

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2023 - 2024



DIEFENBAKER
CANADA CENTRE
Exhibits • Education • Outreach



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2023-2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Dear Community Members,

It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I present the Diefenbaker Canada Centre's (DCC) Annual Report for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This year has been marked by significant achievements and growth, reflecting our unwavering commitment to fostering citizenship, leadership, and Canada's role in the international community. Our efforts have been guided by the vision of the Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker, whose legacy continues to inspire our work every day.

This year, the DCC hosted a variety of exhibitions that attracted a wide range of visitors. Highlights include "Health in Space," an exhibition exploring the health challenges faced by astronauts; "Resurfacing: Mennonite Floor Patterns," a visually stunning exhibit showcasing the artistic practice of Margruite Krahn; and "Lost Liberties," an exhibition examining the suspension of civil liberties in Canada during significant historical events. Each exhibit has sparked conversations and reflections, enriching our collective understanding of our nation's history and values.

Our educational programs continue to be a cornerstone of our outreach efforts. Notable programs include "Your Voice Matters: Building a Better Saskatchewan," a partnership with Elections Saskatchewan to increase civic literacy; "The Little Stone Schoolhouse Experience," an immersive program for young students to learn about Saskatoon's first Victorian era schoolhouse; and "Democracy to Active Citizenship," a program demonstrating the relevance of Canada's democratic institutions. It is truly inspiring to see the enthusiasm and curiosity of our participants, and we are committed to nurturing this spirit of learning.

Throughout the year the DCC actively engaged with the community through various events and outreach programs, including the Children's Festival, Historic Places Days, Family Fun Saturdays, and the Victorian Christmas Celebration. Our Campus Ghost Tours continue to grow in popularity, offering a unique and thrilling way to learn about the university's history and the eerie tales of its most haunted buildings. Our summer camps have also been a highlight of the year, providing young participants with engaging and educational experiences.

The Diefenbaker Spy Academy: Junior Recruits camp allowed children to immerse themselves in the world of espionage, while the Discovering Saskatchewan: Past, Present, and Future camp took campers on a time-travelling adventure, exploring the province's rich history and cultural heritage. These camps have been instrumental in fostering a love of learning and discovery among our youngest community members.

As we look to the future, the Diefenbaker Canada Centre is dedicated to expanding our impact and reach through several key initiatives. We plan to introduce new and diverse exhibitions that address contemporary issues and historical perspectives, focusing on themes such as environmental sustainability, technological advancements, social justice, and Indigenous reconciliation. Strengthening our collaborations with local organizations, schools, and cultural institutions will be a priority. These partnerships will enable us to co-create programs that meet community needs and foster a sense of shared ownership. We also aim to broaden our educational outreach by developing new curriculum-based programs for schools. Ensuring that our programs and exhibits are inclusive and accessible to all community members is a top priority. We will continue to seek input from diverse groups to create an environment where everyone feels welcome and represented.

The achievements of the Diefenbaker Canada Centre this year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of our staff and partners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our success. As we look forward to the coming year, we remain committed to our mission of fostering citizenship, leadership, and a deeper understanding of Canada's role in the world.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are building a brighter future.

Warm regards,

Loleen Berdahl

Executive Director, Diefenbaker Canada Centre

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre proudly acknowledges its location on Treaty Six Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. While we celebrate citizenship, leadership, and Canada's role in the international community, we also pay our respects to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this land and reaffirm our commitment to our relationships with them.

The Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker, during his service to this country and its people, envisioned a united Canada—one that would find strength in diversity and where people in every region would share in prosperity.

MANDATE

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre (DCC) is distinguished by its location on the University of Saskatchewan campus and its appeal to a diverse audience of all ages, identities, and backgrounds. Inspired by Prime Minister Diefenbaker's words, writings, and accomplishments, the DCC aims to help individuals form meaningful and personal connections to concepts of citizenship, leadership, and Canada's role in the international community. These ideals are realized through practical solutions in response to societal challenges.

At the DCC, we:

1. Create and co-create exhibitions, programs, and special events.
2. Facilitate dialogues and discussions on citizenship, leadership, and Canada's international role.
3. Ensure financial viability.
4. Promote environmental consciousness.
5. Steward the permanent collection.
6. Foster an environment where people feel empowered and supported.

In addition to preserving and interpreting Mr. Diefenbaker's core collection of personal artifacts, the DCC proudly hosts a

wide range of exhibits aligned with our themes, designed to engage audiences of all ages. With affordable admission, accessible programming, and guided tours, the Centre creates a welcoming environment that bridges the University of Saskatchewan with the broader Saskatoon community. Education, learning, and discovery are at the forefront of all activities and exhibits, encouraging visitors to explore and engage with everything the Diefenbaker Canada Centre has to offer.

EXPERIENTIAL: The DCC advocates for experiential learning through hands-on discovery.

RELEVANT: The DCC fosters creativity, co-creation, integrity, and credibility through diversity and sustainability.

