and communicate knowledge. They strive to be safe spaces that provide access to information and foster opportunities for critical thinking, learning, dialogue, collaboration and social action.

Members

As of March 31, 2023, the Association included 56 Advisory Service Museum Members, 41 Institutional Museum Members, 39 Individual Members, and 7 Affiliate Members. Members are involved with the Association in a variety of ways including serving as board and committee members, course participants and instructors, conference planners and presenters as well as project partners.

Honourary Members

Individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the Association and the Museums of Nova Scotia.

Brian Cuthbertson

Gary Selig

Eric Ruff

Wilma Stewart-White

Sylvia Whitehead

In Memoriam

ANSM would like to recognize the loss of three important members of the Nova Scotia heritage community.

Kim P. Franklin (1967-2023)

Dr. Ruth Whitehead (1947-2023)

Joan Isabelle McInnes (1947-2024)

Leadership

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums is led by its Board of Directors. This governance body is comprised of members elected by the ANSM membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Board is accountable to the membership and is collectively responsible for the governance of the Association. It is responsible for shaping organizational policy and ensuring its implementation. The Board identified the following priorities for 2023-24:

- Continued implementation of ANSM Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Hiring a new Executive Director to lead the organization
- Continued development and launch of TRACK program
- Advisory Service and related activity continue as core program, including Unlocking Community Museum Collections Project
- Relaunching the first in-person ANSM Conference since the pandemic era
- Increase advocacy to provincial government for improved communications and sustainable museum funding

Strategic Plan 2023-2026

A new strategic plan was developed in Fall-Winter 2022-23, and was presented at the June 2023 AGM. The plan will support ANSM's operations until the 2026 AGM. The new plan incorporates the following key issues: Transition, Realistic Expectations, and EDIA.

The strategic goals will focus on four key areas:

1. Services
2. Building Capacity
3. Bridging
4. Financial

The full plan is located on [the ANSM webpage](#). The ANSM Staff and Board of Directors continues to make extensive progress on the goals set forth in the plan.

Board of Directors 2023/2024

President: Katie Tanner, 2022-24

Vice-President: Tegan Rowlings, 2022-24

Treasurer/Central Regional Director: Joanne Boudreau, 2022-24

Secretary: Katherine MacLeod, 2023-25

Director at Large/Cape Breton Regional Director: Matthew Cook, 2022-24

Director at Large/Northeast Regional Director: Deborah Poole, 2023-25

Director at Large: Sara England, 2023-25

Director at Large/Southwest Regional Director: Samantha Brannen, 2023-25

Staff

Staff implement the Association's mandate to serve its members through evaluation, training, outreach and networking activities. They regularly attend regional meetings, events, exhibitions and programs, meetings, and planning sessions. They provide province-wide programs and services including site visits, consultations and workshops.

Devin Casario, Executive Director
Karin Kierstead, Programs Manager
Alyssa Giles, Member Services Coordinator
Daniel MacDonald, Communications and Admin Coordinator

Interns/Practicums

Jordyn Riou (Mount Saint Vincent University, April 2023)
Katie Virag (Fleming College, May - August 2023)
Lydia Ferguson (Saint Mary's University, July - August 2023)
Taryn Sheffield (Mount Saint Vincent University, September - December 2024)
Ella Poon (Centennial College, January - March 2024)

Partnerships 2023-2024

Partnerships are an intrinsic part of the operations and success of ANSM programs and initiatives. In turn, the Association offers its support and resources to organizations engaged in related work.

The Association partnered with the following companies and organizations in 2023-2024:

[Barrington Museum Complex](#)
[Canadian Conservation Institute](#)
[Canadian Heritage Information Network](#)
[Canadian Museums Association](#)
[Centennial College](#)
[Council of Nova Scotia Archives](#)
Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia
[Department of Canadian Heritage](#)
[Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage](#)
[Halifax Regional Municipality](#)
[Heritage Cape Breton Connection](#)
[LAMNS \(Libraries, Archives & Museums Nova Scotia\)](#)
[Membertou Heritage Park](#)
[Millbrook Heritage Centre](#)
[Mount Saint Vincent University](#)
[Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos](#)
[Nova Scotia Museum](#)

[Parks Canada](#)
[Saint Mary's University](#)
[Support4Culture](#)
[Les Trois Pignons Centre Culturel](#)
[University of Toronto](#)
[Whirl-i-gig](#)

Memberships 2023 -2024

ANSM is a member of:

[American Association for State & Local History](#)
[Canadian Museums Association](#)
[Heritage Cape Breton Connection](#)
[Council of Nova Scotia Archives](#)
Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia
[Impact Organizations of Nova Scotia](#)
[Indigenous Curatorial Collective](#)
[Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia](#)

The Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia (CFNS) is the umbrella organization that provides administrative and operational support for eight cultural federations (including ANSM) sharing combined office facilities and related cost share services. CFNS also provides access to a Pension & Health Benefits program for ANSM member organizations. The Executive Director of ANSM serves on the CFNS Management Committee as well as the Board of Directors.

Membership

Types of ANSM Memberships

An ANSM membership is a great way to connect with the museum community in Nova Scotia. ANSM serves as a champion on behalf of museums and educates Nova Scotians about the value of sharing our province's vibrant cultural history. Becoming an ANSM member offers many opportunities for professional development and networking, and is a way to become more involved in our museum community.

The membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. If you are interested in joining ANSM simply print and fill out a membership form or complete form online on our website.

