



## Report from the Executive Director – AGM 2024

At the time of writing, I am thrilled to have joined Heritage Regina just shy of one year ago. The past 11 months have been very busy and very exciting, and I want to thank the Heritage Regina board, volunteers, and members for their warm welcome and enthusiastic commitment to this organisation.

My priority over this last year has been to onboard the incredible wealth of information, history, and community connections of this nearly 50-year old organisation, and use our past and the priorities of our board to provide a strong foundation and plan for future growth and engagement in Regina's built and intangible cultural heritage.

Some key highlights from this past year:

### Strategic Planning

The year-end planning session was a success and a clear guiding principles and goals have been identified for an upcoming multi-year strategic planning session. The identity and brand of Heritage Regina, and the branding principles developed before my hiring, have been a huge asset in this regard, and I am looking forward to furthering our strong community brand as we work to fulfill our mission and mandate. Heritage Regina has an amazing history of community partnerships and targeted community engagement, and focussing on centering and expanding this as the foundation of all our work is what you can expect to see in 2024-25 and beyond.

### Funding

While grants remain our main source of funding, and identifying new grants has been a priority, in the past year we also passed a sponsorship policy and have made securing sponsorships for regular programs part of the organisational process, with good success so far.

### Staffing

We secured a federal grant to hire a summer student, Jessica Dean, who has proven herself a very valuable asset to the organisation as we work on organising, streamlining, and researching in preparation for new and revamped projects and collaborations in the coming years.

We have also, after a probational period, signed a year-long contract with a new social media associate, Nathaniel Hak, who has increased our social media engagement by a marked amount

over the last six months, and is doing great work on our website and general communications as well.

In September, we are partnering with the History Department at the University of Regina to receive an intern on a co-operative work term, which we are very much looking forward to.

### Reconciliation

This past year, we renewed our relationship with Aaron Tootosis and collaborated to outline stronger compensation for the guidance he provides. Aaron is an invaluable asset to Heritage Regina, and his positive and collaborative nature has been a gift in my first year here.

Staff and board members have all taken or begun taking the University of Alberta Coursera course “Indigenous Canada”, and plans are in place for further in-person board and staff reconciliation training with Aaron Tootosis, who works in treaty education.

### Community

Heritage Regina has become known for its amazing community connections and partnerships, and I am very pleased to note the continuation of this, including some new partnerships in the past year, and many inroads to future partnerships in 2024 and beyond have been made.

Our volunteer base has always been our strength, and I want to acknowledge and thank all our returning and new volunteers who put so much into making Heritage Regina’s work possible. From board work and event assistance, to building a homestead shack, to researching and writing articles, presenting tours, lectures and more, our volunteers are integral to every aspect of Heritage Regina, and I could not be more grateful to work with them.

All non-profits saw a dip in their volunteer base and public event attendance in the wake of the 2020 pandemic, but I am happy to report that numbers are steadily climbing again, and we are expecting to meet or exceed our pre-pandemic attendance numbers in the 2024-25 year.

2023 was a year of evaluation, big discussions, and planning, and I am looking forward to having the fruits of that work come to bear in 2024 and 2025.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Wood'. The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'S' and 'W'.

Sarah Wood