



Annual Report

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The Joggins Fossil Institute is a not-for-profit, charitable organization.

Our MISSION is to be exemplary in fulfilling our responsibilities under the United Nations Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage to protect, conserve, and present the outstanding value of the Joggins Fossil Cliffs through research, education, and tourism.





We are all treaty people

The Joggins Fossil Institute acknowledges that it is in the district of Siknikt, in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people. Mi'kma'ki is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact, recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship.



Message From the Directors

In 2024, we celebrated our 16th year as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We celebrated this milestone on July 7th with cake and kind words from Mayor Murray Scott, former mayor of the Municipality of Cumberland.

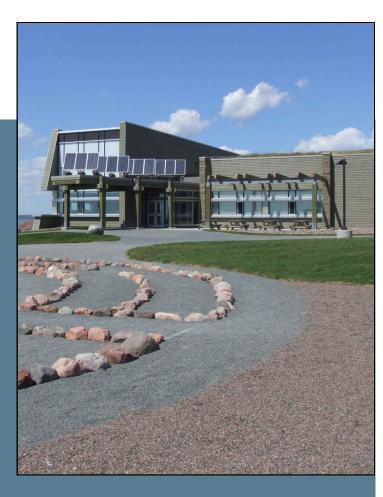
After the unprecedented climate challenges we faced in 2023, 2024 was a year of growth in terms of visitors and programming. We welcomed over 12 000 visitors to the Joggins Fossil Cliffs & Centre, many of whom went on one of our 30-minute or 90-minute tours.

In addition to our programming efforts, we also conduct and facilitate research at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs & Centre. In 2024, we welcomed several student and professional researchers, led by Dr. Lexie Arnott of Dalhousie University, Mitch Maracle of the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and Dr. Grant Wach of Dalhousie University.

Our commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, and reconciliation remained strong throughout the year. In early 2024, we

completed four new interpretive panels that are trilingual (Mi'kmaw, English, and French).

2024 also marked a significant change in our administrative team. We said farewell to Lorna Terrio, Director of Administration since our inception as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2008. We celebrated Lorna's retirement with a retirement party in January



and wish her the best in this new and exciting chapter of her life. In Lorna's place, we welcomed Tracey LeBlanc as our Senior Administrative Assistant. Please join us in giving Tracey a warm welcome!

None of our successes would be possible without our hardworking seasonal staff. If you visited the Joggins Fossil Cliffs & Centre in 2024 and enjoyed one of our expertly led tours, your interpreter was Ashley, Dana, Jenna, Kathleen, Miles, or Peter. If you savored a delicious cookie and a cup of coffee, our treats were baked by Joyce and Ashley. If you ate your lunch outside on a picnic table, strolled along our grounds, or used our facilities, they were maintained by Dara, Doug, Gary, Jon, Laurel, and Sandra.

Finally, we'd like to thank our funders for their continued support. The Municipality of Cumberland, the Province of Nova Scotia, and the Government of Canada all invest in the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, helping us continue to be a world-class UNESCO World Heritage Site