Institutional Memberships

Type	Cost	Benefits
Blue Level: Museums and Societies with budgets of \$100,000 or less	\$100	• Learning event discounts for staff and board members (in person and virtual), including workshops, symposia, conferences and more. • Access to the Advisory Service • A link to your museum's website on our Members page • Eligibility to participate in the Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia Benefits Program • 2 Votes at the Annual General Meeting • Access to lending library • Sharing of Job Competitions through the ANSM Job Board and our bi-weekly e-newsletter The Beacon
Yellow Level: Museums and Societies with budgets of \$100,001-\$250,000	\$175	
Purple Level: Museums and Societies with budgets of \$250,001 - \$500,000	\$275	
Green Level: Museums and Societies with budgets of \$500,000 or more	\$500	
Affiliate Membership <i>For organizations that support the activities of museums in Nova Scotia</i>	\$100	• Learning event discounts for staff and board members (in person and virtual), including workshops, symposia, conferences and more. • A link to your organization's website on our Members page • Access to ANSM's lending library • Sharing of Job Competitions through the ANSM Job Board and twice a year ability to share information in our bi-weekly e-newsletter The Beacon

Individual Memberships

Type	Cost	Benefits
Individual Membership	\$50	• Learning event discounts (in person and virtual), including workshops, symposia, conferences and more. • 1 Vote at the Annual General Meeting • Access to ANSM's lending library
Student Membership	\$25	
Virtual Membership	\$35	• Learning event discounts (virtual only), including workshops, symposia, conferences and more.

Corporate Memberships

Type	Cost	Benefits
Corporate Membership <i>For businesses and organizations that are excited to benefit from visibility in, and engagement with, the museum community, while supporting the activities of museums in Nova Scotia</i>	\$500	• Logo in our bi-weekly e-newsletter The Beacon • Announcement with your logo in our annual report • A link to your business or organization's website on our Member Museums page • Learning even discounts (in person and virtual), including workshops, symposia, conferences and more • Access to ANSM's lending library • Sharing of Job Competitions through the ANSM Job Board and our bi-weekly e-newsletter The Beacon



Communications

Communications are a key area of activity for ANSM and we strive to keep information fresh, accurate, relevant, and useful. ANSM regularly communicates with members in a variety of ways including the Beacon e-newsletter, social media (Facebook & Twitter), blog posts and more. Our website provides information about the Association, its programs and events, job postings, organizational reports, personnel information, museological resources, lists of museum members by region with links, archives and sign-up capacity for the Beacon e-newsletter, online registration and payment options utilizing Stripe. The website links users to NovaMuse.ca as well as the ANSM and NovaMuse social media pages and staff blog.

Website statistics (April 1 2023 – March 31, 2024)

*12,629 users (up from 11,461 users in 2022-23)
67,137 page views (up 18,430 from 48707 in 2022-23)*

*3:19 minutes average time on site
2.87 average page views per visit*

Location:

*66% of users were from Canada
14% of users were from the US
20% of users were from the rest of the world*



The Beacon e-newsletter is a dynamic communication tool for ANSM. It provides information about professional development opportunities, new services and resources as well as changes to the organization. Resources link readers to articles, podcast links, projects, webinars, presentations, grants, advocacy alerts and job postings, as well as news from ANSM members, government agencies, and heritage-related organizations. Beacon Specials are dedicated newsletters that highlight particular ANSM events, news, conferences, or initiatives. Over the past year (April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024), 35 editions (including 9 Beacon Specials) were sent to 705 subscribers.

Over the past year ANSM has regularly provided information about membership renewals, workshops, conference registration, the ANSM Awards program and AGM notices. Community museums participating in the Advisory Service and the TRACK Program also received communication with information about the current year's Advisory Service activities and key training program information. Staff regularly attend



seasonal regional meetings in person, and provide reports on ANSM activities. The Fall meetings were sponsored by the TRACK program, which included providing lunch, to allow for broad membership consultation about proposed changes to the program. They also participate on committees of related heritage organizations as well attend meetings, museums' community activities, events and presentations.

ANSM staff provide expertise and support in consultation with museum members, provincial museum associations, government departments and others. Comprehensive written reports are provided to the Board of Directors by the Executive Director for each board meeting.



ANSM engages with the museum community and others on its social media platforms including Facebook and Twitter. The ANSM Facebook page is used to share our programs, members' events, heritage-related news, useful resources, pictures of museums and events and to keep in touch with interested individuals and organizations. The Facebook page has 2276 followers (an increase of 208 followers from 2022/23). The NovaMuse Facebook page has 741 followers (an increase of 45 followers from 2022/23). YouTube is used primarily for CollectiveAccess tutorials and to host hidden videos (link required to view them) of interest from our members. ANSM's YouTube page had 4664 views,

433 hours of watch time (double last year's watch time), and 193 subscribers. Similar amount of videos and views, but watching twice as long. Of interest, the Top 10 watched videos are all Collective Access Tutorial videos with the exception of "Preparing for TRACK in 2024" and "Museums as Agents of Change with Mike Murawski" ANSM started an Instagram account in October and has 158 followers. ANSM's use of Twitter has mostly been paused as the company rebrands from Twitter to X and changes how it functions.



Advisory Service Program

There are currently 56 museums in the Advisory Service. The Advisory Service is an additional fee-for-service that ANSM offers to museums and includes access to and usage of the CollectiveAccess database system, NovaMuse, and special projects. It also includes an annual site visit (in-person or virtual), training, remote support. The Advisory Service is supported by user fees and a Museum Assistance Program grant from Canadian Heritage.



Canadian
Heritage

Patrimoine
canadien

The CollectiveAccess Database continues to serve museums well. Advisory Service members have collectively documented +380,000 objects and linked +366,000 images and media files, demonstrating their commitment to make museum collections accessible online.

NovaMuseEd continues to grow as more museums share their educational programming offerings on NovaMuse. NovaMuseEd resources were downloaded +6,700 times over the course of the year, a 44% increase from the previous year.

