



REPORT to the
COMMUNITY
2019



FRAMS
FRIENDS OF ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM SOCIETY



Message from FRAMS

FRAMS works everyday to help build a dynamic community that is connected to the Royal Alberta Museum.

Finally, the museum is open.

When I first joined FRAMS there was not a lot of time left to enjoy the old museum. We were looking toward the future, and preparing for what FRAMS would look like downtown. I'll admit we were ambitious, but we recognized our opportunity for organizational renewal (with both internal operations and external facing services). This last year was the final phase of preparation and hitting the ground running.

I'm glad that just prior to the start of this fiscal year we hired a fantastic executive director — Elizabeth LoPresti. It is with her ideas, direction, and support, we've begun to address internal processes, sought to increase efficiencies in our organization and expand our impact. This includes leading our new website design, implementing a new database for member and donor services, and re-shaping how we deliver our programs. Elizabeth is the woman behind the scenes who has worked tirelessly toward our organizational success, and we wouldn't be where we are today without her.

In re-shaping our programs, a key focus before opening was preparing for the demands and needs of our Go! Program, so that existing and new communities could embrace our new museum. As the fiscal year came to a close, we moved out of a successful trial phase and have ramped up the Go! Program to provide even greater access. It is only with the generosity of our members that this program continues to operate and expand. Thank you for sharing your love of the museum with those who could not afford to visit otherwise.

Additionally, the lead up to the October 2018 opening focused on the launch of our new membership, which combined FRAMS benefits with access to the museum. Through this new model, we've re-engaged many of our long-time members, but also welcomed new members who've seen the benefit of a Friend or Friend Plus membership.

Post-opening has been an exciting whirlwind. While staples like Dining With Friends and a few other events engaged us during the museum closure, it's been exciting to once again host Talk and Tours in the museum. In addition, our new membership perks have included events such as special access with the curator to new exhibitions, our Remembrance Lecture with author and historian Tim Cook, and our Beer and Bugs event, where we got up close and personal with RAM's critters (after some liquid courage).

As we embark on a new period for FRAMS, we are committed to offering you, our friends (and FRAMily) the value-added experience you love at RAM. We hope you share these experiences with your friends and family too. We are a community, and I thank you for your continued commitment and generosity to FRAMS. Further thanks to the FRAMS board, our executive director, our volunteers, and you, our friends, who help make dreams, even ambitious ones, become reality. Your passion and dedication are evident.

For someone who likes to look back at the past, I can't wait to see what the future holds.



Chris Radojewski, President of FRAMS

2019 Update

Our Milestones at a Glance

Since 1982, the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society has been the pathway for Albertans to enrich the Royal Alberta Museum collection, create opportunities for learning, and open the doors to more visitors.

The opening of the new Royal Alberta Museum in October 2018 started a new chapter for FRAMS – in a new home, getting to know our new neighbours, launching new membership, relaunching favourite events and programs, and much more!



Membership

Since October 2018, more than 300 members have joined FRAMS.

- 42% adult
- 43% senior
- 2% student
- 13% family



Membership Perks

In the last year, we have had:

- 13 member events; and,
- issued access for over 800+ FRAMS guests.



Go! Program

Since October 2018, the *Go!* Program has enabled accesses to 45 different and diverse groups, with:

- 988 Passes issued; and,
- \$12,820 awarded in admissions.



Fundraising

In 2018, FRAMS set new fundraising heights with:

- Over \$16,000 donated; and,
- 2 major grants received.

Your Impact in the Galleries



Without our members, none of FRAMS' amazing work would be possible. You are the heart and soul of FRAMS, and Alberta's history lives and echoes because of your support.

The new Royal Alberta Museum is a treasure chest full of amazing objects, artifacts and stories from Alberta and around the world. Critical pieces that tell our stories. Many have been purchased by you. Over 35 years, members like you have contributed to acquiring important pieces and collections, many of which are on display in the newly designed human and natural history galleries.

The next time you are at the museum, discover your impact and seek out some of these key pieces. Thanks to you, we are able to help preserve our stories and natural history.

This list will guide you to the key FRAMS pieces on display in the new Royal Alberta Museum.

In the Human History Gallery:

- Robert Bell Collection (acquired in 1989), a collection of sub-arctic artifacts collected by geologist Dr. Bell between 1873-99 during field investigations in Northern and Western Canada including an embroidered Métis smoking hat.

- The Southesk Collection (acquired in 2006), comprising 33 items from the Earl of Southesk's collection of Métis and First Nation objects including a Plains Cree pad saddle and beaded Métis fire bag.
- Sunwapta Totem Pole (acquired in 2012), the Joe Mathias/CFRN/ Sunwapta totem pole, meticulously restored in 2012 by Squamish carvers Cody Mathias and George Stokes (grandson and great-grandson of carver Joe Mathias).
- The Milton & Cheadle plate: *Over the Mountain, To Jasper House* (purchased in 2012 for FRAMS 30th birthday), a hand-painted Minton plate commemorating the 1860s journey of Lord Milton and Dr. Walter Cheadle through Western Canada.
- The painting *Blood Tears* by Alex Janvier (purchased in 2015), donated by FRAMS to be the centrepiece of the museum's residential school exhibition.
- The Frog Lake Rifle (purchased in 2018) is FRAMS' most recent contribution to the museum, presented by Cree Chief Big Bear to Frog Lake Massacre survivor William B. Cameron.

