



*The Archaeological Society of Alberta*

March 2026

# the value of **The Archaeological Society of Alberta and Cultural Heritage**

The Government of Alberta has recently decided to cut funding to three provincial heritage organizations, including the Archaeological Society of Alberta. Furthermore, the Government of Canada has recently passed [Bill C-5](#), which aims to expedite development projects, potentially neglecting proper archaeological oversight.





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## *A Note From the ASA President*

Helen Keller said it so eloquently: "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." That is what we need our membership to embrace as we lobby to have the ASA Funding back in place for the next budget. Our avocational and professional archaeologists see the importance our archaeological sites have in Alberta's history. ASA and the member centres have helped to preserve and will continue to advocate for future preservation.

Right now, we need members to mail their respective MLA's and Premier Danielle Smith emphasizing the importance our organization is for the province. Our volunteers are actively engaged in promoting archaeology across the province as they have done for more than 50 years. The \$29,000 we received in the past from the Government Grant is money well spent. If we, as volunteers, were paid minimum wage for our volunteer hours in 2025 it would roughly amount to over \$115,000! A really good investment for the government! And yet, this isn't recognized! Help us lobby the government to invest in our heritage organization.

*Wendy-Ellen Nittel*



# The Future of The Archaeological Society of Alberta

## What Can We Do?



We encourage all of our members to write to or call their MLA and share their perspective on the value of cultural heritage preservation, particularly archaeology.

The ASA will continue to support our communities, as it has for the past 50 years. We appreciate your support in voicing your concerns to the Government of Alberta and reminding them how valuable archaeology is.

The following pages contain a template for contacting your Minister.

The ASA has sent the Minister of Arts, Culture, and Status of Women a letter – Read it [HERE](#).





**The Archaeological Society of Alberta (ASA) is being defunded!**  
**See below for what you can do to help!**

In the 2026 Alberta Provincial Budget Announcement, the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Status of Women, headed by Minister Tanya Fir, stated that the Archaeological Society of Alberta (ASA) and two other Provincial Heritage Organizations (PHOs) lost their annual provincial funding and designation as PHOs. The ASA has been a leading voice and heritage advocate for more than 50 years, and has been receiving modest funding for several decades to support its public initiatives. With centres in Bodo, Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer, the ASA has mobilized volunteers for community/provincial engagement, and has been the “boots on the ground” explaining, showcasing, and promoting our cultural heritage to all Albertans and visitors to our province.

Government funds support the ASA’s engagement with people across Alberta. The modest sum we receive from the Alberta government offers a significant return. The \$29,000 we received in 2025 translated into an estimated 7,696 volunteer hours (valued at a provincial minimum wage standard of \$115,400.00) and direct engagement with over 6,300 individuals. Even more people took advantage of our educational resources, supplied in schools and freely online. Our outreach activities benefit all Albertans, through hundreds of free public lectures hosted across the province, through public archaeology programs, workshops, field trips, and through many other events. The ASA partners with numerous schools across Alberta, facilitating a range of activities, from field trips, day camps and summer programs at Bodo, to developing free resource materials for teachers, to funding and advertising field school opportunities for students in post-secondary educational contexts. The ASA recognizes that supporting education is a priority of the Government of Alberta, and our society has demonstrated its commitment to advocating for and providing materials to support the educational aspect of our mission.

Further, the ASA facilitates interaction between the government and different heritage organizations within the government and province, Indigenous leaders, industry developers, K-12 educators, and an extensive network of volunteers. One of the most impactful results of the ASA’s work is the bringing together of all of these stakeholders. Those connections influence a diverse variety of sectors important to Alberta, not the least of which are tourism and resource development.

Regardless of our government’s lack of support, our vision statement will stay true.

**The ASA aims to enhance the public’s understanding of Alberta’s archaeological resources, instill an appreciation of our collective past, and advocate for the safeguarding of our non- renewable cultural heritage.**

ASA has written a letter to Minister Tanya Fir, and we encourage you to reach out as well!



