



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

VALLA MCLEAN, PRESIDENT

Spring is in the air! And with it renewed hope and plans for the future. As a member of the Archives Society of Alberta, did you know that you can apply for funding to support your professional development needs. There are several grants available. If you are a student enrolled full-time in an archival studies or equivalent program, we offer a [bursary](#) of up to \$1500 for tuition, books, and other related expenses! The [Professional Development Travel Assistance](#) grant will cover a portion your registration, transportation expenses, accommodation, and meals for a non-ASA opportunity. Maybe you've always wanted to attend the Archives Society of Alberta's Archives Institute but couldn't find the funding. The [Education Program Travel Assistance](#) could be the solution to your problem. This grant can be used to pay for transportation, accommodation, and meals associated with attending the Institute. And bookmark this travel grant for next year: [Archives Society of Alberta Conference Travel Grant](#). Do you plan to attend the Archives Society of Alberta conference in 2023? This grant can help pay for transportation and accommodation costs associated with attending or presenting at the biennial conference.

The Archives Society of Alberta's Education and Travel Grant Program is often an underutilized fund, so don't be shy; apply!

For more details on each grant, application forms, deadlines, and funding amounts, check out the Archives Society of Alberta website under Education and Travel Grant Program (link: <https://archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/grants-education/>)

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STATEMENT ON ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA'S ARCHIVES ADVISOR

SUBMITTED BY ASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

You may have heard that our sister organization, the Archives Association of Ontario, recently made the difficult decision to cut its Archives Advisor Program. The ASA Board of Directors wishes to reassure members that a similar cut here in Alberta is not forthcoming. In our last canvassing of membership (2019), the [Advisory Services Program \(Archives Advisor\)](#) was rated by ASA members as one of the most useful services and programs offered by the ASA. In any given year, 10% of Institutional, Individual and Associate members make use of this service.

The ASA Board recognizes that the Archives Advisor is critical, ensuring that records and information in our province's archives are preserved and made publicly accessible. Since 1995, the Advisor has assisted many archives in the development of robust archival programs that align with professional best practices. In light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the recently published Reconciliation Framework for Canadian Archives, our Advisory Services program also supports Indigenous archives as they work to establish sovereignty over their own information. Many volunteer-run and community archives throughout Alberta rely heavily on our Advisory Services Program for professional advice to support preservation and the provision of access to documentary heritage.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ARCHIVES ADVISOR

RENE GEORGOPALIS

This season is always a busy time at the Archives Society of Alberta. It is our year end and budget planning time for our next year. The Government of Alberta's budget dropped on February 24 and the budget line from which ASA is funded, the provincial heritage organizations, remains the same as last year. That budget line funds 6 organizations. At the time of writing this article, I am still waiting for news on ASA's exact allotment of funding. Unfortunately, we are not anticipating a return to previous funding so we are still unable to offer project grants for our Institutional Members. I understand that it is frustrating not to have many grant programs for archives. For most of our institutional members, the only grant available to get any archival work done is through the federal program, Young Canada Works.



At ASA I have been trying to get a funding to work on developing an Introduction to Indigenous Archives course but I seem to continually hit a brick wall. In a time when archives and reconciliation work is in the news with discoveries of unmarked graves, Indigenous collections at the Vatican, etc., it is astonishing that our sites are unable to acquire funding to assist with this type of work. I am trying to remain hopeful that funding improves for both reconciliation work in archives and archival work generally.

In other news, we are trying to host both our first hybrid Institutional Forum and Annual General Meeting for May 27. I have been busy planning how to conduct this well with our Administrative Assistant, Ashwini. I am also looking forward at the prospect of having some of our members finally see our new office! Please stay tuned for announcements very soon on these meetings. It is so exciting. I have not thought about catering in so long.

We also hosted two offerings of Describing Electronic Records: A Hands-On Workshop. Both of these workshops had full registration at 30 participants for each offering. I hope those of you who wished to attend had the opportunity. Vino talks about his experience of the workshop in this newsletter.