ANSM submitted the 2023 MAP application (for 2024 Program) to Canadian Heritage on November 1st, 2023. In 2022, ANSM's Unlocking Community Museum Collections project successfully facilitated ANSM and member museums' connecting with four cultural communities to discuss how museums can better serve them. Audiovisual recordings were identified as a top priority and in 2023 ANSM worked with museums to inventory and assess analog formats in their collections and holdings. During this work, ANSM was surprised to discover a significant amount of born digital materials as well as digitized audiovisual content. Museums with these materials expressed a need for help in managing and sharing these digital assets. This was outside of the 2023 project scope and so was not addressed. A cursory sampling of digital files reveals many and varied file formats, file sizes, content, and potential privacy and copyright issues which are preventing museums from using these materials to their full potential.

For this proposed project, ANSM will collect a broad range of digital audiovisual file types and sizes and develop a series of training tools on their management (including intellectual property management) and online sharing. The CollectiveAccess database will be updated to facilitate time-based annotations, automated transcriptions via Whisper, and queued processing of large file uploads to mitigate server slowdown via ProjectSend.

ANSM will deliver new in-person group training on the cataloguing of digital materials and resolving intellectual property rights questions, and develop associated database help text, bilingual user manual additions, and YouTube tutorials to ensure that training tools are readily available beyond in-person training.

- 55 museums were visited in-person or virtually for the 2023 MAP Project.
- Completed Artefacts Canada export from CollectiveAccess for 34 museums.
- Rebranding discussion is underway for 2024.
- Hub training concluded on September 27, 2023. Attendance at Hub training was low (approximately 50%), which is in part due to late announcement of dates and in part due to preferring virtual training. The ANSM team has debriefed and strategized on how to increase attendance in future.

All Advisory Service activities at ANSM are guided by the Advisory Service Working Group. This group meets monthly, and membership is made up of Advisory Service Users as well as ex-officio members from HRM and NSM.

Advisory Service Group Members

2023 members:

1. Chara Kingston (Chair, Central Rep)
2. Anna Cross (NSM Rep)
3. Angie MacIsaac (Cape Breton Rep, Strait Area Museum)
4. Kellie McIvor (HRM Rep)
5. Jillian Barteaux (Southwest Rep, Annapolis Heritage Society)
6. Barry MacKenzie (Northeast Rep, Antigonish Heritage Museum)
7. Maggie MacIntyre (ANSM)
8. Karin Kierstead (ANSM)
9. Brittany Houghton (ANSM) (replaced by Alyssa Giles)

2024 members:

1. Angie MacIsaac (Chair, Cape Breton Rep)
2. Katie Tanner (Central Rep & ANSM Board Rep)
3. Anna Cross (NSM Rep)
4. Kellie McIvor (HRM Rep)
5. Dayle Crouse (Southwest Rep)
6. Darryl MacKenzie (Northeast Rep)
7. Karin Kierstead (ANSM)
8. Alyssa Giles (ANSM)

List of Advisory Service Museums (57) 2023-2024

1. [Acadian House Museum](#)
2. [Admiral Digby Museum](#)
3. [Africville Museum](#)
4. [Age of Sail Heritage Centre](#)
5. [Annapolis Heritage Society](#)
6. [Antigonish Heritage Museum](#)
7. [Army Museum](#)
8. [Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum](#)
9. [Avon River Heritage Museum](#)
10. [Black Cultural Centre](#)
11. [Cape Breton Miner's Museum](#)
12. [Cape Sable Historical Society](#)
13. [Carmichael-Stewart House](#)
14. [Charles MacDonald Concrete House](#)
15. [Chestico Museum](#)
16. [Cole Harbour Heritage Farm Museum](#)
17. [Colchester Historem](#)
18. [Cumberland County Museum & Archives](#)
19. [Dartmouth Heritage Museum](#)
20. [DesBrisay Museum](#)
21. [Fort Point Museum](#)
22. [Fultz House Museum](#)
23. [Islands Museum](#)
24. [Jost House Museum](#)
25. [Kings County Museum](#)
26. [LaHave Islands Marine Museum](#)
27. [LeNoir Forge Museum](#)
28. [Les Trois Pignons Cultural Centre](#)
29. [Little White Schoolhouse Museum](#)
30. [Lordly House Museum](#)
31. [Mabou Gaelic & Historical Society](#)
32. [MacDonald House Museum](#)
33. [MacDonald Museum \(Annapolis Valley\)](#)
34. [MacPhee House Museum](#)
35. [Malagash Heritage Museum](#)
36. [Margaret Fawcett Norrie Heritage Centre](#)
37. [Musée des Acadiens des Pubnicos](#)
38. [McCulloch Genealogy Centre](#)
39. [North Highlands Community Museum](#)
40. [Northumberland Fisheries Museum](#)
41. [Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame](#)
42. [Old Court House Museum](#)
43. [Old Sydney Society](#)
44. [Orangedale Railway Station Museum](#)
45. [Ottawa House by-the-Sea Museum](#)
46. [Parkdale-Maplewood Community Museum](#)
47. [Queens County Museum](#)
48. [Randall House Museum](#)
49. [Scott Manor House](#)
50. [Shelburne County Museum](#)
51. [Strait Area Museum](#)
52. [Sydney & Louisburg Railway Museum](#)
53. [Wallace and Area Museum](#)
54. [Waverley Heritage Museum](#)
55. [West Hants Historical Society](#)
56. [Whitney Pier Historical Museum](#)
57. [Yarmouth County Museum](#)

TRACK Program

This year was the final development year for TRACK. During this time, ANSM continued its work with a wide variety of museums, content experts, and community members to develop the program.

