

REPORT

TO: Community Services Executive Committee

FROM: Sherry George, Museum Curator

DATE: November 17, 2016

RE: **Museum Budget Considerations**

The museum requires full time assistance. True since long before I came on board.

Only through help from volunteers, Friends of the Museum, summer student help and interns (3rd this year), **has our museum continued to grow and expand. But at a price.**

We are failing in significant ways. Due to staff shortages, we are no longer able to provide well researched exhibits, nor comprehensive, curriculum-based programming. I no longer can find time to conduct research or properly plan for future events.

The role of museums has changed. Today's museums are interactive and event oriented. They are places of learning, and are expected to teach, challenge and engage visitors.

This shortage is not something we can cover thru volunteers. Yearly we average close to 2000 volunteer hours. (1800 constitutes full time)

Without training, volunteers cannot assist with museum tasks, which include:

- Caring for the collection (2-3 years of accessioning waiting to be done)
- planning and developing exhibits (Hong Kong exhibit well researched, but poorly presented, nor met accessibility standards)
- planning and preparing programming (curriculum-based, age-appropriate, engaging, culturally sensitive)
- writing grants (9 grants in 2016, 7 approved - \$75,600, 2 pending \$154,000), reports

Museums run on deadlines – every exhibit, open house, workshop, grant, report.

Despite working extra hours daily, I struggle to meet timelines. I fight fires. This is not effective nor productive; without prep work, we are placing limits on what we can do. I am reaching burnout.

Note that all museums in our area - except Dryden, but including Sioux Lookout - have two or more staff, plus interns.

Our town's mission statement speaks to improving quality of life for our residents. In addition, we see value in **pursuing an age-friendly designation. Is the museum not part of this?** With the new market square, the museum is, in fact, in a prime location to be part of that future.

Part of the town's vision should be giving the museum the tools it needs to plan meaningful exhibits and run programming. To do this, the **museum requires trained, full-time staff.**

The contract for our museum intern runs to the end of September 2017. I am requesting approval to hire a full-time assistant at that time. At 22.50 per hour, the commitment in 2017 will be \$10,500 plus benefits; (\$40,500 in 2018).

Tugboat – tug built by Russel Bros. (same as Hallett) has been **donated to museum**. Good shape, engine runs. But **needs to be sandblasted and painted** Hallett colours. Currently in I’Falls. **Has to be loaded on a truck and delivered to our side**. No problem with customs as museum donations fall into a special category that require little paperwork.

Sandblasting must take place indoors due to environmental issues.

We are thinking of **dry-docking the boat on a cement pad near the Hallett**. People would be allowed on the boat, but not inside; engine could be partitioned-off with plexiglass.

Estimated costs:

Transport over here	\$5000
Sandblasting/painting	25,000
Dry-docking	5000
Total	\$35000-\$40000

Decision has to be made as boat will be given to someone else.

Interesting note: this tug is featured on the paper version of the Canadian \$1 bill.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry George, Museum Curator