We are planning more workshops for 2022-23 as well as our 2023 conference planning is just underway. We will be needing members to help with our program committee so a call will be coming out in the late spring. Furthermore, we have an AGM approaching and we will be getting new board members. If you are interested in working on the board and shaping the direction of our organization, please let us know.

I hope to see many of you this May at our meetings.

DESCRIBING ELECTRONIC RECORDS: A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

VINO VIPULANANTHARAJAH

The ASA hosted an online course looking at describing electronic records on March 4, 2022. Due to popular demand, another session was given on March 18! The course was instructed by Annalise Berdini and Shira Peltzman, digital archivists at Princeton University and UCLA Library, respectively.

This workshop was an interactive experience that looked the particular challenges of creating descriptions and finding aids pertaining to electronic materials. One of the key topics discussed was access dependencies on electronic materials, which looked at both technical and non-technical requirements for making these materials available to the public. Having clear documentation about these dependencies is important so that you can set better expectations for the researcher on access. The workshop included three activities working in groups that helped better illustrate the main points in real world examples. It was a fun session overall, a great start for those of us who are starting to get into the realm of managing electronic records. Always a pleasure spending time with fellow colleagues as well!

BURSARY

ASA members who are attending graduate school in archival studies are eligible to receive a bursary of \$1500 to support their studies.

Eligibility:

- Alberta resident or has a permanent address in Alberta
- ASA individual member in good standing
- Full-time student in a graduate program in archival studies

Criteria for Selection:

- Academic and/or professional merit
- Potential for contributing to Alberta's archival community
- Preference given to first-time applicants

Deadline: July 29, 2022

For more information and to apply visit: <http://archivesalberta.org/programs-and-services/grants-education/grants-education-bursary>

If you have questions, please contact Rene Georgopolis at reneg@archivesalberta.org

NOMINATIONS

Elected Positions

Nominations are requested for the following positions to be elected at the AGM:

President

Individual-Member-at-Large

Treasurer

The term of service for these positions is the period between the 2022 and 2024 AGM's. Please contact the Chair if you have a nomination for a Board position.

Questions? Contact Philip Pype, Chair of Nominations and Awards (phipyp@medicinehate.ca or Rene Georgopolis, ASA Executive Director /Archives Advisor (reneg@archivesalberta.org).

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Dennis Slater from the Alberta Health Services Archives is soon retiring. Also, this June, Bonnie Woelk is retiring from the University of Calgary. Congratulations to both of you and we wish you well on the next chapter of your life.

There are a few archives that are getting new facilities in the near future. These archives include Red Crow Community College which is at the Blood Reserve in Standoff Alberta, as well as Lacombe and District Historical Society in Lacombe and South Peace Regional Archives in Grande Prairie. Getting a new facility is so exciting and so much work. Congratulations and good luck with your projects.

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published quarterly by the Archives Society of Alberta. Submissions, questions and suggestions should be directed to the Newsletter Editor c/o:

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Individuals and institutions are encouraged to submit articles, reviews, reports, photographs or letters to the editor to the Archives Society of Alberta News, Issues #1, 2, and 3. Submissions are preferred in electronic format as Word files for textual submissions, or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

Please note:

Issue #4 is reserved for Annual Reports of the Society and its committees.

The views expressed in the Archives Society of Alberta Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Archives Society of Alberta or its Editor.



The Archives Society of Alberta is supported in part by a grant from the Government of Alberta.

ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2021 – 2022

Name (Institution or Individual) _____

Address _____

City _____

Province _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ - _____

Business Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Fax (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Voting Delegate (Associate) _____

Institutional Affiliation (Individual Members) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Please Check

- Archives Employee..... \$60.00
- Students, Volunteers, Seniors \$30.00
- Associate Institutional Member \$90.00
- Institutional Member (Please contact the ASA for further information)
- Yes, I would like to volunteer for an ASA Committee

Credit Card No. _____

Expiry _____ Visa MasterCard

Card holder name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Please make cheque or money order payable to the Archives Society of Alberta and mail to:

Archives Society of Alberta
Prince of Wales Armouries and Heritage Centre
216-10440 108 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9