As part of program development, the following activities took place in 2023-24:

- **Training:** In 2023-24 several training opportunities (eight webinars) were presented to TRACK participants at little to no cost to registrants. All webinars were recorded and made available for re-watch on ANSM's YouTube. These offerings included:
- **Resources:** ANSM has a well-established resource lending library, as well as an extensive assortment of resources on its website and office.
- **Coaching:** Coaching will be a key part of TRACK, which will include supporting museums in their training and assessment process.
- **Knowledge-Sharing:** At regional meetings and in user surveys, ANSM regularly heard that museums want to learn from each other. TRACK sponsored the 2023 Fall regional meetings to bring together museums in-person. This allowed ANSM to discuss the future of TRACK with participants, as well as encourage knowledge-sharing that already happens at these meetings. The Fall regional meetings were used to discuss a proposed significant change to the program – moving from a full assessment for museums once every four years to doing two sections of the assessment every year, repeating every four years. Museums in all four regions were very positive about this change as they felt it would encourage regional collaboration and facilitate knowledge-sharing.
- **Assessment:** Assessment will replace the evaluation document. Last year, the ANSM staff and TRACK working group used the Museum Evaluation Program evaluation tool to create a first draft of the assessment tool. This included dividing the assessment tool into standards questions, expert peer review questions, and self-reflection.
- ANSM staff launched the TRACK program at the Regional Fall Meetings.
- TRACK Working Group met most months, although these meetings were paused over July as museums were in their busy season.
- Tuesdays on TRACK' training were well attended.
- TRACK continues to be a funding requirement for CMAP Museums as well as museums who applied to the one-time funding.
- A calendar for TRACK has been developed and was approved at the August 31 TRACK Working Group Meeting.

TRACK Timeline

Launch of New Year	Regional Meetings (October)
Assessment Forms Released	Regional Meetings (October)
Needs Assessment Due	mid-February
Tuesdays on TRACK - prep session (1hr)	end of February
Release Needs Assessment Report	April (Spring Regional Meetings)
Workshop (3 hr with Coach)	April (Spring Regional Meetings)
Release Training Schedule	April (Spring Regional Meetings)
Part 1 Report to CCTH (Needs)	April
CMAP Applications Due	Early May (NOT ANSM)
Tuesdays on TRACK (2nd Tues)	May, June, July, August
Coaching by Sign-up (2 weeks later)	May, June, July, August
Submit Standards & Peer Review	mid-September
Peer Reviews (minimum 2 weeks)	October
Site reports (Standards & Peer Review)	November (no appeals)
Confirmation to museums they are "On TRACK"	November
Final Trends Report to CCTH	January
"On TRACK" List to CCTH	January

The yearly pairings were confirmed confirmed as:

- Governance and Community. Year 1.
- Interpretation and Communications. Year 2.
- Management and Finances. Year 3.
- Collections and Facility. Year 4.

TRACK training sessions 2023-24:

Apr. 18, 2023
FINANCIAL STABILITY
With David Oyler
Webinar: Revenue Generation for Museums

May 16, 2023
COMMUNITY
With Dr. Candace Tangorra Matelic
Webinar: Does your museum have an audience or a community?

June 13, 2023
INTERPRETATION
With Rosie Browning
Webinar: Changing Interpretation in Historic House Museums

July 18, 2023
FACILITY MANAGEMENT
With Ian Loughead, Barry Rodenhiser & Kellie McIvor
Webinar: Roundtable on Emergency Preparedness

Aug. 15, 2023
COLLECTION & ACCESS TO INFORMATION
With Dale Jarvis
Webinar: Intangible Heritage in Museum Collections

Sept. 26, 2023
GOVERNANCE
With Virginia Stephen
Webinar: I'm on the board, now what? Types of boards and the work they do.

Oct. 17, 2023
MANAGEMENT
With Jennifer Mizzi
Webinar: Embracing Generational Diversity in Museums: Bridging the Gap

Nov. 14, 2023
COMMUNICATIONS
With Victoria Castle
Webinar: Web-Based Communications

Jan. 17, 2024

PREPARING FOR TRACK 2024

With Karin Kierstead

Webinar: Preparing for TRACK 2024

TRACK is made possible through support by the
Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage.

All TRACK activities at ANSM are guided by the TRACK Working Group. This group meets monthly, and membership comprises of museums enrolled in the TRACK program – both CMAP, NSM, and non-CMAP/NSM museums.

TRACK Working Group 2023-2024:

Lynette de Montreuil- Desbrisay Museum

Joanne Boudreau, Fultz House Museum (January - March 2024)

Rodney Chaisson, Highland Village Museum (April - December 2023)

Nicole Dalrymple, Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (April - December 2023)

Karin Kierstead, Association of Nova Scotia Museums

Amber Laurie, Nova Scotia Museum (April 2023 - January 2024)

Maggie MacIntyre, Association of Nova Scotia Museums (April - October 2023)

Teresa MacKenzie, McCulloch House & Genealogy Centre (April - December 2023)

Kellie McIvor, Halifax Regional Municipality

Claire Roach, Old Sydney Society (January - March 2024)

Barry Rodenhiser, Atlantic Canada Aviation Museum (September 2023 - March 2024)



Acadian Affairs Pere d'Entremont Project (Reconciliation Plan)

In October of 2023, a funding request was approved by Acadian Affairs (*Pere d'Entremont project with Acadian museums*) in time for Le Congrès next year. ANSM received \$24,000 for this project. Further, this project was accepted by the University of Toronto Master of Museums Studies as a Capstone project. Capstone Project are final year projects in which students work with a partnering cultural institution to develop exhibitions from initial concept to final public showing. This included partial funding from U of T.

- ANSM worked with University of Toronto Master of Museum Studies Students to develop 3 pop-up banners to be displayed at community sites during the Congrès Mondial Acadien 2024 in August, as well as two educational resources about the Acadian community that will be uploaded to NovaMuseEd.
- Banner content was completed; community partners have reviewed written content and designs and provided feedback and approval.
- Educational resources have been completed; focus was one activity on Genealogy for Grade 5 and one on Acadian Place Names for Grade 7.
- ANSM worked with Whirl-i-Gig to develop a storytelling tool/page on NovaMuseEd ahead of the Congrès Mondial Acadien; this page allows ANSM to tell stories of individuals, organizations, or events and connect them to the many resources already available on NovaMuse; Pere d'Entremont's story will be the pilot page.



