



## FRIENDS OF ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM SOCIETY

### NEWS RELEASE

#### **Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) Program Accepting Applications**

##### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Edmonton, Alberta* – Applications are now open for up to two paid summer internships being offered to post-secondary Indigenous students by the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS).

The Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) program offers a 16-week, hands-on placement for a qualified student to work at the Royal Alberta Museum in any of the following sections: Archaeology, Botany, Communications and Marketing, Conservation, Education, Ethnology (Native Studies), Geology, Invertebrate Zoology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Paleontology and Western Canadian History.

First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students enrolled in a college or university, with academic interests related to any of the museum studies listed above, are invited to apply for this opportunity.

Since the ISMI program's inception in 1998, more than 40 Indigenous post-secondary students have worked in numerous curatorial programs at the Royal Alberta Museum on projects related to their fields of study. In 2017, we are pleased to offer up to two positions.

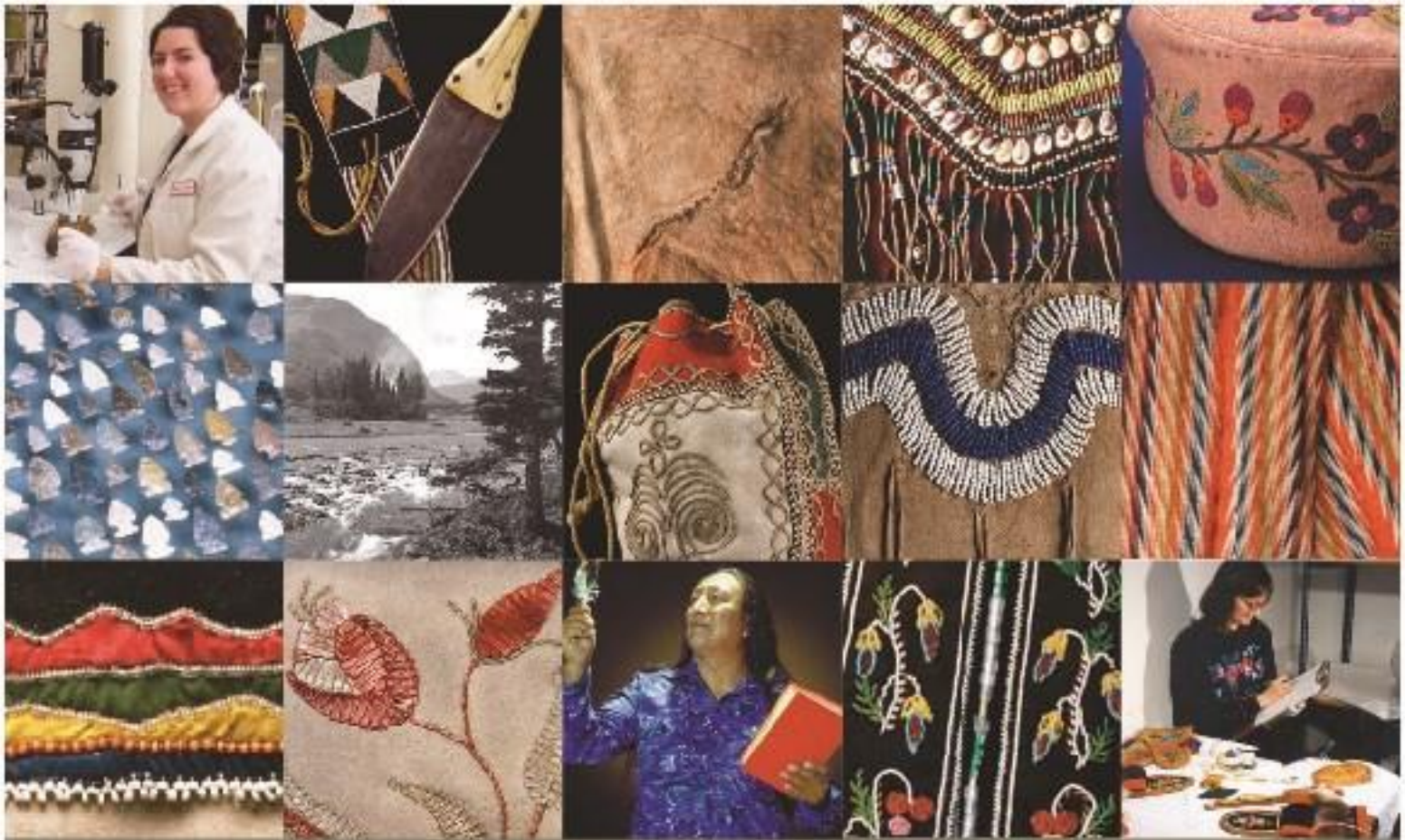
The ISMI application form and further information is available from FRAMS by calling Leigh-Ann Peddie, FRAMS Administrator, at: 780-453-9103 or by emailing: [frams.office@gmail.com](mailto:frams.office@gmail.com).

