



The Archaeological Society of Alberta

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
 - 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
 - Re: Proposed Budget Cuts to the Archaeological Society of Alberta
 - Don't' forget to cc your MLA!