

March 2, 2020

Dear ICOM Canada members,

2019 was a very productive and successful one for ICOM Canada and its members. Of particular interest to all of us this year was the ICOM discussion on the proposed new museum definition, with ICOM Canada playing an important role, engaging members and working in closer collaboration with colleagues across the globe to address this fundamental matter central to understanding our work.

On behalf of the ICOM Canada Executive, I am pleased to highlight some of our accomplishments and work in 2019. It was a very busy year! In April we hosted our Annual General Meeting during the Canadian Museums Association conference in Toronto. At our AGM we welcomed two new Board members to the team: Leah Best (Royal BC Museum) and Dr. Karine Duhamel (Canadian Museum for Human Rights).

At the AGM ICOM Canada also presented the International Achievement Award to Catherine C. Cole, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Museums. Undertaking joint projects with ICOM CAMOC (Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities), and ICOM ICR (Regional Museums), as well as serving on various ICOM committees, Ms. Cole set an excellent example of a Canadian museum professional with an impact on museology through international outreach and cultural diplomacy. Read more about Ms. Cole's work and the ICOM Canada International Achievement Award here [\[https://www.icomcanada.org/activities-en/#award\]](https://www.icomcanada.org/activities-en/#award)

The Board worked diligently in 2019 to launch our new website (www.icomcanada.org), re-energize our member communications, and prepare for the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto. ICOM Canada joined ICOM Europe, ICOM France, ICOM Germany and several other committees in recommending the postponement of the vote on the Museum Definition in order to ensure a functional definition result. As ICOM Canada Board Chair, I am excited to accept an invitation to join the Standing Committee on Museum Definition, Prospects and Potentials for a two-year term starting in 2020.

At the invitation of ICOM, ICOM Canada presented in Kyoto on the Canadian experience on the Kyoto conference panel on Decolonization and Restitution. You can read Michèle Rivet's presentation here [\[https://www.icomcanada.org/2019/08/25/decolonization-indigenization/\]](https://www.icomcanada.org/2019/08/25/decolonization-indigenization/).

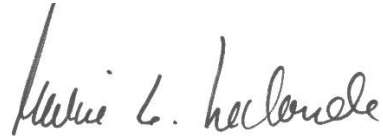
ICOM Canada also joined ICOM US and ICOM LAC (Latin America/Caribbean) for the Americas Breakfast Roundtable in Kyoto, connecting with colleagues for a professional exchange and to discuss future collaboration along hemispheric lines.

The first edition of ICOM Canada's new e-newsletter was released in September and explored the theme of Cultural Diplomacy. Articles highlighted how Canadian museum professionals conduct global engagement activities that create mutual understanding and trust between nations, organizations and peoples through the work of museums, and with the annual ICOM Canada International Achievement Award. A second issue about ICOM Canada's participation in the General Conference in Kyoto was

released in early 2020, and the third issue, exploring museums and sustainable development, is set for release in April. You can learn more about our newsletters and see past articles here [<https://www.icomcanada.org/activities-en/#Newsletter>].

ICOM Canada again offered the Travel Bursary Program to help emerging museum professionals build connections and experience. This annual bursary supports participation in ICOM international committee conferences or the triennial ICOM General Conference. This year's recipient was Sophie Yamauchi (Queen's University) who attended the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto, Japan. Read about Sophie's experience in Kyoto here [<https://www.icomcanada.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/ICOM-Canada-Report-Sophie-Yamauchi-2019.pdf>].

As you can tell, ICOM Canada, our Board, and our members were busy and accomplished much in 2019. I look forward to sharing with you our plans for 2020 at our AGM in July and sharing more successes through the year.



Marie Lalonde

President, ICOM Canada