

Museum Budget Item – Priority 1 – Additional Staff Person

The museum respectfully requests a full-time assistant. It has been some time since one person could adequately run the museum (administration, exhibits, research, events, programming, care of collection, grants, marketing, etc).

Although the perception of a museum is that of an old building where visitors view collections gathered over the history of the community, that is no longer the case. Today, museums are interactive and event-oriented. They are places of learning, and often community hubs.

All museums in our area (except Dryden) including Sioux Lookout have two or more staff plus interns. One staff member oversees administration, the collection, and often the research and planning that creates scholarly and meaningful exhibits that are the focus for programming and events. The other staff member plans educational programming (curriculum based) and events, oversees the gift shop, reception and volunteers.

With only one staff member, we cannot provide well-researched exhibits, nor comprehensive programming. Without these, we cannot grow our visitors or increase revenue. We're at the limit of what we can do.

Please keep in mind, that museums run on deadlines. Every exhibit opening, each event and workshop are advertised. Every grant and final report have firm deadlines. On most days, the single staff member works after closing to meet timelines. To keep our museum front and centre for our community, she is currently working at the very limit of what she can do. It is time to provide help or pull back.

Although covering reception used to be a reason for requesting an assistant, we are long past this. It should be noted that the museum currently runs on close to 2000 volunteer hours per year. We also employ 3-4 student staff each summer. Although very important and helpful, what the museum needs is trained staff who can help with workload: caring for our collection, exhibit planning and creation, and providing meaningful programming.

Lauren Hyatt, our new intern, has a masters in drama. She is confident, energetic and is a strong advocate for community engagement; she will be a great asset to our museum. With the market square opening up in 2017, Lauren is a perfect fit for expanded programming. I strongly recommend that, following this internship, the museum hires a full-time assistant. If Lauren works out as I believe she will, let's not lose her to employment elsewhere.

I invite you to stop in and meet Lauren. If you have the opportunity to attend our gala, she will be MCing the event and has played a huge part in the preparations.

I am suggesting a beginning wage of \$22.50/hour. As employment will be for three months only in 2017 (Oct-Dec, next year's cost will be \$10,600 plus benefits (\$40,500 in 2018).

Museum Budget Item – Priority 2 – Canada 150 spending

2017 is Canada's sesquicentennial. We have planned additional exhibits and are in the process of planning events and programming around these exhibits and Canada 150 themes. As our display budget stands at \$4000 and our activities and events budget is the same, \$4000 (display budget has not changed in 4 years), I am asking for additional funds.

We have booked three travelling exhibits next year with a total price tag of \$4500 plus some shipping charges (a grant will cover most of the latter). Our in-house exhibit will also have some costs.

I am requesting \$3000 extra for my display budget, plus the same for the events budget, for a combined total of \$6000.

I feel that our local community, as well as visiting tourists, will expect to see some kind of splash around our country's celebratory year.

Museum Budget Item – Priority 3 – Accepting the donation of a 'bug' for our waterfront display

An American party has offered to give the museum a small logging tugboat that was used alongside the Hallett for the river drive. This boat was built by the Russel Bros. as was the Hallett.

Eric Fagerdahl has seen the boat. It is in good shape, but will require sandblasting and painting. Eric has also made inquiries around importing it to Canada, and approached Mark Faragher around refurbishing costs. As museums are given special considerations, there will be no taxes or import duties. Boat can be imported this fall.

First estimates are in the amount of \$25,000 as boat will have to be moved to Faragher's workshop. To meet environmental regulations, work has to be completed inside. Once painted, boat will be dry-docked near the Hallett. We are thinking of allowing people on the boat, but simply to walk through; engine will be behind plexiglass.

Additional information regarding boat and Customs is attached.