Prescribing Museums

ANSM received project funding from the Nova Scotia Museum to explore social prescribing in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Health Authority. The following scope of work was approved by NSM Director Laura Bennet in March 2024:

The first phase will explore the capacity of the museum sector byway of an education and awareness campaign, survey(s), consultations, and an asset mapping exercise (Readiness Assessments and data collection). Through this work we will identify potential pilot sites, as well as explore training needs/models for sector staff. (ANSM, Advisor, and Steering Committee).

The second phase will commence after we have an opportunity to examine the results/framework of the NSHA report and augment any gaps within their study, align/integrate the museum sector within their proposed operational framework, as well as exploring the museum sector as a provincial pilot. (External Consultant, Steering Committee) We feel that ANSM staff is best positioned to do Phase I due to our intricate knowledge of the sector, relationships with member museums, as well as regional and government representatives.



2023 ANSM Conference and Awards

- The 2023 ANSM Conference- 'Museum Care' took place in Baddeck, Cape Breton, and was a resounding success.
- Panels and workshops were well attended, with approximately 100 registered delegates, including the entire Board of Directors.
- There were five bursary recipients (Dr. Peter Cullen Award). Bursary recipients were reimbursed their full registration cost to attend the conference.
- 2024 ANSM Conference was announced for Lunenburg (October 2-4).

The 2023 Conference Program can be found on the ANSM website here: [2023 Conference Program | Association of Nova Scotia Museums](#)

2023-24 Conference Committee Members

Maggie MacIntyre - ANSM

Angie MacIsaac - Strait Area Museum

Claire Roach- Old Sydney Society

Alexandra Hernould- Museum of Natural History

Joni Thomas- Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Katherine MacLeod- Highland Village

Matthew Cook- Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site

Sara England - Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21

Sarah MacInnes - Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site

Additional thanks to Shaina Scrimgeour and Rabab Khan of Gemstone Event Management



Awards

ANSM continues to celebrate individuals, volunteers, and staff, as well as organizations who have made remarkable contributions to our community of museums in Nova Scotia through the Award for Excellence in Museum Practices.

ANSM presented the Awards for Excellence in Museum Practices program for the eleventh consecutive year.

ANSM accepts nominations in two awards categories—Individual Contribution, and Programming by an Organization. The association was pleased to receive nominations for both categories this year, and to be able to announce a winner in each.

Over the past year, the dedicated work of the ANSM Board of Directors and Awards Committee members—Matt Cook, Lisa Wolfe, Debra MacNabb, and Samantha Brannan has made this year's awards presentations possible.

ANSM presented the Awards for Excellence in Museum Practices at the 2023 Conference in Baddeck, Cape Breton. Awards are presented in two categories: Individual Contribution, and Programming by an Organization.

2022 Association of Nova Scotia Museums Award for Excellence in Museum Practices, Programming by an Organization

The Award of Excellence in Museum Practices, Programming by an Organization was presented to the Museum of Industry for its exhibit, "Hockey: Whose Game Is It?"

"Hockey: Whose Game Is It?," an exhibit developed and curated by the Museum of Industry, has moved into the Scotiabank Centre as part of a partnership with the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame. The exhibit explores hockey's roots in Nova Scotia and the sport's diverse origins and influences. Featuring history and stars from across the province, "Hockey: Whose Game Is It?" celebrates contributions to the sport from various communities, including the Mi'kmaq people, African Nova Scotians, and women. The exhibit also showcases Nova Scotia's influence on the development of hockey equipment through a Starr Skates display, while also illustrating the different eras of hockey and connections to industry, society, media, and more."

2022 Association of Nova Scotia Museums Award for Excellence in Museum Practices, Individual Contribution

The Award of Excellence in Museum Practices, Individual Contribution was presented to Doug Berrigan of LaHave Islands Marine Museum

"Doug Berrigan has been the president of the LaHave Islands Marine Museum for 24 years. During that time, Doug has demonstrated outstanding leadership. It is not an exaggeration to say that without Doug, the museum would probably have closed many years ago. His vision for the museum has been the driving force behind the LaHave Islands Marine Museum Society, fueled in part by his good memories of childhood experiences while living on one of the islands, and also by his conviction that this history is important to preserve, through the careful stewardship of original artifacts and stories."



Advocacy

Provincial:

ANSM staff and board continue to work with the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage to ensure the needs of museums are being met and facilitate the Department working with museums. This includes meetings with Culture and Heritage Development staff about CMAP and museum funding programs as well as meetings with Archives, Museums, and Libraries division.

Executive Director Devin Casario wrote a letter to Minister MacMaster in the Fall of 2023, thanking the Minister for the increased funding to the sector as well as requesting a meeting when his schedule allows.

Federal:

In preparation for the National Museum Policy renewal, ANSM is working with the Canadian Museums Association on a letter writing campaign to the new Minister of Canadian Heritage. ANSM also nominated Heather Stevens, Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre, to attend Hill Day 2024 (Ottawa), alongside Executive Director Devin Casario.

ANSM participated in national meetings throughout the year and worked in close collaboration with the national body of provincial and territorial associations. The PTMAs' have a standing meeting once per month and support each other by way of sharing knowledge and resources.

Municipal:

Executive Director Devin Casario and ANSM President Katie Tanner met with Mayor Mike Savage in January 2024 to advocate on behalf of our Central members.