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**1. Write a letter or call your Member of the Legislative Assembly!**

- Visit <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly> to confirm the name and contact information for your MLA. A template as below can be used:
  - Hello, my name is John Doe or Susie Smith, and I live in your riding. My postal code is TXX XXX. (*This is important as you need to prove you are in their riding.*)
  - Express your concern! Highlight your concerns about the recent proposed budget, our defunding and the loss of ASA's "Provincial Heritage Organization" designation.
  - Share why the work ASA does is important for Alberta.
    - What does ASA do and why is our work important?
    - How does ASA help the general public?
    - Why are you upset that we're losing the funding?



**2. Send your letter to Honorable Tanya Fir!**

- Once you have written your letter to your MLA, we recommend sending it to Minister Tanya Fir as well!
  - Honourable Tanya Fir
  - Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women
  - Email: [acsw.minister@gov.ab.ca](mailto:acsw.minister@gov.ab.ca)
  - Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to the Archaeological Society of Alberta
    - Don't' forget to cc your MLA!



**3. Send your letter to Premier Danielle Smith!**

- Take it one step further and send it to Premier Danielle Smith
  - Premier Danielle Smith
  - Email: [premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca)
  - Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to the Archaeological Society of Alberta
    - Don't' forget to cc your MLA!



# Publications

## Alberta Archaeological Review

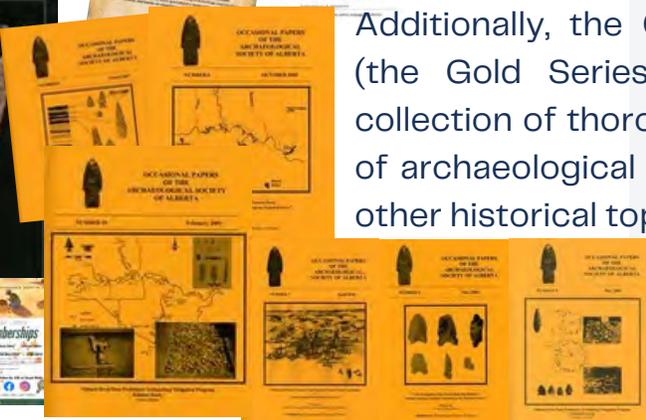
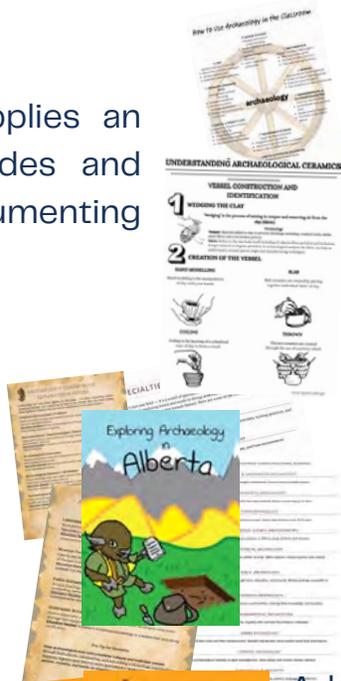
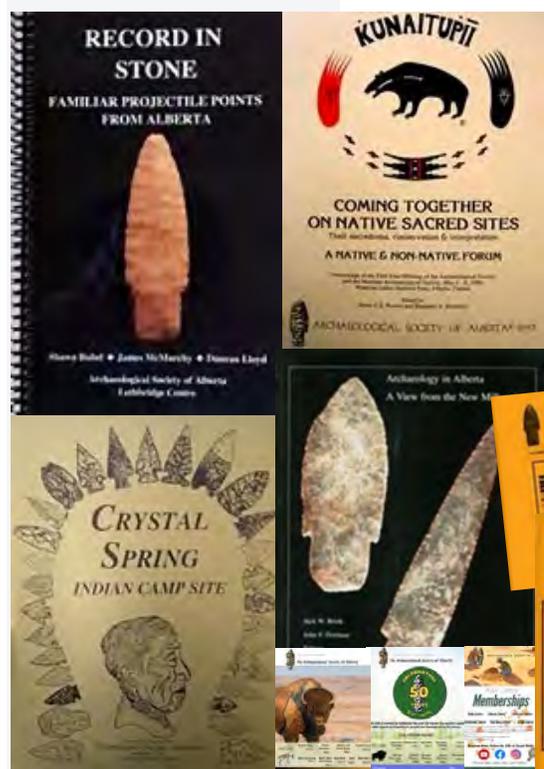
The Alberta Archaeological Review is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes discoveries across all branches of anthropology and archaeology. There have been over 69 editions released as of March 2026. This journal focuses on research local to Alberta.