**The deadline for applications is Friday, March 31, 2017.**

This opportunity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit post-secondary students is funded by FRAMS, with additional support from Peace Hills Insurance.

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780-453-9103



***Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society  
Indigenous Student Museum Internship  
(ISMI)***







# INDIGENOUS STUDENT MUSEUM INTERNSHIP (ISMI)

## Program Description

This highly successful program operates as a partnership between the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society and the Royal Alberta Museum. It provides First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students who are pursuing careers in Native studies, natural history or human history (including Canadian history) a 16-week internship at the Royal Alberta Museum. The program has created new links between the museum and First Nations communities, and has enabled the museum to implement one of the key recommendations made by the landmark *Task Force Report on Museums and First Peoples* issued by the Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Museums Association. The report identified the training of First Nations people's "in all phases of museology" as a matter of critical importance. Since the program's inception in 1998, 45 Indigenous post-secondary students have worked in numerous curatorial programs at the Royal Alberta Museum on projects related to their fields of study.

## Program Benefits & Successes

Both the interns and the museum have benefited in significant and diverse ways from the program. Upon completing the program, many interns have decided to pursue careers in the museum field, several have completed master's degrees, and at least three others have pursued PhDs. The program has played a significant role in encouraging the educational and professional aspirations of these young people. Participant evaluations of the program also testify to its positive impact.

## Program Objectives

- To introduce Indigenous students to the world of museums. It exposes students to the wide variety of activities in which museums are involved, and to the wealth of opportunities that museums offer.
- To support Indigenous students in their educational endeavours. Each intern works with a member of the museum staff to design a project that draws on the intern's own interests and gives them a chance to develop skills that will prove useful in their field of study.
- To encourage the museum's use as a cultural resource for Indigenous people and to build constructive partnerships with Indigenous communities.
- To provide financial support through paid internships to Indigenous students in post-secondary studies in disciplines such as Archaeology, Botany, Geology and Zoology.





## ISMI Intern Feedback:

- *Through the ISMI program I was given the great opportunity to apply the knowledge gained from school to the work field. I have acquired new knowledge and skills, which will be valuable in my future courses and future aspirations.* Pamela Campiou-MacDonald
- *While working for the Royal Alberta Museum's Botany Program, I acquired so much experience in the botany field, which is what I will be studying in university ... The summer internship program is incredible. Working in a learning atmosphere just makes me want to keep learning more.* Cherie Island
- *The summer internship was the best experience that I could have ever dreamed to have. I learned what I would like to do in the future and now fully understand my calling. The staff at the museum is supportive and their knowledge allows one to grow academically.* Pauline Johnson
- *My internship has been the most rewarding job I have ever had. I learned a lot more about Aboriginal people and have strengthened my pride in my heritage. I also got to do research in areas that apply directly to my career in Anthropology. The experience I gained here will take me far in the future.* Terry-Lin Fedorus
- *This internship has opened up new options for me in terms of where I may want to go in my career. But most of all, this experience has given me the opportunity to showcase the beauty of Aboriginal culture.* Michael Swampy

The internship program has benefited the museum in important ways, too. Interns have contributed in substantial ways to a variety of museum projects. These projects range from the cataloguing and storage of newly acquired artifacts, the collection of oral histories through short films, and the organization of National Aboriginal Day events, to participation in archaeological excavations, the curation of small displays, and research projects geared toward developing displays for an Aboriginal Cultures gallery. Interns have suggested creative directions for curatorial research and created new links between the museum and First Nations. For example, museum staff met a number of Elders, educators, and political leaders from the Cold Lake First Nation while working on a photo identification project initiated by an intern with family connections to Cold Lake. A former intern, who went on to work with Native Student Services at the University of Alberta, arranges field placements for Indigenous students with the museum. A third intern, who has finished her education degree and now teaches at an Aboriginal school, makes the museum a regular destination for her students.

Finally, the program has helped change attitudes. Several interns came to the museum with a negative perception regarding the role of museums as keepers of Indigenous heritage materials. Each left with a new appreciation for the work that museums do, a perception of the museum as a place that welcomes First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people, and recognition of the museum as an important resource for Indigenous communities.