ACCESSIBLE: The DCC promotes accessibility through collaboration, community service, and relationship building. Our team is committed to upholding the Centre's mandate and key attributes through exhibits, outreach, and programming.

FUNDING

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre sustains its operations primarily through two funding streams: annually renewed trusts and grants from federal, provincial, and private programs.

Additionally, the DCC generates modest revenue from donations, admissions, and educational programming. Notable renewable trust funds include the Parker-Dewdney Memorial Trust, Diefenbaker Society Trust, and Diefenbaker Centre Trust. Investment income from these trusts is allocated annually to support the DCC's operations, covering a significant portion of salaries and benefits expenses.

The DCC also actively applies for various museum, social, and cultural grants that fund exhibits, student staff, and other initiatives. Regular grants are received from organizations such as SaskCulture, the City of Saskatoon's Culture Grant Program, Young Canada Works, Canada Summer Jobs, and the Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program.

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre is particularly proud of its long-term partnership with Elections Saskatchewan (ESK) in developing and delivering the educational program "Your Voice Matters: Building a Better Saskatchewan" (YVM). Initially implemented in 2015 and offered in person for several years, this program was transitioned to an online format in 2020 and continued to be offered both in person and online to students throughout the province during the 2021/2022 school year.

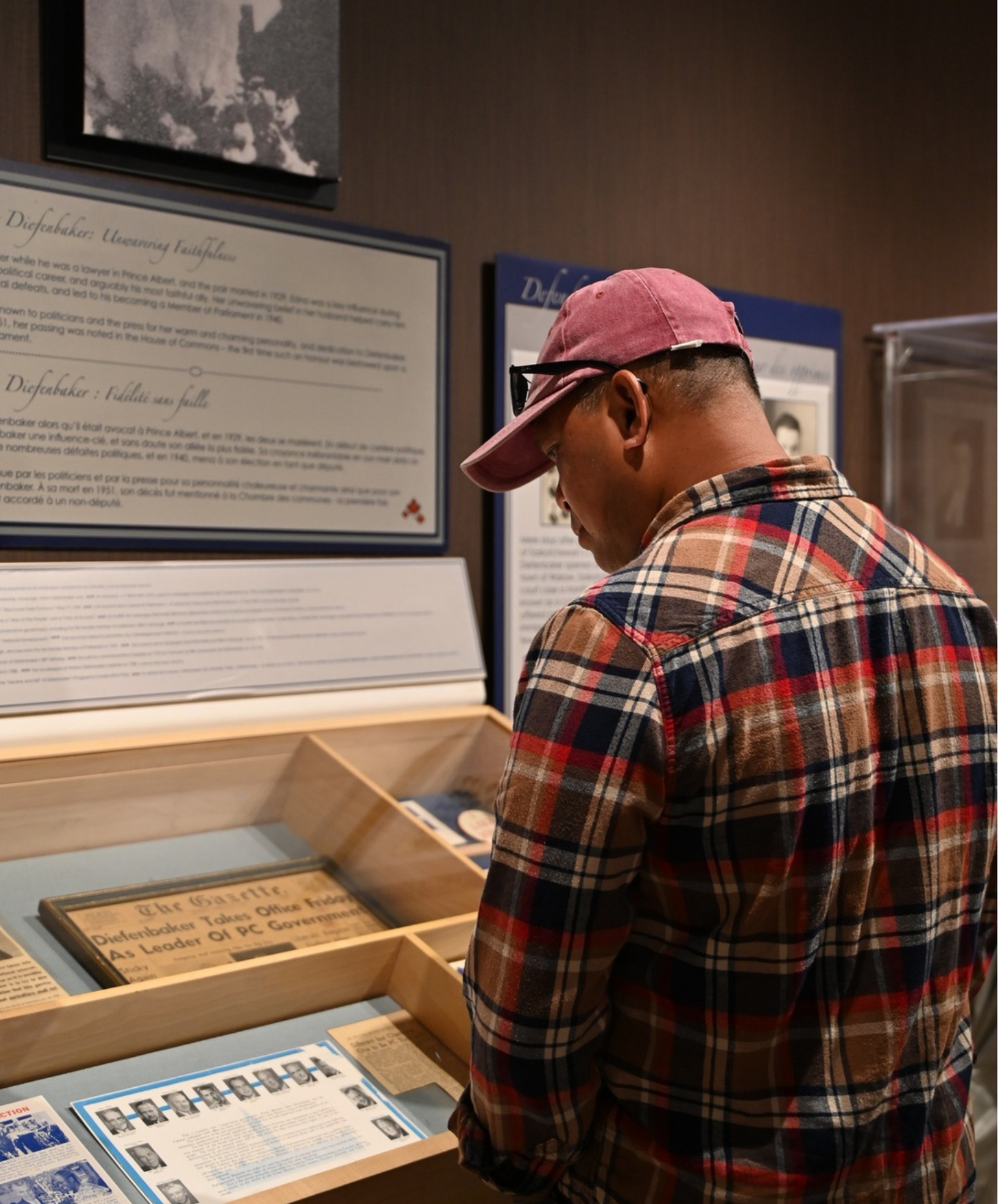
The Centre extends its gratitude to our funders for their ongoing investment and support.