Jade Ollus Jade Atkins

Director of Science and Research

Jordan Le Blanc

Director of Operations





Board of Directors

Jeff Ollerhead Chair

Danielle SerratosVice Chair

Dayle Morris-Quinn Treasurer

Danielle LeightonSecretary

Laura Broom

Member

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Member

Carrie Lee

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Trent Moore

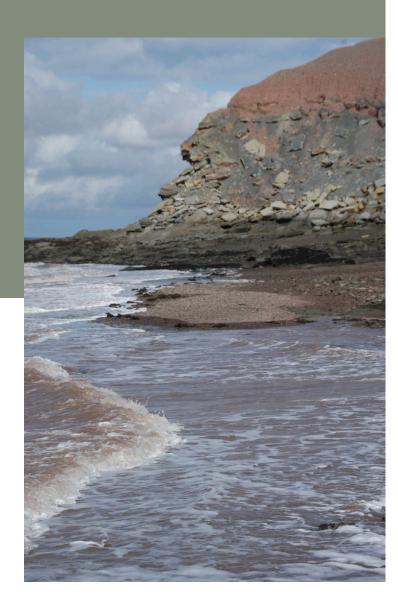
Member

Mo Snyder

Member Chair, Science Advisory Committee

Cary Vollick

Member



Management Team

Dr. Jade Atkins

Curator

Director of Science and Research

Jordan LeBlanc

Director of Operations

Tracey LeBlanc

Senior Administrative Assistant

Carlos Serratos

Manager of Outreach and Development

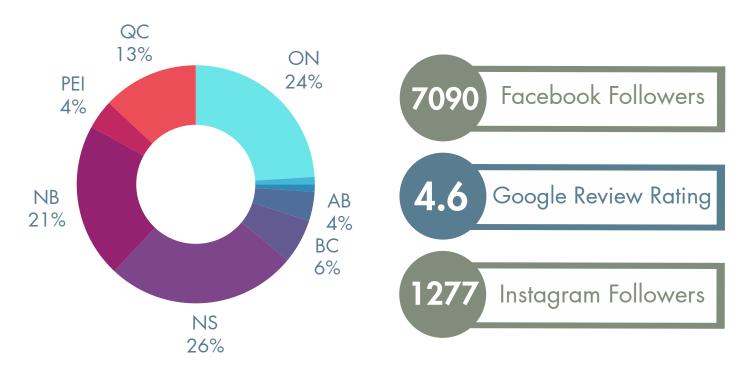
Seasonal Staff



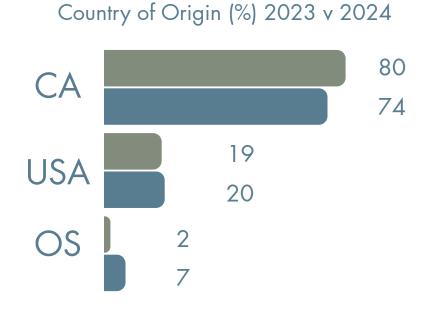




The Numbers



Canadian Visitors by Province



Education and Outreach

At the Joggins Fossil Institute, education is at the heart of our mission. Every visitor to this UNESCO World Heritage Site engages in educational experiences, whether they are multigenerational families exploring the beach and uncovering fossils or school groups on planned visits to achieve specific learning objectives. Additionally, our outreach programs extend the educational impact of the Institute, enabling us to connect with an even wider audience.

Education

The 2024-2025 fiscal year saw continued success with our educational programming. With school groups, from all academic levels, taking part in our 30 and 45-minute beach tours, as well as our museum tours and add-on activities, we are proud of the momentum that we have established and relationships that we have built.



For 2024-2025 our Science Day Camp programming expanded! We were able to offer a Summer Day Camp as well as a March Break Camp. Our Summer Day Camp is a 5-day program that saw participants exploring science through hands-on learning experiences and outdoor activities. The program was led by our Manager of Outreach and Education and was facilitated by our talented interpretation staff. The Joggins Fossil Institute was also able to set up a bursary fund to assist families in paying for the camp, due to a generous donation from the River Philip Foundation. For March Break Camp, we teamed up with the Clean Foundation and the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark to provide participants with fun and educational science activities.

Staff Training

This year, the Joggins Fossil Institute continued to participate in TRACK (training, resources, assessment, coaching, and knowledge sharing), which is offered by the Nova Scotia Association of Museums. TRACK offers training that helps museums to address accessibility, equality, diversity, and inclusion, responding to climate change, and community needs. You can learn more about TRACK <u>here</u>.

Last fall, our directors attended Wilderness & Remote First Aid. This advanced version of first aid training helps people who are in remote areas, like the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, with quick decision making and other practical skills.

Outreach



Career Fairs

We participated in a series of career fairs across the Municipality of Cumberland, organized by the Cumberland Business Connector. We were able to talk about palaeontology, museum work, and education with high school students at Parrsboro Regional High School, River Hebert District School, and Pugwash District High School.

Community Events

In 2024/2025, we brought outreach activities to several events around the Municipality of Cumberland and beyond! You may have caught us at, "What a Releaf! It's Spring!" in April, at the afterschool program run by Maggie's Place in River Hebert in May, at Oxford Regional Education Centre or Heritage Models Museum in June, at Minudie Day in July, at "Oh My Gourd! It's Fall!" in October, or at the Fundy Geological Museum's Science Fair in November. We also attended the Association of Science Teachers annual conference in Halifax in October.



