

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: REPRESENTATION

PHILIP PYPE, PRESIDENT



Representation is one of the most difficult goals in archives; in our holdings and within our staff, we need to achieve diversity of gender, ethnic or religious background, ability, socio-economics and perspective.

As archivists, we tend to work against ourselves in this pursuit, as our holdings (especially our legacy holdings) look much as we do. Although our profession has gotten more diverse (my personal, anecdotal observation), our profession in Alberta and Canada is predominately Caucasian, well-educated, and from a middle-class background.

Those with power, education, and connections have a voice. This is what creates the bulk of records, especially the "official" records. It is also these characteristics that provide the confidence, trust, and means to offer or schedule these records for archival retention.

It is not that these records lack value, but that discordance and diversity adds value: the cliché of the sum being worth more than its parts.

As a profession, we have chosen to actively address these shortcomings. Archivists are well-educated, socially conscious, and have chosen career paths that serve our communities. Archives in Alberta and beyond have created positions, task forces, or strategies to diversify holdings. In "lone arranger" institutions, these concepts are finding their ways into work plans and grant applications.

Archives, including the Archives Society of Alberta, have worked hard to learn from, and take real steps in meeting the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Many of these growing competencies can be applied to relationship-building across communities.

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

There are things we can do as individuals and institutions. We need to work alongside our fellow cultural institutions, including galleries, libraries, and museums. They have been having the same struggles, and in many cases, have a higher visibility than archives.

We must consider attending events and joining groups beyond the traditional historical and genealogical societies. We need to attend Pow Wow and dance at Round Dances, go to Diwali festivals, share food at Chinese New Year celebrations, and be swept up at Caribbean festivals. Both formal and informal outreach needs to be recognized as we build these relationships.

Lastly, we should be inviting school groups into the archives, even if they are far too young to understand the definition of a record. There is no more diverse group in your community than a class of excited 7-year-olds. These are the researchers and archivists of the future, representing the breadth of our communities.

Achieving representation is a slow, but accelerating process. In the quarter century of my career, I now see the beginnings of bridging some gaps with Indigenous friends, and more connectivity with a multitude of other cultural groups who are our neighbours. We thank them for their insights, perspectives, and strength.

JOIN US FOR THE ARCHIVES SOCIETY OF ALBERTA'S

# AGM & GATHERING

MAY 22 - 24, 2024

CALGARY, AB

[archivesalberta.org](http://archivesalberta.org)

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

RENE GEORGOPALIS

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This spring, the ASA is working on a new project, our Indigenous Archives project. For years, I struggled to find funding to make this work happen. After the TRC Calls to Action were published in 2015, the ASA saw a significant increase in demand for our advisory services by Indigenous communities and organizations. A few Indigenous groups reached out to us, requesting that we offer an introductory course for Indigenous archives. In order to accomplish this, we have been working on finding funding since 2018. There is a lack of grant funding to support the work that we were proposing, but in 2023, we were finally able to secure some extra funds from three sources to allow this work to happen.



The ASA is offering Indigenous archives engagement sessions around the province in order to survey Indigenous communities on the needs of Indigenous archives in Alberta. These sessions are taking place in April and May. We are also preparing to send our survey to many communities. The results of this survey and its recommendations will be finalized in August. The report will provide recommendations for both the ASA and its membership to better meet the needs of Indigenous archives in Alberta.

We are also creating an introductory training session for Indigenous archives, offering this training as a pilot to a small group of people in May. It is exciting for this project to finally come into being. You can read more about this work below: both Adrienne and Jesse, who we hired for the project, have contributed articles about their work to this issue of the newsletter.

May is a busy month and in addition to our project, we have workshops and meetings in Calgary which we hope many of our members can attend. I look forward to that gathering.

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A promotional banner for the HELP! Online Emergency Preparedness Workshop. The banner is divided into three sections: a teal section on the left with the text "IS YOUR MUSEUM READY?", a central image of a book titled "HELP! AN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANUAL FOR MUSEUMS" and a computer monitor displaying "HELP! NEW ONLINE WORKSHOP", and a dark blue section on the right with the text "GET READY." in yellow.

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce a new online workshop, HELP! Online Emergency Preparedness Workshop.

This online workshop will guide participants through the process of developing an Emergency Preparedness Framework for their museum. Participants will learn how to assemble an Emergency Response Team, write and implement an Emergency and Disaster Plan, and determine what tools, training, and processes they need to be ready when disaster strikes.