OPERATIONAL FUNDING & SUPPORT



PROGRAM FUNDING & SUPPORT





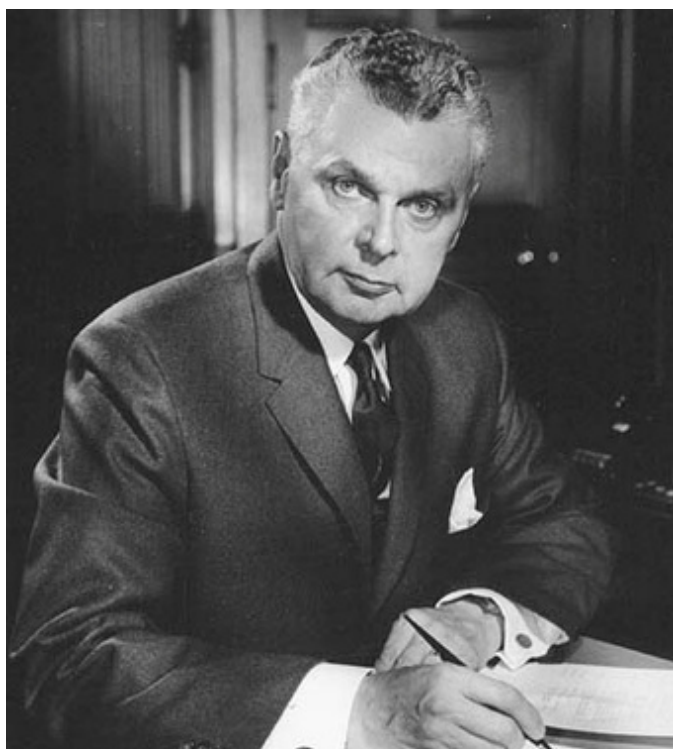
OUR GALLERY EXHIBITS

PERMANENT EXHIBIT GALLERY



One Canada: Diefenbaker's Vision

An exhibit produced by the Diefenbaker Canada Centre which sparks conversations with visitors about nationalism, identity, human rights, and how we as Canadians view our country as a unified nation.



Replica Rooms: Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council Chamber

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre's gallery features two replica rooms that capture Canadian political life as it was during the latter 1950s and early 1960s. The Prime Minister's Office depicts the East Block Office as it appeared during Diefenbaker's tenure as Prime Minister. It features original and reproduction furniture, as well as personal items belonging to Diefenbaker. The Privy Council Chamber illustrates the cabinet meeting room, featuring replications of Confederation era furniture and original signed photographs of the first twelve Canadian Prime Ministers.

ATTENDEES	EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE
Children (ages 0-15)	691
Youth (ages 16-18)	166
University Members	266
Adults (ages 19-64)	1067
Seniors (ages 65+)	421
Total Visitors	2611

** Due to its permanent nature, visitors would often visit the permanent One Canada exhibit while viewing the featured exhibit on display or while attending events in the building.*



OUR GALLERY EXHIBITS

STONEWALL GALLERY



Snapshots of Canada

(February 8 - May 27, 2023)

Paul Henderson scores the winning goal in the 1972 Summit Series. A little boy runs after his father marching off to war. Terry Fox is silhouetted by headlights of a police cruiser on his Marathon of Hope. Exploring unforgettable moments in our history, the travelling exhibition, Snapshots of Canada, pairs compelling images with text by well-known authors, journalists, and historians. Images ranging from high drama to simple joy are tangible reminders of the triumphs, failures, and sacrifices that have shaped our country. Exhibit is displayed in both English and French.

ATTENDEES	EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE
Children (ages 0-15)	98
Youth (ages 16-18)	0
University Members	12
Adults (ages 19-64)	57
Seniors (ages 65+)	29
Total Visitors	196

**Data reflects May 1 - May 27, 2023*

A travelling exhibit developed by the Canadian Museum of History and Canada's History Society. Funding provided by the Exhibition Circulation Fund, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada.



Health in Space

(June 2 - September 10, 2023)

Astronauts' health is a top priority from the time they're selected until well after their final mission.

Health in Space is a travelling exhibition that explores how gravity, radiation, and isolation all pose unique health challenges for astronauts living and working in space. Highlights include authentic artifacts, interactive experiences, and video interviews with Canadian astronauts. A featured section within the exhibition will profile David Saint-Jacques, a Canadian astronaut and medical doctor, and his mission to the International Space Station.

Exhibit is displayed in both English and French.

ATTENDEES	EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE
Children (ages 0-15)	441
Youth (ages 16-18)	95
University Members	113
Adults (ages 19-64)	458
Seniors (ages 65+)	207
Total Visitors	1314

This travelling exhibition was developed and produced by the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in collaboration with the Canadian Space Agency.