2023-24 Advocacy Working Group Members

Tegan Rowlings- Musquodoboit Harbour Railway Museum

Maggie MacIntyre- ANSM

Devin Casario- ANSM

Joanne Peppers - Dartmouth Heritage Museum

Sam Brennan - Barrington Museum Complex

Pauline MacLean - Highland Village

Janice Kirkbright - Cole Harbour Heritage Farm

Claire Grazette - Annapolis Valley Macdonald Museum

Jill Scanlen-Graham

Education, Workshops, and Training

ANSM continued to work with local universities. In the winter of 2024 ANSM continued its partnership with Saint Mary's University (6-credit course, "Museum Fundamentals & Decolonizing Collections") developed by Programs Manager Karin Kierstead. Karin led the integrated practicum, meeting with students once per week over twelve weeks.

ANSM offered several additional workshops, offered outside of regular ANSM programming. These included regional Cultural Awareness Training Session in Digby, Membertou, and Millbrook.

All training and education activities at ANSM are guided by the Education and Training Working Group. This group has been paused since the summer of 2023, however will be active in 2024-25.

Group Members:

Sara England - Canadian Museum of Immigration
Alex Hernould - Museum of Natural History
Sharon Murray - Council of Nova Scotia Archives
Jade Atkins - Fundy Geological Museum
Chris Bellemore - Parks Canada
Maggie MacIntyre- ANSM
Sandi Stewart

Training Sessions

Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Day, Membertou Heritage Park - April 26, 2023

Museums 101 webinar series - May-June 2023

Mi'kmaq Community Engagement Day, Millbrook Cultural & Heritage Centre - May 12, 2023

You Hired a Student, Now What? webinar - May 30, 2023

Start Strong - Making the Most of Your Work Placement webinar - June 6, 2023

Mi'kmaq Cultural Training Day, Digby Pines Resort - November 6, 2023

A Look Ahead

ANSM will continue to deliver all programs as outlined in the 2023-24 Year End Report. After successive years of development, the TRACK program has now been officially launched. We also have number of new initiatives/ programs that we are launching including but not limited to:

1. Prescribing Museums
2. Pere d'Entremont (Acadian Affairs)
3. Relaunching the Museum Studies Program
4. 50-50 Halftime Fundraising initiative
5. 2024 Conference in Lunenburg, NS

ANSM will continue its advocacy and EDIA awareness and implementation efforts.

