

1. Introduction

In accordance with its mandate, the Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums recognizes that exhibits presented by the Museum provide an important link between the community and its heritage. The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will demonstrate the importance of this link by striving for accuracy of information, relevance to the community, effective communication, opportunities for learning and the safe display of artifacts in its exhibits.

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums understand that exhibits are the most public expression about its purpose and role in the community. These exhibits must reflect the Museums' statement of purpose, demonstrate its commitment to the highest possible standards of exhibition and address the needs and interests of the community.

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums recognize that the geographic size as well as the ethnic and cultural diversity of the community, requires that it exhibit not only within its heritage sites but also beyond its doors to provide exhibits that reflect and reach out to the community it serves.

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums is committed to the accurate and objective presentation of exhibits, making use of appropriate expertise including, staff, volunteers, community groups and consultants. As demonstrated in the Research Policy, the Museums will conduct research to provide documented and thorough information to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of its exhibits and programs.

The City of Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums is committed to ethical behaviour in its presentation of exhibits.

The City of Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will ensure that all exhibits are consistent with the Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums' Exhibition Policy.

The City of Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will ensure that the exhibition schedules will be comprised of a mix of permanent and temporary exhibits.

The City of Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will ensure that an exhibition schedule is established with clearly defined objectives and an evaluation process that measures exhibits against these objectives.

2. Relevance, Accuracy and Communications

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will ensure that each exhibit is relevant, accurate and effectively communicated by,

- a) ensuring that the exhibits conform to the Museums' statement of purpose;
- b) conducting ongoing research as established in the Museums' Research Policy, in support of exhibits to give a true and accurate evaluation of the exhibit topic or theme and its role in the history of the community;
- c) providing resources allocated in support of research for exhibits;
- d) ensuring that staff and volunteers involved in the planning, preparation and installation of exhibits have the necessary skills and training to uphold the goals of the Museums' Conservation Policy;

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- e) ensuring that exhibits produced by the museums reflect the goals of the Museums' Interpretation and Education Policy to provide opportunities for learning and enjoyment;
- f) protecting its collection so that it remains a valuable resource for study and that the artifacts in the collection remain intact for future generations.

3. Learning Opportunities

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums ensure that exhibits effectively promote learning and enjoyment by:

- a) providing a variety of interpretation methods to meet a range of visitor needs;
- b) regularly rotating and introducing new artifacts to permanent exhibits to refresh the exhibits for the community's enjoyment as well as for conservation purposes;
- c) developing an exhibit schedule with a blend of permanent and temporary exhibits;
- d) ensuring that each exhibit has clearly defined objectives and that each exhibit is evaluated against these established objectives;
- e) allocating a portion of the Museums' operating budget for exhibit development, design, construction, maintenance and evaluation.

4. Conservation and Exhibits

- a) Staff will be accountable to and guided by the Canadian Museum Association statement on the Ethical Behaviour of Professionals in the development and presentation of museum exhibits.
- b) Staff will respect the integrity of the artifacts to be exhibited, avoiding any situation which might put the artifacts or the viewing public at risk.
- c) Staff will at all times, convey information that is accurate and objective in all aspects of his/her work. This extends to the exhibition and interpretation of artifacts, all promotional and publicity considerations and the conveyance of information both verbal and written.
- d) Staff recognizes the upmost importance to preserve the artifacts under their care.
- e) Staff will meet the goals of the Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums' Conservation Policy in the design of exhibits, the use of materials including the use of artifacts in the exhibit.
- f) Staff will adhere to municipal, provincial and federal legislative requirements that have an impact on the development of exhibits and exhibit products (e.g. safety codes, copyright and disability legislation)

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5. Safety and Accessibility

The Greater Sudbury Heritage Museums will ensure that exhibits are kept safe at all times by:

- a) ensuring that any work performed that may be harmful to artifacts is carried out in a workshop that is isolated from collection areas (i.e. display and storage space). Such activities include those that produce dust, excessive heat or vibration and any activities that involve the use of aerosols and solvents (e.g., paints and varnishes);
- b) avoiding the placement of hazardous materials in display cases;
- c) providing adequate support and securing exhibits to protect the exhibit and prevent any potential for injury;
- d) training staff in the safe operation of exhibits (e.g., machinery);
- e) meeting legislated requirements in the handling and display of firearms;
- f) striving to ensure that exhibits are accessible, useable and can be enjoyed by visitors of all ages and abilities.

Approved May 20, 2004