Fibre Arts Friends

Fibre Arts Friends continues to be a popular programme. It is offered eight months each year from 2 pm to 4 pm on the third Tuesday of: September, October, November, January, February, March, April, and May. Participants bring their own projects, including but not limited to rug-hooking, knitting, crocheting, stainglass work, cross-stitch, and needle point.

Sikniktuk Climate Adaption

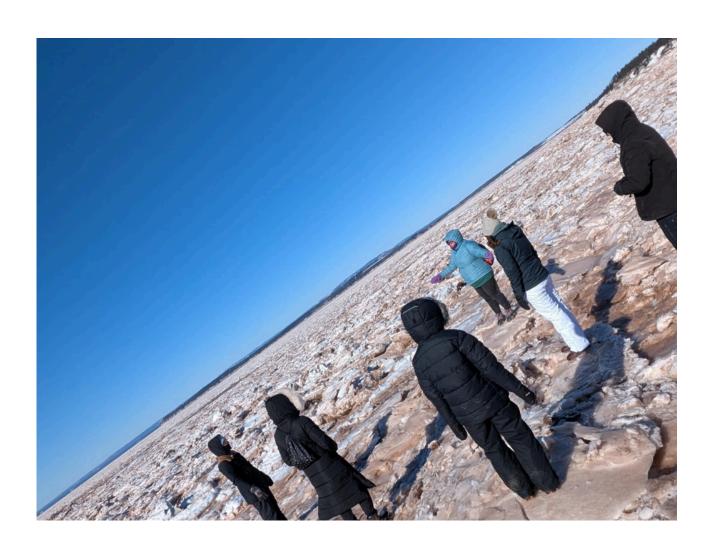
In July, our Director Science & Research presented to the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq with Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation. Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation is an Indigenous Lead Area Based Conservation program working towards acquiring land along and around the Amlamgog River in New Brunswick over the course of the next three years. Their goal, using additional funding sources, is to utilize the land for salt marsh restoration. Ultimately, these restored salt marsh lands will be donated to a Mi'kmaw land trust in New Brunswick.

Virtual Seminar Series

Our Virtual Seminar Series is a free lecture series open to the public. This past year, we hosted seven speakers who lectured on a variety of topics from field safety to coastal erosion. Catch up on the 2024/2025 lectures on our <u>YouTube channel</u>!

Winter Carnival

In February, the Institute was lucky to participate in the Fundy Shore Winter Carnival and the Amherst Winter Carnival. Dr. Atkins led a gallery tour and a frigid beach hike for locals looking to get active. Afterwards, everyone warmed up with some coffee and hot cocoa organized by the Manager of Outreach and Development at the Joggins Fossil Centre. The Fundy Shore Winter Carnival Parrsboro Carnival Day was postponed due to weather, but we were able to show up for the Spring make-up day!





Development and Strategic Engagement

The 2024/2025 fiscal year had its share of trials and triumphs. We are happy that the Province of Nova Scotia recognizes the hard work we do here at the Joggins Fossil Institute and we are working with them towards an agreement to secure a funding agreement that fits our needs and the current global financial circumstances. We are pleased to have received additional funding for our 2024/2025 fiscal year from the Province of Nova Scotia, and this increase will be our new operational grant going forward. We are also thankful to the Municipality of Cumberland County for its financial support of our operations and special projects. This fiscal year, thanks to the generosity of foundations, private donors, and government grants, we were able to make steps towards creating safer, more representative and accessible space at the Joggins Fossil Centre.



Thanks to a donation by the River Philip
Foundation, the Joggins Fossil Institute was able
to set up a bursary fund for families in
Cumberland County, a historically underserved
community, and bring science to children who
may otherwise never meet a professional
researcher.

In 2024 we were awarded a Government of Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage ACCESS-Ability grant which, in conjunction with a district grant from the Municipality of Cumberland (Nova Scotia) allowed us to renovate one wing of our washrooms and replace the malfunctioning

facilities with a large-capacity changing table and new, larger stalls with enhanced privacy. These renovations increase the accessibility of our site, as well as foster a safer, gender-neutral space.

None of this growth would have been possible without the generous support of our funders, patrons and donors. We have big goals regarding the development of the Joggins Fossil Centre, and we can not do it without you.