Funding provided by the Exhibition Circulation Fund, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada.



Resurfacing: Mennonite Floor Patterns

(September 27, 2023 - January 27, 2024)

Since 2001 Margruite Krahn has worked to restore and present 19th and 20th-century housebarns, as well as the material culture in Neuberghthal, Manitoba, Canada, a Mennonite Street Village and National Historic Site.

The study of hand-painted floors in these buildings created by earlier generations of Mennonite women, has influenced her artistic practice. Her research, documentation, and restoration of wooden floors with painted patterns inspires her to re-imagine them in floor-cloths, as well as opening her eyes to the beauty she observes in earlier Mennonite culture.

She pays tribute to her female forbearers who built, designed, and decorated the floors of their homes within an austere, male-led religious ideology, with economic restrictions.

ATTENDEES	EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE
Children (ages 0-15)	150
Youth (ages 16-18)	62
University Members	74
Adults (ages 19-64)	381
Seniors (ages 65+)	135
Total Visitors	802



Lost Liberties

(February 2 - June 22, 2024)

Exploring the suspension of civil liberties in Canada during the First World War, the Second World War, and the 1970 October Crisis, Lost Liberties — The War Measures Act sheds new light on the enduring impact of the Act on Canada and its people. The travelling exhibition examines the internment of Canadians of Ukrainian origin and other nationalities during the First World War, the internment of Italian Canadians and the internment and forced relocation of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War, and the arrest of hundreds of people in Quebec during the 1970 October Crisis. Lost Liberties probes the crises that drove these tragic events, and features poignant first-hand accounts from the men, women and children who lived through them.

ATTENDEES	EXHIBITION ATTENDANCE
Children (ages 0-15)	150
Youth (ages 16-18)	62
University Members	74
Adults (ages 19-64)	381
Seniors (ages 65+)	135
Total Visitors	802

**Data reflects February 2 - April 30, 2024*

This exhibit was developed by the Canadian Museum of History and generously supported by a grant from the Endowment Council of the Canadian First World War Internment Recognition Fund.

Funding provided by the Exhibition Circulation Fund, Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada.

OUR GALLERY EXHIBITS

MICRO-GALLERY



Opikinawasowin: Growing Métis Children

(February 15 - May 19, 2023)

This collection features original artworks created by Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion on the theme of Opikinawasowin: Growing Métis Children. This series of collected artworks was created by Leah Marie Dorion from 2015-2021 and is a combination of children's book illustrations and other independent artworks from her private collection. This show reflects Métis cultural symbolism, worldview, characters, and teachings that are a hallmark of her artistic practice to tell the story of growing Métis children.

The book illustrations are on loan from the Mann Art Gallery and were donated by Leah to the gallery to be properly curated and used for educational purposes. Her children's books are still published and available from Strong Nations Publishing in British Columbia. This collection also debuts artwork and artefacts from Leah's personal collection that was created to tell the story of Métis child rearing and development. Many of her illustrations and original artwork are deeply influenced by Métis Elders' teachings, which are available in her Master's Thesis (2010). May we all be inspired by the spirit of love that forms the heart of this art show and remember that we all have a role to play in "growing children".

Total visitors: 132

**Data reflects May 1 - May 19, 2023*

This exhibit is funded by Sask Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture, and Recreation through SaskCulture.



Meewasin Valley Plants

(June - September 2023)

A temporary display of silhouettes of plants that can be found along the Meewasin Valley in Saskatoon.

Total visitors: 1444



Osâyâwin Nêhiyaw Maskihkîah Saskatchewan Ochi / Natural Aboriginal Medicines of Saskatchewan

(September 2023 - April 2024)

