

## Community Standards

“A community's heritage is part of its identity. As a steward of the community's heritage, the museum is actively engaged in the community and responsive to its needs. The museum is accessible and relevant, and draws support from its community.”<sup>1</sup>

A museum should have a written policy that defines its relationship with the community. In this statement the museum should affirm that it will be a steward of the community's heritage through the care and preservation of their collection and is committed to providing services and programs consistent with its mission statement. To promote a relationship of accountability with the community, museums should strive to meet the needs and interests of the community and encourage the community to participate in the museum's decisions, goals and directions. As a member of the community, museums should actively identify and pursue appropriate community partnerships and volunteer opportunities. At every opportunity, a museum should aim to provide equal access to all members of the community, both physically and intellectually, to the museum's collections, information, services and programs.

### **Museum community standards policies should:**

- define in writing the museum's relationship to its community
- state that all services and programs will be consistent with the museum's mission statement and the needs of the community
- state that it will allow all sectors of the community to participate in museum decisions that affect the community and include them in museum activities
- state that it will actively pursue community partnerships appropriate to the museum
- state a commitment to providing physical and intellectual access to the museum's collections, resource and programs
- state a policy of informing the community of hours and access that meet the needs of the community and also to seek ways of providing alternate access such as outreach activities
- state a commitment to a volunteer program to encourage community involvement

### **For more information on this topic see:**

*Guidelines for the Operations of Community Museums in Newfoundland and Labrador*  
Community Standards – Page 23.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ontario Museum Notes: Community Standards

## **Resources for Developing Community Standards Policies**

recollections - Networking

<http://archive.amol.org.au/recollections/5/pdf/networking.pdf>

British Columbia Museum Association

Best Practices Module:

Community Outreach and Programming

<http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca/Images/Archives/BP%203%20Community%20Outreach%20&%20Programming.pdf>

Cultural Diversity and Community Relevancy & Collections

<http://www.museumsassn.bc.ca/Images/Best%20Practices%20Modules%202/Cultural%20Diversity%20FINAL.pdf>

Western Australian Museums – Museum Management - Connecting to Community

<http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/services/map/musmanage.asp>

Canadian Museum Association – Reports and Guidelines - Cultural Diversity Publications

[http://www.museums.ca/en/info\\_resources/reports\\_guidelines/](http://www.museums.ca/en/info_resources/reports_guidelines/)

## **Examples of Community Standards Policy Documents**

Ontario Ministry of Culture – Standards for Community Museums in Ontario

Community Standards

<http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/museums/mustand.htm>

## **Examples Available Offline**

Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums Community Policy

[http://www.sudburymuseums.ca/index.cfm?app=w\\_vmuseum&lang=en&secid=2424&type=doc](http://www.sudburymuseums.ca/index.cfm?app=w_vmuseum&lang=en&secid=2424&type=doc)