Research, Collections, and Exhibits

Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Joggins Fossil Institute's Science Advisory Committee (SAC) advises the Board on matters of research and other scientific affairs related to the site and its management. Members specialize in geology, palaeontology, biology, or environmental sciences. The Director of Science & Research is an ex-officio member of the SAC and, in conjunction with the Chair, is responsible for organizing meetings, writing, and distributing minutes, and reporting to the Board on SAC recommendations. The SAC meets two times a year and submits an annual report to the Board of Directors summarizing the committee's work.

Research

In 2024, the Institute started a long-term coastal monitoring project at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. The monitoring will be done in partnership with members of the SAC who are provincial (Nova Scotia) geologists. In Nova Scotia, rates of erosion along the coast are highly variable and can range from a few centimetres to a metre or more per year. Hurricanes and severe storms and their accompanying storm surges may result in several metres of erosion occurring over an extremely short period of time. The first steps towards protecting our coast, including the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, is regular monitoring of our coastline. At the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, we are hoping to map the cliffs annually so we can determine which areas of the UNESCO World Heritage site are most vulnerable to erosion.



Our Director of Science & Research cosupervised three students from Dalhousie University during the 2024/2024 academic year. Brooke Reid completed her honours project with Dr. Atkins and Dr. Grant Wach, while first year students Elysia Johnson Furey and Isadora completed term projects with Dr. Atkins and Dr. Lexie Arnott. All three students studied the marine sediments in the Joggins Formation, working to identify fish scales from the collection and contribute to our understanding of the marine environment in the Joggins Formation.



Together with Dalhousie University, the Institute has started a project studying the concretions found at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs. These concretions tend to preserve beautiful fossils inside of them, which is also common at other Late Carboniferous sites around the world, such as Mazon Creek in the USA and Brymbo Fossil Forest in Wales. We hope to understand the mineral composition of the nodules and describe the fossils found within them. Did you know that the most complete specimen to come from the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, *Dendrerpeton*, is preserved in a concretion?

In 2024, we hosted four university classes. The Dalhousie Integrated Science Programme visited us from Dalhousie University, Dr. Tim Diedesch and Dr. Erik Scott visited us from Rice University while in Nova Scotia for a field course, our former curator, Dr. Melissa Grey, visited us from Mount Allison University with her palaeontology class, and Dr. Grant Wach visited us from Dalhousie University with his sedimentology class.

This past year we hosted visiting researchers from all over the world when the International Symposium on Early and Lower Vertebrates visited while on their post-conference field trip. We also hosted Dr. Tim Astrop of Brymbo Fossil Forest. Dr. Astrop visited us to shadow our staff and learn more about running a tourist attraction that's also a fossil locality. We look forward to continuing to work with Brymbo Fossil Forest on some exciting research projects!

New Publications

Adams, GR, et al. (2025). "Anatomy and revised diagnosis of the embolomere Calligenethlon watsoni from Joggins, Nova Scotia, based on micro-computed tomography." Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society, 203.2.

Malay, BC, et al. (2024). "A new cubichnium ichnogenus and ichnospecies, Pygocephalichnium reidi, from the Pennsylvanian UNESCO World Heritage Site at Joggins Fossil Cliffs, Canada, and associated ichnotaxa." Atlantic Geoscience, 60: 185–203.

Reid, BT (2025). "Carboniferous sarcopterygian fossils and the marine paleoenvironment of the Joggins Formation, Nova Scotia, Canada." Undergraduate Honours Thesis. Halifax: Dalhousie University.

We're now on <u>Google Scholar!</u> Keep up to date on our most recent research, as well as almost 200 years of historic research conducted at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs.

Conference Presentations

Reid, BT, L Morris, JB Atkins and G Wach. (2025). Carboniferous sarcopterygian fish fossils and the marine paleoenvironment of the Joggins Formation. Atlantic Geosciences Society 51st Colloquium, Dartmouth, Canada.

Reid, BT, L Morris, JB Atkins and G Wach. (2024). Carboniferous sarcopterygian fish fossils and the marine paleoenvironment at Joggins Fossils Cliffs, Nova Scotia, Canada. Atlantic Universities Geoscience Conference, Halifax, Canada.



Collections

The total number of specimens in the collection numbers over 1800, with a working collection of approximately 85 specimens. The working collection is used for educational experiences and activities in the gallery and off-site for outreach. All specimens are collected with a Heritage Research Permit issued by the Province of Nova Scotia.