*Kyla Tichkowsky, RAM Schools Program Coordinator (left), AMI Intern Michael Swampy (centre), and David Parama, RAM Head of Education (right), at the museum premiere of three short, oral history films on education, dance and drumming created by Michael during his internship.*

## Program Funding

The Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) Program originally operated as a partnership between FRAMS, Syncrude Canada Ltd. and Indspire. In 2012, this joint five-year agreement came to a close.

FRAMS believes this is an important program for Indigenous students and in 2012 committed to sponsor at least one intern per summer going forward from FRAMS funds.

In 2014, FRAMS was proud to announce that Peace Hills Insurance has committed to a four-year sponsorship of the AMI Program, and is donating \$2500 per year for a total of \$10,000.



## Support the ISMI Program!

FRAMS continues to actively pursue additional sources of support to establish secure funding for the ISMI program.

If you, your company, or organization are interested in learning how you can support the Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) Program, please contact our office at:

**Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society**  
**12845 102 Avenue**  
**Edmonton AB T5N 0M6**

**780-453-9103**  
**frams.office@gmail.com**



Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS) is incorporated under the Societies Act and is registered with Canada Revenue Agency: Registered Charitable Business Number 118933225 RR0001.

**Address:** 12845 102 Ave. Edmonton AB T5N 0M6    **Tel:** 780-453-9103

**Email:** frams.office@gmail.com    **Website:** framsociety.ca



# Have an ISMI Learning and Earning Experience this summer



The **Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS)** is pleased to once again to offer its **Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI)** program.

The **Royal Alberta Museum** is offering a hands-on placement for a paid intern to work in any of the following sections of the museum this summer: Archaeology, Botany, Communications and Marketing, Conservation, Education, Ethnology (Native Studies), Geology, Invertebrate Zoology, Mammalogy, Ornithology, Paleontology and Western Canadian History.

It's a summer learning experience that you help design. It happens in Edmonton at the **Royal Alberta Museum** and lasts **16 weeks**, beginning **Monday, May 8, 2017**. It's a learning and earning experience that puts approximately \$11,760 in your pocket for full-time participation, paid semi-monthly.

If you are a **First Nations, Métis, or Inuit student enrolled in college or university**, with academic interests related to any of the museum studies listed above, this opportunity could be for you.

The ISMI application form is available from the Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS). Please include a letter of outlining your field of study and why you would like a museum learning experience, two references, your most recent grade transcript, your resume and send to:

**Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society  
12845 102 Avenue, Edmonton AB T5N 0M6**

Questions? Please contact: Leigh-Ann Peddie, FRAMS Administrator, at:  
**780-453-9103** or **frams.office@gmail.com**

**The deadline for applications is Friday March 31, 2017**

*This opportunity for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students is sponsored by:*  
**Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS)**

*FRAMS gratefully acknowledges additional support for this program from:*





Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society (FRAMS)  
Indigenous Student Museum Internship (ISMI) Program



# Application Form

**Deadline: Friday March 31, 2017**

Applications must be completed in **blue or black ink** and be received by the FRAMS office by **Friday, March 31, 2017**. Faxed and scanned copies are acceptable by the March 31 deadline.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**REQUIRED: Proof of Aboriginal Ancestry**

Aboriginal Ancestry – please check one:  First Nation Status  First Nation Non-Status  Métis  Inuit

Native Affiliation (e.g. Cree, Ojibway): \_\_\_\_\_

First Nation/Métis/Inuit Community Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
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**FULLTIME POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION**

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Entering Year (circle one):    1   2   3   4   5

Length of program in years (circle one):    1   2   3   4   5

Accreditation upon completion: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Example: certificate, diploma or name of degree*

**EDUCATION HISTORY**

List Certificates or Degrees you currently hold:

Recent Grade Point Average: \_\_\_\_\_ out of: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Example: 3.2 out of a possible grade of 4.0*

**REQUIRED: Official Grade Transcript**

Describe your career plans after graduating from this course of study: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Please submit this application form along with: a letter outlining your field of study and why you would like a museum learning experience, two references (one academic), your most recent grade transcript, and your resume to:

Friends of Royal Alberta Museum Society – ISMI Program  
12845 102 Avenue Edmonton AB T5N 0M6  
Telephone: 780-453-9103    Fax: 780-422-5681    Email: frams.office@gmail.com

Questions? Please call Leigh-Ann Peddie, FRAMS Administrator, at 780-453-9103