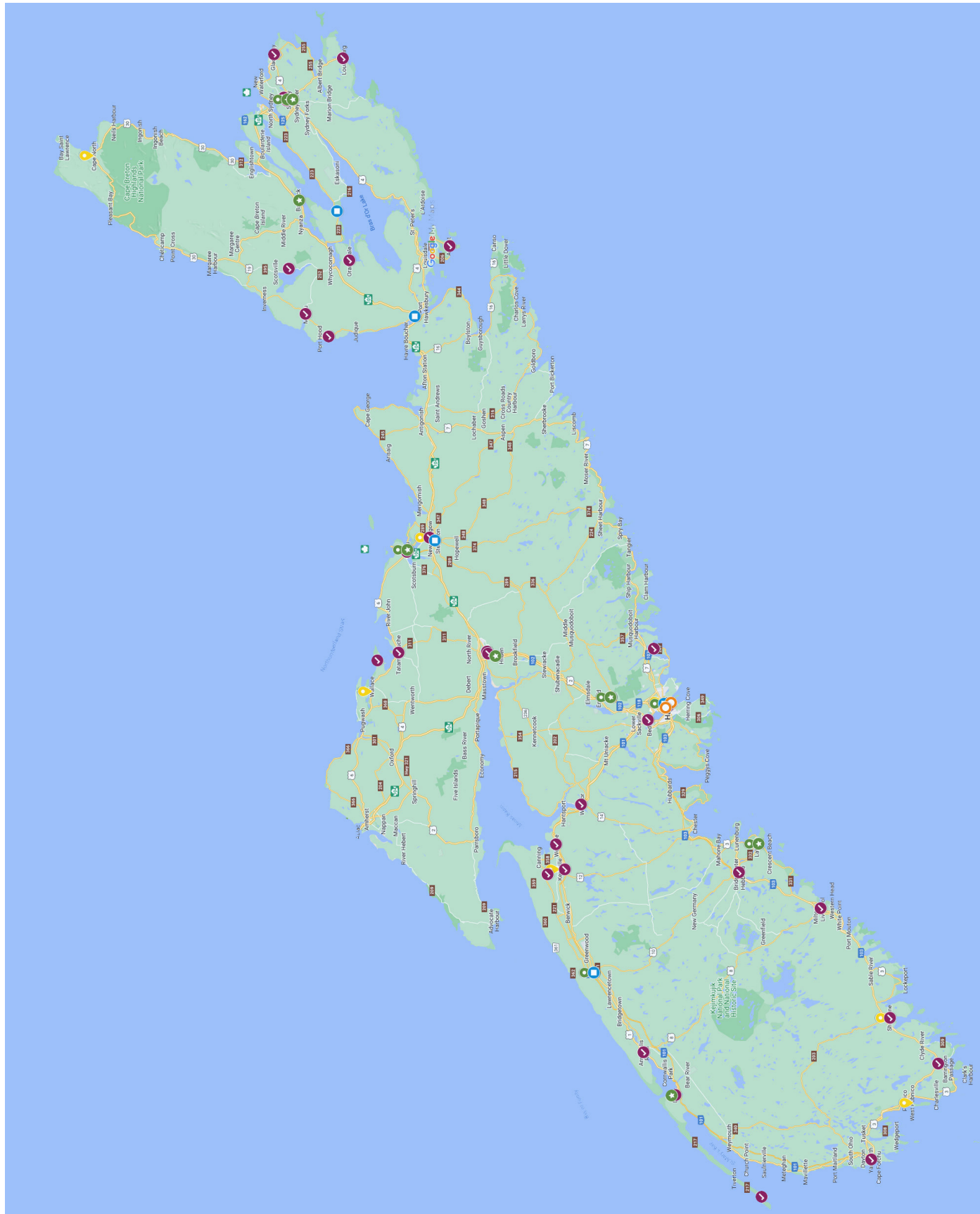


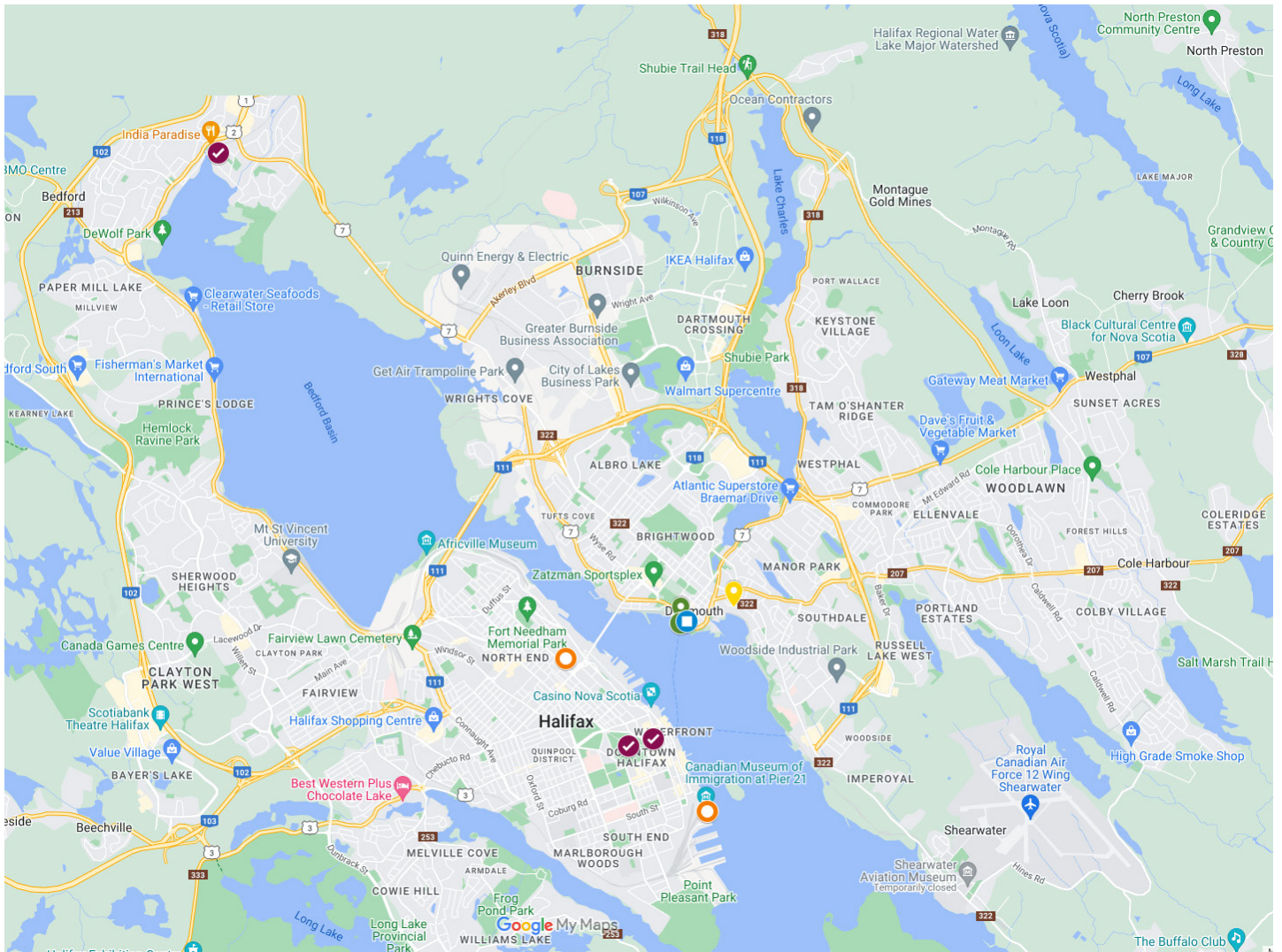
Museum Accreditation Program

The Museum Accreditation Program is currently paused and is being reevaluated. It is anticipated that the Accreditation Program will be relaunched in late 2024 and have a direct connection with the TRACK Program.



Engagement Map





ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

Year Ended March 31, 2024

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INDEPENDENT REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Members of the ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Report on the Financial Statements

I have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS, that comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2024 and the statements of operations and surplus and schedule of expenses for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Practitioner's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on my review. I conducted my review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements which require me to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the organization, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS as at March 31, 2024 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting standards for not-for-profit enterprises.

date

Chartered Professional Accountant, CA

PO Box 44075

Bedford, NS B4A 3X5

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS**Balance Sheet***(Unaudited)***March 31, 2024****2024****2023****ASSETS**

Current

Cash and term deposits	\$	277,551	\$	218,964
Accounts receivable		2,380		-
HST recoverable		11,753		7,464
Prepaid expenses and other current assets		1,017		4,605
	\$	292,701	\$	231,033

LIABILITIES AND SURPLUS

Current liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$	8,337	\$	5,651
Deferred revenue (note 5)		144,936		108,316
		153,273		113,967

SURPLUS

Unrestricted surplus		89,775		66,383
Restricted surplus (note 6)		49,653		50,683
		139,428		117,066
	\$	292,701	\$	231,033

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Approved by:

Director: _____

Director: _____

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS
Statement of Operations and Surplus

