



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Alberta Museums Association to take action on climate change in new partnership with the Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice

June 22, 2017

Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is excited to announce a new partnership with the Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice (CMCJ) to support Alberta museums in taking an active role in the fight against climate change. Through this partnership the AMA and the CMCJ will develop a series of educational tools to support and empower museums across the province to address environmental sustainability and understand their role in mitigating climate change.

The CMCJ, co-chaired by Dr. Robert R. Janes and David Jensen with members representing cultural institutions across Canada, aims to "build the capacity of Canadian museums to help address climate change awareness, mitigation, and resilience."¹ To this end, the Alberta Museums Association, Coalition of Museums for Climate Justice, and Shadow Light Productions will partner to create a series of educational videos. These tools will highlight innovative best-practices and share examples of policies, programs, and services that museums across Alberta can implement in their organization to address climate change and environmental sustainability.

In 2013, following a year of consultation with members, focus groups, and research by an Advisory Council, the AMA launched the Sustainability Working Group. The Sustainability Working Group Recommendations Report addressed five facets of sustainability as they relate to museums: financial, social, cultural, health and well-being, and environmental. Through membership engagement, the AMA identified that many museums believe they have a critical role to play in addressing pressing issues in society, but often lack resources or knowledge to take meaningful action and engage in community discussions around the impacts of climate change.

Through courageous and collaborative leadership, we believe that museums can be agents of social change. The announcement of this partnership represents our continued commitment towards fulfilling the recommendations outlined by the Sustainability Working Group and our strategic focus on ensuring the long-term viability, vibrancy, vitality, and future success of Alberta's museums.

The AMA is excited to be able to offer a new suite of tools to our members. With the information provided in these educational videos, museums across Alberta will be equipped to engage in a broader dialogue with their communities around these important issues.

The mission of the AMA is to lead, facilitate and support museums in their vital role with communities. This new partnership will strengthen our ability to affect real social and environmental change through our institutions and increase sustainability within the museum sector.

¹ CMCJ, Mission, Goals, and Principles, May 2, 2017.



Quotes

"We are very excited to enter into this partnership with CMCJ. We have seen first-hand the impacts of climate change on our member institutions through the flooding of 2013 and the Fort McMurray wildfire last year. It is more important than ever that the museum sector is an active participant in discussions about the impact of climate change, and that museums are equipped to implement more environmentally sustainable practices within their institution. It is our hope that through this partnership museums and museum professionals will be able to lead by example in their communities with regards the sustainability of our environment."

Meaghan Patterson
Executive Director / CEO

-30-

Contacts:

Meaghan Patterson
Executive Director / CEO
Alberta Museums Association
780.424.2626 x.231
mpatterson@museums.ab.ca