Total visitors: 1165







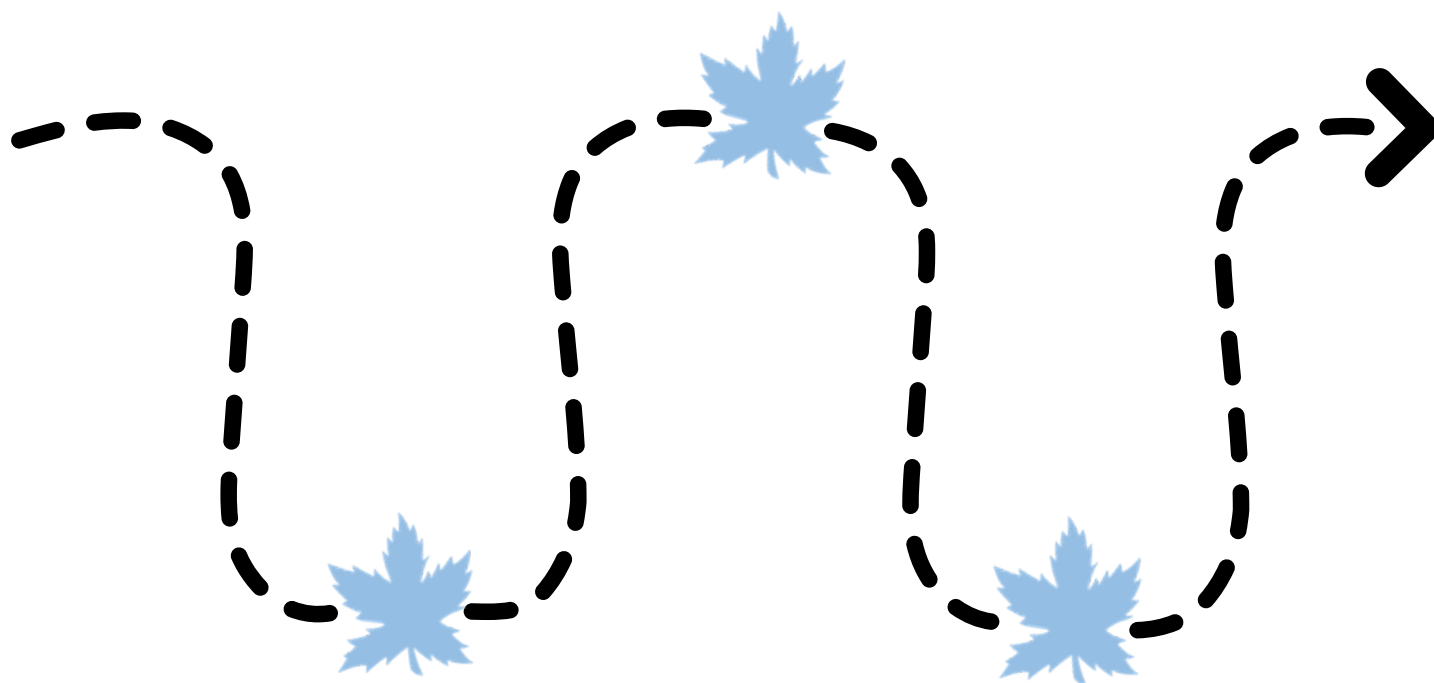
GALLERY TOURS

SPECIALIZED EXHIBIT-RELATED PROGRAMS

The DCC offers specialized education programs throughout the year that are tailored specifically to compliment the information and underlying themes of individual exhibits. These programs often include a guided tour of the exhibit gallery to further enhance learning and engagement

RESURFACING WORKSHOP

- Students: 83
- Classrooms: 4
- Schools: 2



HEALTH IN SPACE

- Students: 105
- Classrooms: 4
- Schools: 3

LOST LIBERTIES GALLERY

- Students: 343
- Classrooms: 13
- Schools: 11
- Adult Groups: 3
- Visitors: 63

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

In-person programming was available at the DCC and within schools from September 2023 through June 2024.



The Little Stone Schoolhouse Experience (K – Gr. 3)

This program is an extended 2-hour visit to the Little Stone Schoolhouse, which includes the Magic Schoolhouse program and an opportunity to learn about settler life in Saskatchewan. In stark contrast to modern technologies, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of timeless games that encourage cooperation and inclusivity.

Inside the schoolhouse, students will try their hand at individual games such as Cup and Ball, Jacob's Ladder, and The Acrobat. Weather permitting, students will also have the opportunity to compete in a variety of relay races including potato sack races, egg and spoon races, and three-legged races!

- **Students: 246**
- **Classrooms: 10**
- **Schools: 6**

Choose Your Party

Choose your Party provides an engaging introduction to the basic principles of Canada's democracy, laying the foundation for future civic participation. Students will learn

about leadership and the election process through a variety of hands-on activities, including the development and promotion of a political platform and the presentation of political campaign speeches. A simulated election will give each student an opportunity to visit the classroom polling station and vote for their favorite political party using a secret ballot system.



Your Voice Matters (YVM)

(May 2022 through April 30, 2023)

One of the DCC's most popular educational programs for students in grades 4 through 8 is Your Voice Matters: Building a Better Saskatchewan. This program represents an eight-year partnership with Elections Saskatchewan and a shared goal to increase civic literacy and create future generations of active voters. In addition to routine information updates, revisions to the YVM program included a new presentation for the Becoming Canadian module and an online Jeopardy game with questions related to topics covered by the Canadian Citizenship exam.

A new timeline activity was developed for the third module, reasoning out Responsibility, to replace the current constitutional journey classroom activity. Students are tasked with putting a series of events in chronological order from 20,000 BCE through present. Specific historic events related to the Canadian Constitution are highlighted, allowing students to compare what was happening in the world while Canada was evolving as a country.

- **Students: 964**
- **Classrooms: 38**
- **Schools: 26**



Democracy to Active Citizenship

Democratic engagement is often linked to civic education. This interactive program demonstrates the relevance of Canada's democratic and parliamentary institutions through an examination of Canada's political system, why voting matters and how historic and current human rights issues have shaped our country. Divided into one-hour sessions (see descriptions below), students will focus on the key themes of democracy, citizenship, rights and freedoms, and establishing a foundation for informed citizenship.

