



Membership Advisory

Museums to Close Under Enhanced Public Health Measures

On December 8, 2020, the Government of Alberta [announced](#) more stringent mandatory public health measures to protect the health and safety of all Albertans as the province continues to see a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Effective at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, December 13, all museums, science centres, interpretive centres, and galleries across the province must close.

These mandatory closures, along with [additional enhanced public health measures](#), will be in place at least until January 12, 2021. These measures are continually being evaluated and adjusted as required. Refer to [Alberta Health Services](#) and the [Government of Alberta](#) for the most current information relating to COVID-19.

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) is continuing to work with provincial representatives to ensure that the needs of museums are understood and that our sector is supported through this time as well as moving forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has had deep impacts on our communities, and our sector has been hit particularly hard by the events of the last several months. After initial closures in March, 34% of museums did not open for the 2020 season, and of those, 60% did not know when they would have the capacity to do so.

Museums are vital to the fabric of our communities. Over the last several months, as Albertans have turned to the arts and culture for support during these difficult times, the museum community has demonstrated resilience and ingenuity, working diligently to ensure visitors have had safe places to explore the history and culture of our province, including with virtual experiences when we could not gather together safely in person.

As our doors are once again closed to the public to protect the health and safety of visitors, staff, volunteers, and their families, we recognize that these necessary measures will further intensify the impacts that have already been felt by our sector. We encourage you to continue working with elected officials in your communities, sharing your museum's experience and showing how vital your museum is to the health and well-being, as well as the economic vitality, of your community.

The AMA is committed to continuing to work on behalf of the Alberta museum community, and our Advisory team is available [by email](#) to address any questions you may have. The AMA also has [resources available](#) to support your organization when museums are once again able to reopen and operate safely.

A connected community of museum professionals is all the more important to support each other in responding to the pandemic and ensuring we are stronger moving forward. We encourage you to reach out to your professional colleagues, co-workers, and friends in the field. Please also reach out to the AMA Board and Secretariat and let us know how we can continue to support you in the times ahead.