

ICOM CANADA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board of ICOM Canada has met seven times since the last Annual General Meeting (AGM). Our meetings are held via Google Hangouts, with the exception of one face-to-face session. The last face-to-face session was held on February 7th at the Canadian Museums Association offices in Ottawa.

Last year, we identified strategic initiatives to increase ICOM Canada's profile and add value to the membership we serve. At the February 7th meeting, the Board reviewed the Strategic Plan priorities identified last year and positioned a third priority. The Strategic Plan is included in your AGM package and I point out the three priorities: 1. Make ICOM Canada more vital in the professional life of its members; 2. Enhance opportunities for Canadian members' engagement in international activities and priority issues; and, 3. Ensure financial stability and sustainability of ICOM Canada. Along with these priorities, the Board has developed action items related to all three priorities — short-, mid- and long-term — plans to move forward to 2018.

I am pleased to report that the ICOM Canada Board has made great progress on various initiatives that I will present briefly. You will hear more details from Board members at this meeting.

We established and implemented an ICOM Canada bursary program designed to support the participation of emerging professionals to ICOM conferences. We are in the process of recruiting a digital outreach coordinator to enhance networking and digital engagement between ICOM Canada and the community we serve. This would include quarterly e-newsletters and increased communication through social media. Work has been done to improve ICOM Canada's communication via the website. We anticipate that the implementation of a regular e-newsletter for membership is an excellent vehicle for our membership to share their research initiatives and successes. We encourage members who are participating on international committees and other projects to engage with ICOM Canada so we may share your news. Strengthening Canada's presence within the international network is an important part of this.

We launched a Google Hangouts speaker series that included conversations with: Sarah Beam-Borg, exhibitions manager at the Aga Khan Museum; Robert Janes, PhD, editor-in-chief Emeritus of Museum Management and Curatorship, Fellow of the Canadian Museums Association, and past president and CEO of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, interviewed by Ryan Dodge; **Museomix Québec** was conducted by Audrey Vermette with Ana Laura Baz, project manager, digital projects at the Musées de la civilisation in Quebec City; and, Jennifer Carter, PhD, interviewed Christine Gaudet and Noémie La Rue Lapierre, two young museum practitioners who created **FESTI'O'MUSE**.

Innovation and growth is critical for ICOM Canada's future success. We are in the process of developing a three-year financial plan and strategy that includes revisiting investments and exploring strategies for enhanced revenue generation that will enable us to offer more initiatives in the future.

Three ICOM Canada Board members will be attending the ICOM Triennial in Milan. If you are attending, please note that Audrey Vermette, Marie Lalonde and I will be there.

In closing, as president, and on behalf of the Board, we thank the membership for your continued support. We welcome any suggestions and constructive feedback that would make ICOM Canada stronger. I urge you to communicate with us on topics and activities that you wish to share with the global community. I also express great appreciation to Sue Lamothe and Erin Doiron of the Canadian Museums Association for their administrative assistance with our finances and membership.

At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members of ICOM Canada for their expert advice and efforts over the past year. Jennifer Carter and Moira McCaffrey joined the Board last year and have contributed greatly to ICOM Canada's conversations and network. I thank Audrey Vermette, Sharilyn Ingram, Viviane Gosselin, Marie Lalonde and Elka Weinstein for their continued dedication to our purpose. Ryan Dodge has been invaluable in his efforts to make us technologically savvy, and unfortunately, due to a challenging schedule ahead of him, he has decided not to renew for a second term. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank him for all he has contributed to ICOM Canada and wish him well.

As I am in my last three-year term on the Board of ICOM Canada, I have decided to complete it as past president. Being part of ICOM Canada's Board in the capacity as president has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my museum career and I truly look forward to another great year and future years as an ongoing member. Under the leadership of Audrey Vermette as incoming president, I am confident that the organization is in solid hands.

Shirley Madill
President
ICOM Canada