In the Natural History Gallery:

- The Keweenaw Copper Sheet (one of 16 display-quality minerals purchased in 1987), an impressive (1.5 m long) sheet of copper from the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan, one of North America's oldest mining localities dating back to 3000 BC.
- James Irwin Mineral Collection (purchased in 1987), comprising 25 silver specimens from the Echo Bay mine (now closed) at Port Radium, Great Bear Lake, NWT.
- And last – but certainly not least – the magnificent Columbia Mammoth Cast towering over the natural history gallery – was purchased by FRAMS in 1992 to celebrate both the museum's 25th birthday and FRAMS' 10th anniversary. Today the mammoth reigns as the symbol of both RAM and FRAMS – and of a partnership dedicated to making the Royal Alberta Museum one of the world's premier cultural destinations.



“The Columbia Mammoth towering the new natural history gallery”

Columbia Mammoth Cast, purchased by FRAMS in 1992

20 Years of ISMI

When Terry-Lin Fedorus applied to the Indigenous Student Museum Internship back in 2003, it was at the suggestion of a career and employment counsellor. However, the internship turned out to be more than a summer job.

“The program gave me the insight I needed to realize why it was so important to dedicate my career to serving our Indigenous communities and people,” recounts Terry-Lin. Terry-Lin went on to complete her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies and Biology, and now, based in Fort McMurray, she works as a researcher with the University of Alberta’s School of Public Health on an Indigenous health study focused on community experiences during the 2016 wildfires.

FRAMS has been proud to financially support the ISMI for 20 years. In the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), this program has only grown in importance, as one way FRAMS supports reconciliation. However, with the TRC process only beginning in 2008, the ISMI program predates it by a decade.

In 1998, FRAMS began to support what today is known as ISMI. One must remember that only two years prior, the last residential school closed in Canada. The catalyst for ISMI actually began in Alberta, when a museum exhibit during the 1988 Calgary Olympics stirred controversy around artifact ownership, sponsorship, and interpretation of Indigenous culture. In the wake of this, a task force of Indigenous organizations and museums across Canada (including the Royal Alberta Museum) came together to create a report to provide recommendations on cooperation between Indigenous peoples and institutions.

The 1992 report titled *Turning the Page: Forging New Partnerships Between Museums and First Peoples*, recommended the promotion and “development of professional and technical training initiatives for First Peoples” in cultural institutions. In 1998, FRAMS joined a federal government supported program to accomplish this recommendation, and by all accounts, the ISMI program has been very successful.

The ISMI program has always been focused on the student and their desires to learn.

“Through the internship, I was offered multiple opportunities to grow as an individual and as a community member,” reflects Chauntelle Atcheynum, 2017 and 2018 ISMI intern. “Professional development opportunities were abundant, as were the chances to engage with the Indigenous community and build meaningful relationships.”

“This gave [me] insight to understanding more clearly my path, the journey I was on, and the one I would embark on in the future.”

Fifteen years prior, the experience was similar for Terry-Lin.

“I took every opportunity and wasted no time to do just that! I was encouraged to learn and grow as much as I could during my time there. Every day was truly an adventure!”

Through various structures and organization, FRAMS became the main funder and coordinator of the program in 2012, relying on the generous support of the museum, sponsors, and especially FRAMS members. Twenty years later, 49 individuals have completed the internship truly building the capacity called for in the initial report.

However, the work isn't done. In June 2016, the Canadian Museums Association reported to Parliament and still stressed the need for Indigenous training in the museology space. ISMI is one of the few programs that still continues to address this need.

“The program is important for Indigenous students to assist them with experience, knowledge and growth of skills toward transitioning to a successful career. My advisors and supervisors [...] holistically supported my growth as a person,” says Terry-Lin. She recalls many fond memories and experiences that shaped who she is as a person, and encourages students to apply to have the same amazing experience. Chauntelle agrees. “I would definitely recommend individuals participate, and I would advocate for support from the public.”

FRAMS is grateful to its members and the public that have shown continued support for the ISMI program, and it looks to continue to expand the reach and impact so future students share the same experiences as our previous 49 students, including Terry-Lin.

“This gave [me] insight to understanding more clearly my path, the journey I was on, and the one I would embark on in the future.”



Chauntelle Atcheynum (ISMI 2017 & 2018) works with kids in the Children's Gallery.

Support Us

Want to support one of the many FRAMS programs?

Consider becoming a monthly donor or participate in planned giving. Your support will help FRAMS create community and opportunity for Albertans to foster wonder, inquiry, and new understandings about Alberta and its place in the world through our connection with RAM.

There are many ways to support us, whether as a donor, a member, or a volunteer.

Reach out today to find out how you can make a difference.

Thank you!

Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society

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