

# *Bonnyville & District* **HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

September 2024

Town of Bonnyville Budget Request Presentation



## *Fulfilling a Community Need*

The Bonnyville and District Historical Society has played a crucial role in preserving and celebrating the unique heritage of our region since it was incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta forty-four years ago, in 1980. By offering exhibits and educational programs focused on the regional history of Bonnyville, the Bonnyville and District Historical Society and Museum addresses the need for a tangible, personal connection to the past often overlooked in larger museums. We serve as a repository for artifacts, stories, and traditions that reflect the distinct cultural and historical experiences of the Bonnyville region. This localized focus not only helps to safeguard valuable historical assets but also fosters a sense of pride and identity among residents and visitors, enhancing understanding and appreciation of the region's past.

The Bonnyville and District Historical Society and Museum fulfills an essential educational role by providing accessible learning opportunities for individuals of all ages. Through interactive exhibits, group tours, and school programs, we bridge the gap between historical knowledge and how it can be relevant today, making history engaging and relatable. In this way, the Museum not only serves as a cultural and historical resource but also as a vibrant community hub that cultivates curiosity, dialogue, and a shared sense of belonging.

Since 2019, The Bonnyville and District Historical Society and Museum has partnered with Aurora Visual Arts Association in providing the group with their home-base studio as well as significant gallery space. This is a natural partnership that enhances the cultural offerings of the Museum. AVAA hosts workshops, meetings and art shows on-site.

## *Achieving Meaningful Goals*

We have achieved remarkable outcomes in preserving and celebrating regional heritage and culture. Through our extensive collection of artifacts and engaging exhibits, the Museum has significantly enhanced community pride, cultural appreciation, and historical awareness. Our group school tours have reached thousands of students and residents, fostering a deeper understanding of local history. The Museum has also become a key cultural attraction, drawing visitors and stimulating local economic activity. Furthermore, our dedication to research and conservation has ensured that the region's historical narratives and objects are accurately documented and preserved for future generations.



## *Impact of the Efforts*

The sustained impact of the efforts of The Bonnyville and District Historical Society and Museum are multifaceted, extending beyond the buildings and grounds of the organization itself. By preserving and showcasing local heritage, the Museum fosters a deep sense of community, cultural identity and pride, bridging generations through shared stories and artifacts.

Our educational programs and exhibitions not only inform and engage residents but also attract visitors,

contributing to tourism and economic growth.

Additionally, the Museum's initiatives in historical research and conservation provide valuable resources for other organizations, local history lovers, and students, ensuring that the region's history is accurately recorded and appreciated. Overall, the Museum's ongoing commitment to preserving and interpreting the past enriches the cultural fabric of the Bonnyville district, offering enduring benefits that resonate through generations.



## *Justification to Continue*

The continuation of these program activities is crucial for several reasons. From an educational perspective, we work to instill a sense of historical consciousness in young learners, cultivating informed and engaged citizens. This helps to make history accessible and engaging. The Museum works to ensure that the past remains relevant and compelling.

Our special events not only celebrate the region's cultural diversity but also strengthen community bonds and boost local pride. They serve as important opportunities for social interaction and collective remembrance, reinforcing the Museum's role as a community cornerstone.

We play a crucial role in preserving a collection and serving as a guardian of our region's heritage and cultural identity. The thousands of unique items in our collection tell the stories of our past, from everyday objects to significant historical relics. By curating and maintaining these artifacts, we are ensuring that future generations have access to tangible connections with their heritage.

Beyond preservation, the Museum fosters a sense of pride and continuity within the community, enabling individuals to understand and appreciate their roots. This stewardship helps bridge the gap between past and present, fostering a deeper connection between the community and its shared history while contributing to the cultural and educational vitality of the region.

## *Operation Strategies*

Operating The Bonnyville and District Historical Society and Museum requires strong partnerships with local organizations and institutions. Collaborations with schools, other museums and cultural organizations, and marketing/tourism agencies are essential for us. Additionally, connections with local businesses and sponsors provide financial support and in-kind donations.



Oversight of The Bonnyville and District Historical Society involves a combination of governance and strategic planning. The Board of Directors provides oversight, offers guidance and policy decisions, financial management, and long-term goals. This Board ensures that the Museum adheres to best practices. This oversight ensures that the Museum remains accountable to its stakeholders and continues to fulfill its role as a vital cultural and educational resource for the community.

Effective staffing and a dedicated team of volunteers are central to the smooth operation of The Bonnyville and District Historical Society. A core staff, including the Museum's Admin Support staff, and seasonal Museum Technicians manage daily operations, from exhibit development to administrative tasks. Their expertise ensures the Museum's collections are well-preserved and accurately presented. Volunteers play an indispensable role in supporting these efforts, often assisting with on-site groups, events, and other activities. Their passion and dedication make them invaluable.