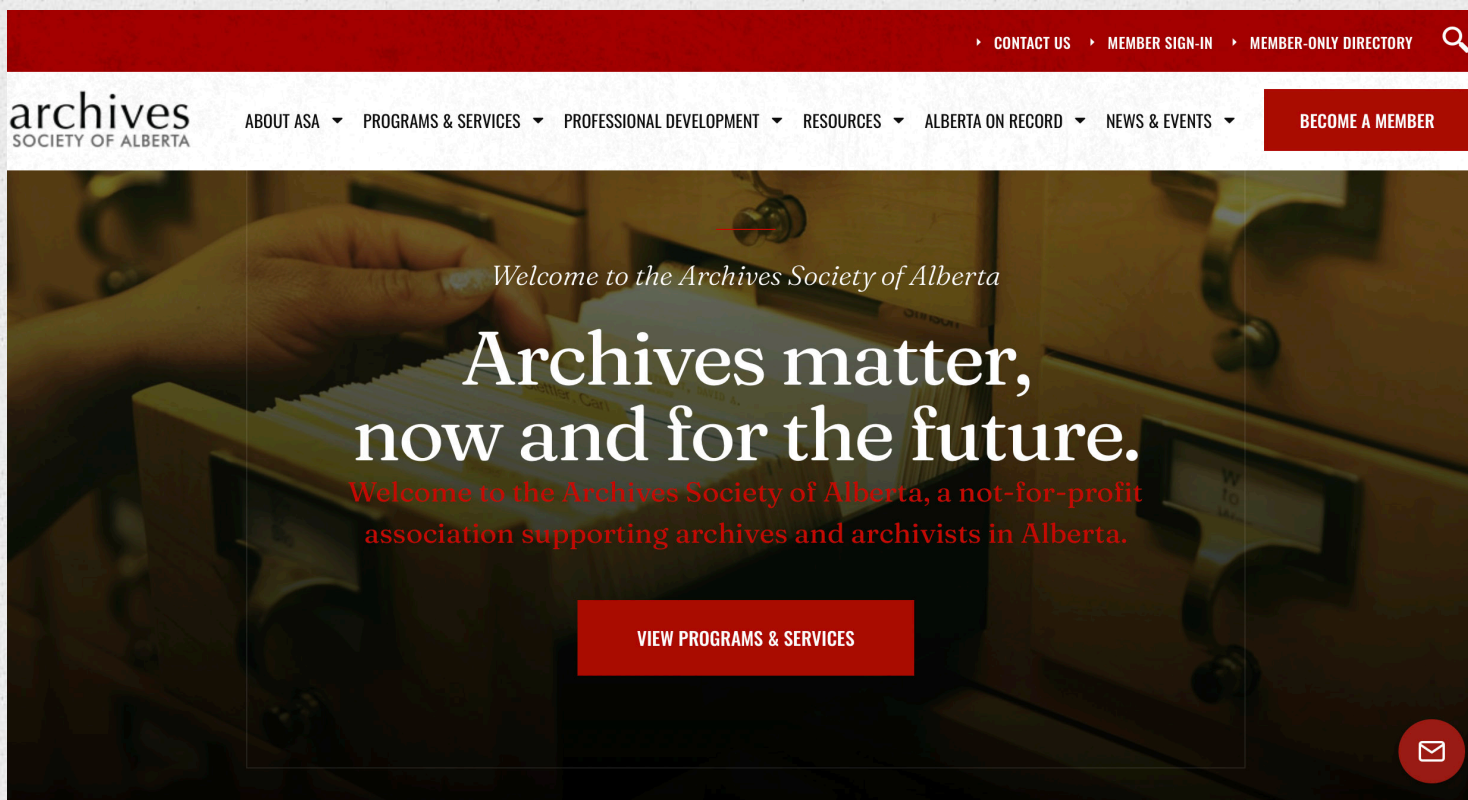
Registration Fee: \$50

## THE ASA'S NEW WEBSITE

BRONWYN BURLIGHAM

The ASA's website committee and staff members have been working on a new website for our organization. The current website had not been significantly updated since 2013, so it was time for some functional and aesthetic enhancements. We have been working on this website for two years and are excited to share these improvements with our members.

The new website offers upgraded functionality, such as a more intuitive approach to how information on the site is organized, and relevant shortcuts for members and potential members. For the new website, we had the goal of putting forth clear and consistent messaging about the role of the ASA in the world of archives in Alberta.



In addition to the functional improvements of the website, we took the opportunity to upgrade the visual design elements, offering a more modern and streamlined look, with selected animations that enhance the flow of information. We wanted the visuals on the website to focus on archival work. We also had a photoshoot at the ASA office and the City of Edmonton Archives for staff headshots and archives-related images to use on the site.

We can't wait for you to check out our new digital home. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any feedback or suggestions.

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## MEET THE ASA'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RESEARCHER

ADRIENNE LAROCQUE

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Adrienne Larocque (she/her) is nêhiyaw and a member of the Louis Bull First Nation, one of four nations collectively known as Maskwacis in Treaty Six Territory. With a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies, Curatorial Practices from the University of Winnipeg and a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies with Honors from the University of Alberta, Adrienne is deeply committed to amplifying Indigenous voices and stories.