In 2024, we added eleven new fossils to our collection, including a beautiful shoulder bone belonging to a carnivorous fish.

Exhibits

In 2024, we continued a project started in 2023 to update our outdoor interpretative panels. As part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation, we have committed to all new panels and exhibits being trilingual (English, Mi'kmaw, and French). To date, we have four trilingual interpretive panels on site, and we will be adding two additional panels shortly. Our washroom signs and our signs about updating our exhibits are also trilingual. We are grateful to our graphic designer, Robert Lyon, for his hard work at designing our new panels. We are also grateful to our translators: Léa Veine-Tonizzo translated the new panels into French, while the team at Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey translated the panels into Mi'kmaw.



Events in 2024/2025

Fibre Arts Friends	Apr 16, 2024						
Earth Day Live on Facebook with Dr. Atkins	Apr 22, 2024						
Season Opening Day	May 1, 2024						
Fibre Arts Friends	May 21, 2024						
Annual General Meeting	May 23, 2024						
Divine Mercy Catholic School Visit	Jun 3, 2024						
Highway Cleanup Event	Jun 6, 2024						
Research visit by Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources	Jun 11, 2024						
Parrsboro Regional Elementary School Visit	Jun 11, 2024						
Research visit by Dalhousie University	Jun 12, 2024						
Ecole Calixte-Savoie Visit	Jun 18, 2024						
International Symposium on Early and Lower Vertebrates	Jun 25, 2024						
16th Anniversary Event	Jul 7, 2024						
Summer Day Camp	Jul 8, 2024 - Jul 12, 2024						
Dieppe Boys and Girls Club Visit	Jul 9, 2024/Jul 11, 2024						
Mount Allison University Visit (SHAD)	Jul 24, 2024						
Dieppe Boys and Girls Club Visit	Jul 29, 2024						
Ship's Company Theatre and Fundy Geological Museum's Picnic Play "Dino Stories!"	Aug 8, 2024						

Cumberland Community Youth Development Centre Visit	Aug 13, 2024						
Moncton YMCA Visit	Aug 14, 2024						
Harvard University Visit	Aug 19, 2024						
Fibre Arts Friends	Sep 17, 2024						
Board of Directors Meeting	Sep 19, 2024						
River Hebert District School Visit	Sep 23, 2024						
Virtual Seminar Series - Dr. Tim Astrop	Sep 26, 2024						
Dalhousie University Stratigraphy Course Visit	Sep 28, 2024						
Destination Canada Visit	Oct 2, 2024						
Complexly Visit	Oct 7, 2024 - Oct 9, 2024						
Virtual Seminar Series - Alexandra Bonham	Oct 10, 2024						
Wild Nova Scotia Visit	Oct 11, 2024						
Stori Brymbo, Dr. Tim Astrop Visit	Oct 16, 2024 - Oct 20, 2024						
Rice University Field Course Visit	Oct 18, 2024						
Creepy Crawlies of the Carboniferous Halloween Event	Oct 19, 2024						
Last Day of the Season	Oct 20, 2024						
Fibre Arts Friends	Oct 22, 2024						
Dalhousie University Integrated Science Program Visit	Oct 24, 2024						
Mount Allison University Paleaontology Course Visit	Oct 24, 2024						
Board of Directors Meeting	Nov 7, 2024						
Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq Visit	Nov 8, 2024						
Virtual Seminar Series - Sebastien Dyer	Nov 14, 2024						

Fibre Arts Friends	Nov 19, 2024
Science Advisory Committee Meeting	Nov 20, 2024
Virtual Seminar Series - Dr. Marcos Zentilli	Nov 28, 2024
Dalhousie University Research Visit	Dec 9, 2024
Board of Directors Meeting	Dec 12, 2024
Board of Directors Meeting	Jan 16, 2025
Fibre Arts Friends	Jan 21, 2025
Virtual Seminar Series - Dr. Jade Atkins	Jan 23, 2025
Winter Beach Hike, as part of Fundy Shore Winter Carnival, Amherst Winter Carnival and Springhill Chilly Willy	Feb 15, 2025
Virtual Seminar Series - Dr. Mo Snyder	Feb 27, 2025
March Break Day Camp	Mar 11, 2025 - Mar 13, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting	Mar 20, 2025
Virtual Seminar Series - Brooke Reid	Mar 27, 2025