(Unaudited)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2024

2024

2023

Revenue

Public funding

Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage

\$ 120,000 \$ 85,000

Lottery

6,250 6,250

MAP training grant

39,000 70,500

Evaluation program

- 6,000

SDI - strategic plan

- 4,850

Track

100,000 100,000

CMA conference sponsors

15,000 13,000

Conference burseries

8,297 1,115

288,547 286,715

Earned revenue

Memberships

25,340 19,683

Fee for service

7,900 17,350

Workshops

22,895 13,554

Other income

11,483 6,452

Donations and sponsorships

2,050 2,259

69,923 59,298

Total revenues

358,470 346,013

Expenses

Leadership

87,617 71,694

Support services

96,918 68,388

Programs

150,543 166,114

335,078 306,196

Excess of revenues over expenses

\$ 23,392 \$ 39,817

Unrestricted surplus, beginning of year

\$ 66,383 \$ 26,566

Excess of revenues over expenses

23,392 39,817

Unrestricted surplus, end of year

\$ 89,775 \$ 66,383

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Statement of Cash Flows

(Unaudited)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2024

2024

2023

Cash flow from operating activities		
Cash received from funders and members	\$ 387,392	\$ 441,282
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(328,804)	(347,992)
	58,588	93,290
Cash flow from investing activities	-	-
Cash flow from financing activities	-	-
Net cash provided (used)	58,588	93,290
Cash and cash equivalents		
Beginning of year	218,963	125,673
End of year	\$ 277,551	\$ 218,963

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Cash flow supplemental information

Total revenues	\$ 358,470	\$ 346,013
Accounts receivable - current year	(14,132)	(7,464)
Accounts receivable - prior year	7,463	3,936
Deferred revenue - current year	144,936	108,316
Deferred revenue - prior year	(108,315)	(9,519)
Reduction in restricted surplus	(1,030)	-
Cash received from funders and members	\$ 387,392	\$ 441,282
Total expenses	\$ 335,078	\$ 306,196
Accounts payable - prior year	5,651	46,141
Accounts payable - current year	(8,337)	(5,651)
Change in prepaids	(3,588)	1,306
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	\$ 328,804	\$ 347,992

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Schedule of Expenses

(Unaudited)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2024

2024

2023

Leadership

Salaries and benefits	84,930	69,687
Travel and meals	1,592	750
Board meetings & costs	1,095	1,257
	\$ 87,617	\$ 71,694

Support services

Conference and AGM	242	304
Bank charges	3,728	1,151
Directors and officers insurance	827	830
Memberships and fees	614	1,566
Office supplies & expenses	3,236	1,141
Postage & delivery	247	586
Professional development	1,327	2,550
Professional fees	10,615	9,127
Salaries and benefits	70,384	41,156
Telephone, fax and internet	3,116	5,752
Website development	-	111
Other admin expenses	2,582	4,114
	\$ 96,918	\$ 68,388

Program expenditures

Marketing and fundraising	27,066	-
CMA conference	15,113	16,781
Insurance	1,678	1,501
Workshops & symposiums	6,801	8,276
Advisory services	14,725	33,429
Evaluation program	85,160	98,849
SDI Lifecycle toolkit	-	1,838
Support4Culture project	-	288
Strategic plan	-	5,152
	\$ 150,543	\$ 166,114

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2024

2024

2023

1. Purpose of the organization

The Association of Nova Scotia Museums (the "ANSM") was incorporated under the Nova Scotia Societies Act and its mandate is, working in partnership with museums, communities and supporters, to

- Encourage the development of professional best practices in Nova Scotia's museums
- Educate Nova Scotians about the value of museums and Nova Scotian stories
- Act as a champion on behalf of museums in Nova Scotia

The ANSM is a not for profit organization and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash and cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents consist primarily of term deposits and deposits with a maturity date within one year. Because of the short term nature of these investments, their carrying amount approximated fair market value.

Capital assets

The ANSM has adopted the policy of expensing all capital assets in the year of acquisition. During the current year \$0 (2022 - \$0) of equipment was expensed. The ANSM owns various office furniture, equipment and computer equipment which are not recorded as capital assets.

Revenue recognition

The ANSM follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Contributions relating to future programs are deferred and recognized when the related expenses are incurred.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Calculation of deferred revenues is the most significant item that involves the use of estimates.

3. Financial instruments

ANSM's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, trade receivables and payables. The fair values of these financial instruments approximate their carrying values. It is managements opinion that the ANSM is not exposed to significant interest rate, currency or credit risks associated with these financial instruments.

ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUMS

Notes to Financial Statements

(Unaudited)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2024

2024

2023

4. Economic dependence

The ANSM is dependent on funds received from the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage for continuation of its operations.

5. Deferred revenue

The following contributions were received in the current fiscal year which relate to programs and activities continuing into the next fiscal year;

MuseFund endowment	\$	2,554	\$	2,554
Acadian Affairs		24,000		-
Conference bursary		1,384		-
Conference deposit in advance		2,911		2,911
Conference sponsorship		17,000		20,000
Marketing project		4,237		-
Halifax Regional Municipality		6,000		6,000
SDI - Life cycle toolkit		1,850		1,850
Training workshop		10,000		-
Health benefits study		75,000		75,000
	\$	144,936	\$	108,315

6. Restricted surplus

Subject to Board approval, the ANSM allocates unrestricted surplus for future committed projects. As at March 31, 2024, the Board has committed funds to the following:

NovaMuse / Collective Access disaster recovery fund	\$	8,834	\$	8,834
Advisory Service Supplementary Fund		819		1,849
Reserve for Operational Funding		40,000		40,000
	\$	49,653	\$	50,683

The Association has capped the reserve for operational funding at \$40,000, the purpose of which is to allow for an orderly windup of the operations of the Association in the event current ongoing funding is cut or discontinued.

7. Related party transactions

The Cultural Federations of Nova Scotia ("CFNS") provides premises to the ANSM on a rent free basis, subject to a charge for any operating deficit of the CFNS. In addition, the ANSM purchases certain shared services from the CFNS on a cost recovery basis.