## *Support Sources*

We are successful in receiving grants every year for staffing, programming and special projects, however the cost of operating and maintaining the buildings, facilities, the collection, and employing qualified staff is beyond current potential for revenue generation. This funding shortfall not only jeopardizes the museum's ability to fulfill its mission of preserving and championing history but also puts the organization at risk for a diminished role as a vibrant community hub.

Despite the museum's dedication to preserving and showcasing local heritage, the gap between its operational costs and available funds has widened in recent years. This shortfall affects several critical areas, including the maintenance of buildings and conservation of artifacts, which are essential for ensuring their longevity and historical accuracy. Additionally, the museum struggles with the financial costs of employing a qualified Museum Manager.

We request funding from the Town of Bonnyville annually to support our operational shortfall(s) and in support of the important work and services that the society provides. Funding contributions from our municipalities mean the difference between simply existing, and excelling. Municipal funding helps to ensure we are operating in a way that meets the needs of our diverse community, continuing to act as stewards of our vast collection, as well as meeting our public trust responsibility. By investing in the Bonnyville and District Historical Society, funding from the Town of Bonnyville ensures that we can continue to serve as a vibrant and accessible center of learning and cultural enrichment within the community.

## *Highlights from the 2024 Season*

- 4 youth from the community were employed as Museum Technicians between May and September
  - Collaborations with other regional Museums continued this season
  - Featured in four newspaper articles
  - Facilitated another successful Canada Day Pancake Breakfast with the help of Bonnyville Sobeys and Town and M.D. of Bonnyville Councillors
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- The photograph shows four young people, three women and one man, standing on a wooden deck in front of a log cabin entrance. They are all wearing green vests with a logo on the front. The woman on the far left is wearing blue jeans and a red long-sleeved shirt. The woman next to her is wearing light blue jeans and a white shirt. The man in the center is wearing a yellow shirt and grey pants. The woman on the far right is wearing a white shirt, a red hat, and a white skirt. Above the entrance, a red banner reads "HAPPY CANADA DAY". To the right, there is a sign that says "BONNYVILLE MUSEUM" and "Lacale" and a small Canadian flag.
- Hosted the Canada Day Opening Ceremonies on-site with free admission and welcoming speeches from guests and dignitaries
  - Staff and Board have met with Travel Alberta and Alberta's Lakeland to discuss potential long-term development of day-use RV sites
  - Implemented two community Movie Night event on evenings this summer
  - Developing a formal Wedding Packages document and will promote the museum site for unique and charming small weddings
  - Attended a Casino in Camrose September 9 & 10 to raise funds
  - Extended our collaboration/partnership with Aurora Visual Arts Association by providing studio space and exhibition space in the Lobby of the Main Building
  - Have identified and addressed (or will be addressing) a number of maintenance issues in all of our 14 buildings. These projects will be a priority in 2025
  - Between school tours, daily admission, special events, and summer camps, our admission numbers for 2024 were stellar



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## COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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To the Members of Bonnyville and District Historical Society

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Bonnyville and District Historical Society as at January 31, 2024, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We have not performed an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

*Tay & Company Professional Corporation*

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Bonnyville, Alberta  
March 15, 2024

**BONNYVILLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended January 31, 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Admissions	\$ 1,936	\$ 2,971
Donations	720	-
Fundraising	3,522	3,175
Grants	76,235	72,962
Interest	7,080	2,284
	<b>89,493</b>	<b>81,392</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising and promotion	2,614	2,131
Donations	-	350
Insurance	7,001	7,060
Interest and bank charges	225	25
Meals and entertainment	95	366
Memberships	200	100
Office	5,108	2,911
Professional fees	1,691	1,537
Repairs and maintenance	5,120	7,300
Special events	-	182
Utilities	9,368	8,786
Wages and employee benefits	50,048	47,719
	<b>81,470</b>	<b>78,467</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,023</b>	<b>\$ 2,925</b>

**BONNYVILLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**January 31, 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 239,152	\$ 236,533
Accounts receivable	5,070	-
Goods and services tax receivable	500	500
Inventory	150	225
	<b>244,872</b>	<b>237,258</b>
<b>PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>499,831</b>	<b>499,831</b>
	<b>\$ 744,703</b>	<b>\$ 737,089</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 1,494	\$ 1,903
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	243,378	235,355
Investment in property, plant and equipment	499,831	499,831
	<b>743,209</b>	<b>735,186</b>
	<b>\$ 744,703</b>	<b>\$ 737,089</b>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

  
 \_\_\_\_\_ President

**BONNYVILLE AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year Ended January 31, 2024**

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Investment in Property, Plant and Equipment	2024	2023
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 235,355	\$ 499,831	\$ 735,186	\$ 732,261
Excess of revenues over expenses	8,023	-	8,023	2,925
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 243,378</b>	<b>\$ 499,831</b>	<b>\$ 743,209</b>	<b>\$ 735,186</b>