- **Students: 134**
- **Classrooms: 5**
- **Schools: 4**



Engaged Citizenship (Gr. 9-12)

Engaged Citizenship: Exploring Pathways to Leadership is a new, curriculum based online resource designed to provide classrooms with valuable information, engaging activities and career resources to facilitate in-person and online learning.

Through a series of four online modules, students will explore the structure and function of provincial and territorial governments, take an in-depth look at the role of lieutenant governor and territorial commissioner, and consider their own pathway to leadership, as they learn about public policy development and informed, active citizenship.

- **Students: 35**
- **Classrooms: 2**
- **Schools: 2**



Resurfacing: Mennonite Floor Patterns Student Workshop

Mennonite Floor Cloth Painting & Indigenous Rug Braiding Workshop is a collaboration with artist Margruite Krahn, Renee Seymour and Elder Georgina Martin.

During the two-day workshop, participants will learn about floor painting and rug braiding and then create their very own 2'x3' functional floor cloth and braid their own potholders. This hands-on experience is a creative way to learn more about Mennonite and Indigenous artistic and cultural practice.

- **Students: 105**
- **Classrooms: 4**
- **Schools: 2**



YOUTH CAMPS



Diefenbaker Spy Academy: Junior Recruits (ages 7-10)

Calling all spies! Become an agent-in-training at the super-secret Diefenbaker Spy Academy (DSA). Daily briefings from the DSA Director will provide you with the skills you need to create a cover identity, improve your memory, identify important details, design your own spy gear and so much more! Agents-in-training will learn all about the world of espionage as they participate in engaging activities, games, and secret missions. At the end of the week, a final top-secret spy challenge will put your training to the test as you attempt to solve the DSA mystery and become official Secret Agents!

Participants: 62



Discovering Saskatchewan: Past, Present and Future (ages 7-10)

In this time-travelling adventure, campers will explore Saskatchewan's incredible history through engaging

learning opportunities, hands-on activities and games. Time travellers will visit various locations across the University of Saskatchewan campus to learn about the ancient past, the recent past and present day. They will also travel back more than 6000 years to learn about the history of Wanuskewin Heritage Park and participate in activities related to the traditional learning and cultural heritage of Indigenous Northern Plains cultures. Campers will finish off the week visiting the new Health in Space exhibit at the DCC, create their own time capsule, and make exciting predictions for the future!

Participants: 41

FEBRUARY & APRIL BREAK CAMPS



Diefenbaker Spy Academy: International Espionage

Are your kids ready to become the ultimate secret agents and master spy skills from around the world? Unleash the inner sleuth in your child at the Diefenbaker Spy Academy, where they will dive into the thrilling history of espionage and learn about the delicate balance between liberties and national security. With exciting missions and top-secret training, this camp guarantees a fun-filled adventure like no other!

Daily briefings from the DSA Directors, Agent Woodchuck and Agent Hedgehog will provide agents-in-training with the skills needed to create a cover identity, learn observation skills, design spy gear, and so much more! Throughout the week, agents will participate in engaging activities, creative games, and secret missions as they learn about infamous spies around the world and some of the

inventions used to complete missions.

At the end of the week, a final top-secret spy challenge will put their training to the test as agents-in-training attempt to help the DSA figure out where in the world is the notorious Saskatchewan spy, Randy Rosthern!?

Participants

- February Break: 16
- April Break: 16

CAMPUS TOURS



Campus Ghost Tours

For a university student, it's hard to imagine anything scarier than hours of homework or late-night cramming for exams. But what if you found yourself face to face with a USask ghost!? Join the Diefenbaker Canada Centre on a guided walking ghost tour to learn about the most haunted buildings on campus and some of the sinister tales of misfortune that befell the community of restless spirits who roam the university late at night and play tricks on the unsuspecting.

Participants: 456



Spooky Fun Campus Tours for Kids (Ages 7-10)

If you are looking for a family-friendly Halloween event, join us for a nighttime campus tour for younger audiences and learn about some of the ghosts that haunt the campus and play pranks on students to make sure they finish their homework! Following the tour, guests will visit the Diefenbaker Exhibit Gallery to play a spooktacular game of Halloween eye spy that is sure to include a few tricks and treats! Come dressed in your Halloween best and be ready for some unearthly fun as you experience the university like never before!

Participants: 49



The Great War Tour

On July 28, 1914, a global war commenced, lasting longer than anyone anticipated, creating devastating loss and destruction. At this time, the University of Saskatchewan was only a few years old and had yet to acquire a significant voice and population, leaving the Great War to heavily impact the process of growth and partially shape the institution that it would become.

350 University of Saskatchewan students, staff, and faculty went overseas to join the war effort. Many of these people had significant roles in leading and raising battalions, running education programs for soldiers, and earning medals of valor in defining moments of battle. Back home, groundbreaking research was taking place, soldiers were being supported, and the university experienced a significant gender imbalance that allowed women to gain a voice.

