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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Catherine C. Cole to Receive the 2021 Lieutenant Governor's Award**

August 31, 2021

Edmonton, Alberta - The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is pleased to announce Catherine C. Cole as the 2021 recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's Award, in recognition of her dedication to supporting heritage institutions and museums, empowering her colleagues in the field, and promoting the work of Canadian museums to the international museum community.

As a writer, curator, and producer of innovative arts and heritage programs, and the Principal Consultant of Catherine C. Cole & Associates in Edmonton since 1993, Catherine's contributions to advance the museum sector have emphasized her collaborative approach and commitment to furthering best practice in the sector. She has specialized in cultural planning and policy development, strategic research and planning, and community-based arts and heritage projects, and implemented projects on shared issues of vital importance to the museum sector, such as Indigenous rights, reconciliation, migration, climate change, and gender equality.

In her time as the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Museums, Catherine administered programs and implemented projects that connect museums and museum professionals at the international level, such as a distance learning program, international internships and exchanges, and international conferences and workshops. Through initiatives like these, she is empowering museum workers to use their resources - their collections, exhibitions, programs, and expertise - to address sustainable development goals for the benefit of their communities.

Catherine continues to give back to the museum community, teaching at the Inuit Heritage Trust and the Edmonton Heritage Council, and mentoring emerging museum professionals through formal and informal mentorships, such as the AMA's Mentorship Program. Her commitment to sharing her knowledge and experience is a significant contribution to building a robust and collaborative community of museums and museum professionals.

"In selecting Catherine C. Cole for the Lieutenant Governor's Award, the AMA Board of Directors recognizes the numerous and diverse contributions she has made to the greater museum community," said Meaghan Patterson, Executive Director / CEO. "Catherine has been a long-standing champion for excellence in museum practice and community-centred work, and she embodies the characteristics and passion embedded in this award."

The Lieutenant Governor's Award recognizes the years of dedication and service that Catherine has made to the provincial, national, and international museum sector, as well as her contributions to the professionalism and best practice standards in the Alberta museum community.

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## **Background**

The Lieutenant Governor's Award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of an individual to Alberta's museum community and their achievement in culture and heritage at the provincial, national, and / or international level. Recipients are nominated and selected by the AMA Secretariat and Board of Directors. For more information about the AMA Awards Program, please visit [museums.ab.ca](http://museums.ab.ca).

Historically, the Award is presented at an Awards Ceremony held as part of the AMA's Annual Conference. In light of COVID-19 and public health requirements, the 2021 Annual Conference is taking place as a four-part virtual Conference Series. Catherine C. Cole's achievements will be celebrated during the AMA's Annual General Meeting, taking place virtually ahead of the September Conference Event on September 16, 2021.

The Alberta Museums Association provides a variety of programs and services to over 500 museums and museum professionals across Alberta. Through its focus on community engagement, social responsibility, and sustainability, the AMA utilizes its funding, accreditation, awards, and professional development opportunities to support institutions in their vital role as leading contributors to the social, cultural, and educational fabric of Alberta. The AMA believes that museums can leverage their positions as trusted institutions to encourage respectful dialogue, provide educational opportunities, and bring awareness to some of society's most pressing issues.

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