Memberships, Partnerships & Supporters

JFI is a member of:

- Association of Nova Scotia Museums
- Atlantic Canada UNESCO Tourism Corridor
- Atlantic Geoscience Society
- Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences
- Carboniferous Fossil Forest Network
- Geological Association of Canada
- The Paleontological Society
- USA & Canada World Heritage Network

JFI is partnered with:

- Acadia University
- Birds Canada
- Cliffs of Fundy Geopark, a UNESCO Global Geopark
- Dalhousie University
- Explore Cumberland!
- Fundy Geological Museum, a Nova Scotia Museum
- Mount Allison University
- Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources
- Nova Scotia Museums
- Sikniktuk Climate Adaptation
- Stori Brymbo
- Tourism Nova Scotia (a division of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage)

JFI is a supporter of:

- The Adopt-A-Highway Program
- The Association of Science Teachers (Nova Scotia)
- Cumberland Business Connector
- River Hebert District School
- River Hebert Heritage Models Museum
- River Hebert/Joggins & Area Development Association
- The Minudie Heritage Association
- The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #4, Joggins

JFI is supported by:

- The Government of Canada
- · The Municipality of Cumberland
- The Province of Nova Scotia
- Private Donors





Volunteers

Dr. Lexie Arnott	Science Advisory Committee
Dr. Tim Astrop	Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
Dr. Nikole Bingham-Koslowski	Science Advisory Committee
Alexandra Bonham	Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
John Cormier	Science Advisory Committee
Sabastien Dyer	Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
Tyler Eddy	Board of Directors
Dr. Tim Fedak	Science Advisory Committee
Dr. Melissa Grey	Science Advisory Committee
Danielle Leighton	Board of Directors
Mitch Maracle	Science Advisory Committee
Trent Moore	Board of Directors
Dayle Morris-Quinn	Board of Directors
Dr. Jeff Ollerhead	Board of Directors
Brooke Reid	Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
Danielle Serratos	Board of Directors / Science Advisory Committee
Dr. Mo Snyder	Board of Directors / Science Advisory Committee / Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
Amy Tizzard	Science Advisory Committee
Cary Vollick	Board of Directors
Dr. Shawna White	Science Advisory Committee
Dr. Marcos Zentilli	Virtual Seminar Series Speaker
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Statement of Financial Activity

JOGGINS FOSSIL INSTITUTE ASSOCIATION Statement of Revenues and Expenses Year Ended March 31, 2025

					Contingency					2024
		neral Fund	Cap	oital Fund	Fund			2025	Restated	
REVENUES										
Provincial funding	\$	285,772	\$	_	\$	_	\$	285,772	\$	261,521
Municipal funding	•	20,000	•	5,000	•	_	•	25,000	•	5,000
Federal funding		9,070		9,772		-		18,842		4,570
Admissions		127,349		-		_		127,349		96,381
Gift shop		52,619		_		-		52,619		46,376
Cafe '		13,480		_		_		13,480		8,176
Fundraising		6,661		-		-		6,661		1,914
Other		806		_		-		806		2,361
Interest income		-		-		4,304		4,304		3,464
EXPENSES		515,757		14,772		4,304		534,833		429,763
		0.007						0.007		7 705
Advertising and promotion		6,987		-		-		6,987		7,705
Amortization		-		13,430		-		13,430		13,636
Artist in Residence		-		-		-		-		4,850 14,104
Communication		14,983		-		-		14,983		6,051
Insurance Interest and bank charges		6,266		-		-		6,266		8,753
Office and administrative		10,912		-		-		10,912		18,536
Professional fees		7,295		-		-		7,295		6,022
Purchases (Gift Shop and Cafe)		7,706		-		-		7,706		44,154
Repairs and maintenance		26,891		-		-		26,891		25,905
Salaries, wages and benefits		26,138		-		-		26,138		329,166
Supplies		371,881		-		-		371,881		2.842
Travel		2,932		-		-		2,932		1,799
Utilities		2,962 36,010		-		-		2,962 36,010		31,547
		30,010								,
	_	520,963		13,430		-		534,393		515,070
		(5,206)		1,342		4,304		440		(85,307)
Loss on disposal of assets	_	-		503		-		503		-
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$	(5,206)	\$	839	\$	4,304	\$	(63)	\$	(85,307)