

# **CANADIAN MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION**

## **Museums Together Virtual Conference April 16, 2020**

**Dr. Vanda Vitali, Executive Director and CEO, CMA**

### **Speaking Points**

I'm Vanda Vitali, Executive Director of the Canadian Museums Association, and wish to welcome you all to the CMA's first-ever virtual conference.

We are not in Montreal – we are everywhere but we are in spirit in and with Montreal.

Before I begin, I would like to say that the CMA acknowledges that its Secretariat, located in Ottawa, is on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.

We extend our appreciation for the opportunity to live and learn on this territory in mutual respect and gratitude. The CMA also acknowledges that as a national association, its work relates to other First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous people. We are committed to demonstrate respect for these groups and promote the importance of their cultural contributions through history and today.

The pandemic is far-reaching, with a tremendous impact.

The situation is serious and requires us all to do our part in social distancing.

The silver lining: like many organisations, it has very quickly propelled the CMA into new and more modern ways of doing things. And so, we are happy to convene this event online.

A privilege of being at the helm of the CMA and the challenge of taking us forward

First few months spent hearing you: connecting with stakeholders, listening in discussions, meetings and surveys, planning the strategic planning process which is now underway. Gathering your ideas and will continue to do so.

At the CMA we see ourselves as a node in a network of institutions.

Establishing discussion and collaboration with various sister institutions and partners were of utmost importance to us in the past years and they continue to be so. Couple of the collaborative ventures are illustrated in the programming today: with our provincial and territorial colleagues and with other heritage organizations.

We are very excited about broadening future partnerships. In these difficult times, they are also essential.

Moving forward CMA will further strengthen our capacity; modernizing work tools and practices; and continuing to build relevance, nationally and internationally.

I am hearing you and we are making adjustments, based on the feedback we are hearing. Building capacity. Refining our operations. Improving our services, including our conferences.

Our new look and feel, and our new website are symbolic of some of the changes you suggested and that you can expect to see.

You can also expect us to advocate strongly and in unison with our partners to advance the concerns of Canada's museum.

With one voice, we know we are stronger. And we are here because of you and for you. For the sector today and for its viability in the future ahead.

We have an exciting agenda for you today.

We will hear from Professor Jack Lohman, President of the Board of Directors of the CMA.

We will also be joined by the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, who will share updates from the Government and engage in a dialogue with provincial and territorial colleagues.

We will also have a panel discussion with heritage organizations, where we will discuss our common challenges and explore ways to work together.

Lastly, today, we will hold the CMA's AGM, virtually. I'm sorry, but this part is open to CMA members only. You will have received your login credentials for this segment.

Again, thank you for joining us. I hope you are comfortable wherever you are. I know the situation we are currently living in is unprecedented and presents innumerable challenges for the museum sector.

We are so proud to represent you.

Trust you find today's programming interesting and useful to you. Expect more online content from the CMA in the future.

And now it is time to pass the virtual microphone to our next presenter, Prof., Jack Lohman, president of the Board of the CMA.