Join the Diefenbaker Canada Centre on an outdoor, 90-minute campus walking tour to learn more about the significant role the university played overseas and on the

Homefront through highlighted students and staff stories, campus memorials, and historic building stops.

April 12 - 13, 2023

Participants: 37



Historic Campus Tour

Historical walking tours are available throughout the year for school and community groups as well as individuals and families. In this walking tour, your DCC guide will highlight the university's history, important achievements, and unique architecture. Stops along the tour include the Airplane Room, Natural Sciences Museum, the Peter MacKinnon Building, the Museum of Antiquities, Voyageur Place, and the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre. These tours are a great way to get students interested in and familiar with the university, inspire future university students, and help familiarize newcomers to Saskatchewan with this important landmark.

Participants: 129

OUTREACH PROGRAMMING

Power and Privilege in Saskatchewan Museums

Power and Privilege in Saskatchewan Museums created a space where Indigenous peoples and museum professionals explored how museums can support and empower Indigenous self-determination instead of dictating Indigenous history from colonial perspectives.

The exhibit *Opikinawasowin: Growing Métis Children*, created in partnership with the Diefenbaker Canada Centre (DCC) and Métis artist Leah Marie Dorion, was used as a case study for participants to discuss museum engagement with Indigenous communities. The 11 participants at the discussion circle on May 19, 2023 evaluated and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the exhibit and help identify ways in which museums can engage in anti-racism and reconciliation in Saskatchewan museums. Using live note taking, multiple recurring themes were identified and compiled into the *Power and Privilege in Saskatchewan Museums* report.

This project was funded by SaskLotteries through the SaskCulture Multicultural Initiatives Fund.

May 19, 2023

Participants: 11



Amati String Saturday Afternoon Concert

A special spring music concert was hosted at the DCC, featuring the two Amati violins and viola. Faculty from the University of Saskatchewan's Music Department and members of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra played an hour-long concert featuring a variety of composers chosen specifically by the musicians to highlight the unique sound and quality of these rare 17th century instruments. The acoustics of the Diefenbaker Building provided the ideal setting for an intimate musical performance.

June 3, 2023

Participants: 61



Museum Week #MuseumWeek2023

Museum Week is an annual world-wide celebration of arts and culture. Each year, a specialized theme and a series of hashtags unite people from across the globe for a week of activities and events designed to strengthen the community and provide a deeper understanding of the arts and culture sector and where it is going as a global society. 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of Museum Week of the official international week of museums.

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre participated in #MuseumWeek2023 from June 5-11, featuring seven days, seven themes, and seven hashtags devoted to culture, society, and innovation.

Nutrien Children's Festival

The Nutrien Children's Festival gave Diefenbaker Canada Centre staff an opportunity to interact with families and engage children in a variety of activities including using a spy decoder and participating in a mock polling station where individuals could vote for their favorite animal candidate.

June 1 – 4, 2023

Participants: 2000

Doors Open Saskatoon

June 25, 2023 marked the first time since 2019 and the pandemic that the DCC was able to participate in Doors Open Saskatoon event! Visitors were welcomed at both the Little Stone Schoolhouse and the DCC gallery. The Little Stone schoolhouse represents the first Public School in Saskatoon. It was built in 1887 and was first known as Victoria School, originally located at Broadway and 11th Street, where the third (current) Victoria School now stands. In 1911 it was moved brick by brick to the University of Saskatchewan Campus where it was preserved as one of the first heritage conservation projects in western Canada.

Participants

- Little Stone Schoolhouse: 400+
- DCC Gallery: 135



Historic Places Days

Historic Places Days was celebrated from July 8-23, 2023 with a selfie-photo contest, where participants could submit a photo of themselves at an historic site and enter to win a variety of prizes! In addition to the contest, DCC staff hosted a Little Stone Schoolhouse open house event on July 15, where visitors could step back in time to the Victorian Era and experience Saskatoon's first public building with crafts, games and activities for all ages. Participants:

July 15, 2023

Participants: 53



Little Stone Schoolhouse Open House

Open house events were held on July 29 and August 5 at the Little Stone Schoolhouse on the University of Saskatchewan campus, providing an opportunity for visitors to learn about the first Victoria school in Saskatoon and participate in fun family activities and games.

Participants

- July 29: 23
- August 12: 28



Family Fun Saturdays

Family fun Saturdays provide visitors with an opportunity to explore the exhibit Health in Space: Daring to Explore, complete an exhibit-themed activity booklet and participate in a variety of fun activities, crafts and games for all ages.

Participants

- July 22: 28
- August 5: 35
- August 26: 6

Culture Days 2023

The DCC offered a variety of in-person activities for Culture Days 2023-2024, including the opening of Resurfacing: Mennonite Floor Patterns, an original exhibition by Manitoba artist Margruite Krahn. In addition to the exhibit opening, the DCC hosted an open house event at the Little Stone Schoolhouse and two Amati string concerts in celebration of Culture Days. The Amati concerts featured faculty and students from the University of Saskatchewan's Department of Music, allowing visitors to experience the incredible sound and beauty of these 17th century string instruments handcrafted in Cremona, Italy.