In her role as the Indigenous Community Researcher for the Archives Society of Alberta, Adrienne supports the Indigenous Needs Assessment survey project. Another critical aspect of her work is relationship building and community engagement with Indigenous communities in Alberta. Adrienne has collaborated with diverse Indigenous communities across various fields within government and Indigenous-led not-for-profit organizations throughout her career. When she is not at work, she likes to create beadwork and spend time with her nieces, nephews and her dog, Willow.



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## INDIGENOUS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY PROJECT

ADRIENNE LAROCQUE

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The Archives Society of Alberta is working towards supporting the archives of Alberta's Indigenous communities through the Indigenous Needs Assessment Survey project. Adrienne Larocque's role as the Indigenous Community Researcher is to develop the survey and lead engagement activities with Indigenous communities and organizations across the province. The Indigenous Needs Assessment builds on the ASA's current advising services and will advance the development of future archival programs and services for the ASA's Indigenous members.

A key part of this project is the development of a Needs Assessment Report to disseminate the survey findings. The findings of this survey will inform Indigenous communities' recordkeeping and record access needs, providing valuable information for the ASA to better support Indigenous communities. This report on Indigenous Archives and Access in Alberta will be completed by the Fall of 2024. If you have any questions about the Indigenous Needs Assessment project or are an Indigenous community member and would like to be involved, please contact me by email at [adriennel@archivesalberta.org](mailto:adriennel@archivesalberta.org).

## MEET THE ASA'S CURRICULUM DEVELOPER / INSTRUCTOR

JESSE CARSON

I hold a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta, and am currently completing a Master of Archival Studies, First Nations Curriculum Concentration at the University of British Columbia. I have been working in libraries and archives in Alberta and British Columbia since 2015, and am happy to be coming back to work in my home province!

I'm excited to be working for the ASA as the Curriculum Developer / Instructor for the Indigenous Archives Program. I attended the Archives Institute a number of years ago and really enjoyed it. I'm looking forward to helping with the development of a new, complementary program for the

ASA to deliver to address the needs of Alberta's Indigenous archives and the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



## INTRODUCTORY TRAINING FOR INDIGENOUS ARCHIVES

JESSE CARSON

In my capacity as the Curriculum Developer / Instructor, I am planning the structure and content for the upcoming pilot Introductory Training for Indigenous Archives. We will be delivering the program in May, in partnership with University nuhelot'ine thaiyots'i nistameyimâkanak Blue Quills (UnBQ), likely here in the ASA offices.

Since starting in November, I have been gathering literature and resources, reviewing existing offerings, drafting course content, meeting with stakeholders in the ASA and UnBQ, and building a handbook to accompany the course.

We are starting registration soon, and will be inviting community members from the seven First Nations local to UnBQ to participate in the pilot delivery of the course.

ALBERTA HERITAGE AWARDS 2024

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# Celebrate Alberta's Heritage Community

**Nominate an individual or organization for an Alberta Heritage Award.**

Let us celebrate and recognize Albertans' efforts in protecting, preserving and promoting our heritage.

**HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD**  
Projects that demonstrate excellence in the protection and preservation of historic places, paleontological resources and archaeological resources.

**HERITAGE AWARENESS AWARD**  
Research, publications or publication engagement projects that have deepened our understanding and promoted greater awareness of Alberta's heritage.

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
Individuals or organizations with exemplary long-term leadership and contribution to the preservation and presentation of Alberta's heritage.

**Deadline for nominations:** June 1, 2024  
An awards ceremony will be held in September.

**Download guidelines and nomination form:**  
[alberta.ca/heritage-awards](http://alberta.ca/heritage-awards)



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## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

CELIA LAHD

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Taking courses with the Archives Institute was a great experience. The online format made it easy to fit into my schedule and provided many valuable resources for future reference. The weekly Zoom sessions not only provided the opportunity to address any questions or comments on the course material, but also allowed us students to apply what we were learning in practical exercises and get feedback. Having guest lecturers also helped gain greater knowledge in specific sectors and broaden my horizons of what working in an archives can entail. I'm confident in the skills I've gained from the Archives Institute and appreciate having the opportunity to learn alongside people who share the same passion for preservation.



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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

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Please send announcements of retirements, newly-hired staff, or any other personnel changes to [admin@archivesalberta.org](mailto:admin@archivesalberta.org) to have them included in this section.

# archives

SOCIETY OF ALBERTA

The Archives Society of Alberta News is published 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. Submissions are preferred in electronic format: as Word files for textual submissions or as JPG files for graphic submissions.

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

Name (Institution or Individual)

Address

City

Province

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Telephone

Business Phone

Fax

E-mail address

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. \_\_\_\_\_

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Cardholder name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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