## Newsletters

Additionally, the Archaeological Society of Alberta publishes newsletters to share relevant events and industry news with our members across the province. There are currently 60 issues, and the newsletter has been published regularly since 2013.

## Books

The Archaeological Society supplies an array of books, from field guides and reference material to documenting Indigenous sites and stories.



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<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Finalists Report</b>
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## Teaching Resources

The Archaeological Society of Alberta has supported Alberta's teachers and education by producing multiple **FREE** worksheets and activity books for use in K-12 education.

Alongside these, we provide guidance on possible career paths in archaeology to University students.

## The Gold Series

Additionally, the Occasional Papers (the Gold Series) is a thoughtful collection of thorough investigations of archaeological sites, theories, and other historical topics.



**We have published 161 resources in total, with more in progress!**

# Community Engagement

## The Speaker Series

We offer monthly sessions across the province hosted by renowned professionals.

These are free to attend and open to the public, and serve as informational and educational opportunities for our members and communities to learn more about archaeology.



ASA SPEAKER SERIES  
FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
ARKYALBERTA.COM

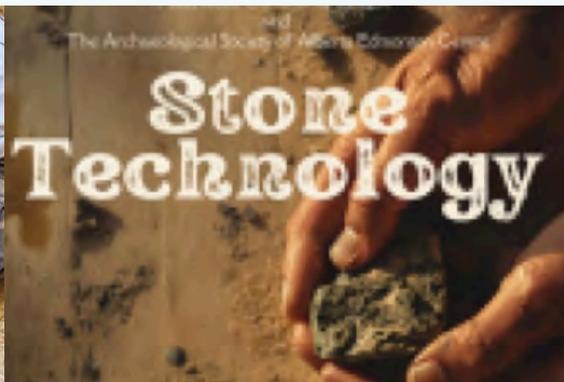
EXPLORING THE PAST, ONE STORY AT A TIME

	NOVEMBER 4	DR. KEVIN MCGEOUGH	Book launch and Talk-Readers of the Lost Ark: Imagining the Ark of the Covenant from Abyssinia to Alberta.
	NOVEMBER 6	TAMARA MOORE	Debunking the "Mysterious" Collapse & Disappearance of the Maya: Perspectives from Belize.
	NOVEMBER 15	KRIS GRZYMSKI	Excavating Meroe (Sudan): or Calgarians on the Nile
	NOVEMBER 15	TAMARA MOORE	Debunking the "Mysterious" Collapse & Disappearance of the Maya: Perspectives from Belize.



## Learning Opportunities

We offer a variety of scholarships, grants, and workshops. Additionally, we refer students to various field school opportunities. Our goal is to support aspiring archaeologists with supplemental resources and education, and to help them get their foot in the door for wherever their career might take them.



# Centre Overview

## Bodo

Bodo offers field work opportunities; as well as summer camps for children.



## Calgary

Calgary offers multiple grants, workshops, outreach and a lively speakers program.



## Edmonton

Edmonton offers outreach and field trips; as well as a variety of programs and events targeted at younger audiences.



# Centre Overview

## Lethbridge

The Lethbridge centre also has a strong speaker series, and another strength is its outreach. The Alberta Archaeological Review is edited by volunteers from ASA-Lethbridge.



## Red Deer

Centrally located, the Red Deer centre is rising again like a phoenix from the ashes. They are currently building up their membership.



## South Eastern Alberta Archaeological Society

This group is very active in organizing field trips and also has a robust speaker series. SEAAS is composed entirely of avocational archaeologists and is a very social group.



# YOU CAN HELP PROTECT CULTURAL HERITAGE

We encourage all of our members to reach out to their MLA and share their thoughts about the importance of cultural heritage preservation. Letters and phone calls are more effective than emails. We have devised a template for you [here](#).



**The ASA has served Alberta for 50+ years, and we intend to continue doing so!**

**If you would like to be more involved with ASA and are interested in volunteering with one of our centres, send us an email!**

**[arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com](mailto:arkysocietyalberta@gmail.com)**