Participants

- Artist Q & A + Exhibit Opening: 20
- September Amati Concert: 57
- Little Stone Schoolhouse Open House: 80
- October Amati Concert: 33



Heritage Festival of Saskatoon 2024

The DCC participated in Saskatoon's annual Heritage Festival, held at the Western Development Museum on February 4, 2024. Staff engaged with visitors throughout the day to promote upcoming exhibits, programs and events, including youth camps. There was a trivia wheel, children's activities and artefacts from the Diefenbaker Collection for visitors to explore. The event was a tremendous success, seeing upwards of 400 people that day.



will have an opportunity to make Victorian Christmas cards and ornaments, decorate the schoolroom Christmas tree, and play a variety of classic Victorian parlour games. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Participants

- November 25: 21
- December 2: 26

Spring Amati Noon-hour Concert Series

Following the success of previous concert series, the DCC partnered once more with the Music Department to host noon-hour concerts in the lobby of the Diefenbaker Building. An hour-long music program was followed by an informal question-and-answer period, and participants were given the opportunity to tour the gallery and view the Amati instruments.

Participants

- May 11: 37
- May 27: 33



Victorian Christmas Celebration

Ready to travel back in time to experience Victorian Christmas? Join us at the Little Stone Schoolhouse for a Victorian Christmas Celebration and learn all about the 19th Century origins of our modern holiday traditions!

In this festive 90-minute program, discover what a one room schoolhouse was like in the wintertime and how the holidays were celebrated at school and in the home. Guests

SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK (APRIL 30, 2024)

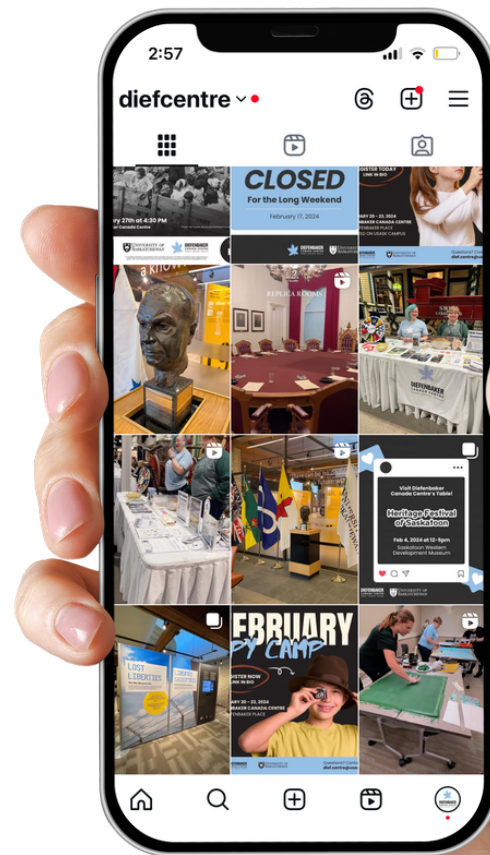
Total Followers: 951

- Total Interactions: 3.4K
- Posts: 200
- Reach: 107.4K
- Link Clicks: 7.8K

INSTAGRAM (APRIL 30, 2024)

Total Followers: 795

- Posts: 300
- Reach: 43.6K
- Link Clicks: 3.9K



THANK YOU!

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre would like to thank all of its employees for contributing to our growth and success throughout this year. The contributions by those staff members who have moved on to new opportunities have enabled our current staff to successfully provide incredible programming and exhibits this 2022-2023 season.

Current Employees:

- Loleen Berdahl, Executive Director (Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy)
- Amber McCuaig, Executive Officer (Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy)
- Chelsea McElligott-LaVallie, Administrative Coordinator
- Joan Aquino, Administrative Coordinator
- Helanna Gessner, Curatorial, Collections, and Exhibits Manager
- Kirsten Falzarano, Programs and Outreach Coordinator

Students/Interns/Part-Time Staff in 2023-24:

- Taylor Gabrielson, Summer Camp Programmer
- Elissa Clement, Summer Camp Programmer
- Kinae Wallis, Heritage Interpreter
- Alicia Monson, Exhibits and Collections Assistant
- Cat Woloschuck, Heritage Education Technician Intern
- Julian Eidsness Hodges, Heritage Education Technician Intern
- Meerah Abesia, Marketing and Communications Assistant

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre would also like to thank our partner organizations for their continued support:



CONTACT

Diefenbaker Canada Centre
101 Diefenbaker Place, University of Saskatchewan
dief.centre@usask.ca | 306-966-8384

diefenbaker.usask.ca



DIEFENBAKER
CANADA CENTRE
Exhibits • Education • Outreach