



# Museum of Health Care at Kingston Policies and Procedures Manual

## Exhibition Policy

### 1. Purpose of Exhibits

All exhibits created by the Museum of Health Care will further the Museum's mission to "preserve the material culture and enhance public understanding of the history of health care."

The term "exhibit" includes web-based and digital exhibits, as well as 3-D exhibits that may or may not include artifacts from the permanent collection.

The term "health care" will be interpreted in an inclusive manner, encompassing such areas as alternative medicine, home care, and folk remedies, as well as contemporary scientific medicine and the work of health care professionals.

### 2. Serving Our Communities

Individual exhibit topics and the Museum's exhibit schedule will be developed to meet the needs and interests of the communities it serves.

- The Museum's primary community is the general public. Most Museum exhibits will therefore be developed to be accessible, informative, and engaging for people of all ages without specialized training in or knowledge of health care and its history.
- The Museum's second community consists of those engaged professionally in health care delivery in its broadest sense. From time to time the Museum may develop exhibits to serve the specialized needs and interests of members of this community.
- The Museum's topic and collection make it a unique national resource. The Museum's exhibit schedule shall therefore include projects, such as web-based and travelling exhibits, that allow it to serve audiences across Canada.

### 3. Respecting Community Values and Sensitivities

Health care history includes many politically and ethically sensitive issues, as well as content and images which may distress some members of the public. Recognizing this, the Museum of Health Care will strive to accommodate community values and sensitivities while not compromising the integrity of the story.



# Museum of Health Care at Kingston Policies and Procedures Manual

## Exhibition Policy

Exhibit topics and content will be developed to accommodate the venue and audience.

- Exhibits created for audiences of medical professionals will be unrestricted in content and imagery.
- Exhibits created for spaces [3-D and electronic] which are clearly dedicated to the presentation of health care history and which visitors enter by free choice will be unrestricted in choice of topic, but will attempt to respect community standards in presentation and will acknowledge diversity of public opinion in areas of political and ethical controversy.
- Exhibits created for community events and for health care delivery settings will respect that members of the public did not consciously choose to visit exhibits on health care history and may be anxious about health issues. Topics and presentation will be shaped to minimize the chance of causing distress to the audience, as well as to respect community standards and acknowledge diversity of opinion.

### 4. Accessibility

Exhibits that are in wheelchair-accessible venues will be designed so that all elements are accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.

Exhibits designed for the general public will include elements of interest to and usable by visitors of different ages, levels of education, and learning styles. Where possible, hands-on and interactive elements will be included.

### 5. Ensuring Accuracy

The Museum of Health Care will make every reasonable effort to ensure that information contained in exhibits is accurate and that exhibits effectively convey intended content to visitors.

Statements about the medical effectiveness of historical and current procedures will be reviewed for accuracy by knowledgeable consultants in the field.

### 6. Ethical Issues

Exhibits will be developed in accordance with the CMA Ethical Guidelines, as adopted by the Museum of Health Care in its Governance Policy.



# Museum of Health Care at Kingston Policies and Procedures Manual

## Exhibition Policy

Anatomical specimens [human remains] used in exhibits will be borrowed from reputable medical and/or educational centres, come from persons who have donated their remains for scientific and educational purposes, and be presented respectfully.

### 7. Partnerships

The Museum will create exhibits in partnership with one or more not-for-profit institutions when:

- The mandate and goals of the partner(s) are compatible with those of the Museum.
- The project fits with the Museum's strategic plan and furthers its own goals.
- The Museum has the resources available to carry out the project.
- The respective contributions, roles, and recognition of each party have been spelled out in a written agreement.

Partners may participate in shaping the exhibit content and presentation as defined in the agreement.

### 8. Funding Sources

The Museum of Health Care will seek diversified sources of funding for each exhibit, including government and foundation grants, private donations, and corporate sponsorships.

Funders will not participate in shaping exhibit content or presentation.

To avoid a perception of bias, the Museum will make every effort to ensure that no exhibit is funded entirely by one for-profit corporation or private donor.

All funders will be recognized and thanked appropriately for their contribution.

### 9. Conservation

The Museum will meet current conservation standards recommended by the Canadian Conservation Institute for exhibit materials and environmental conditions, choice of artifacts, and methods of artifact support and presentation.



# Museum of Health Care at Kingston Policies and Procedures Manual

## Exhibition Policy

The Museum's professional curatorial staff may veto, limit, or restrict the exhibition of any artifact for conservation reasons.

### 10. Public Safety and Wellness

In the design of all Museum of Health Care exhibits, emphasis will be placed on ensuring public safety.

Wherever possible, the least toxic and most environmentally friendly exhibit materials and production methods will be chosen.

### 11. Legislative Requirements

Museum of Health Care exhibits will meet all municipal, provincial, and federal legislative requirements.

The Museum will ensure that ownership of intellectual property rights for all work done on Museum exhibits by non-employees is documented in writing. Wherever possible, rights will be transferred to the Museum.

### 12. Maintenance

A portion of the Museum's public programs budget will be designated for exhibit maintenance and upgrading.

Regularly scheduled maintenance checks will be conducted for all exhibits, both 3-D and electronic.

### 13. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed by the Board and revised when necessary.