

**2024 – 25**



**RCMP Heritage Centre**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

# WHO WE ARE

The RCMP Heritage Centre, located in Regina, Saskatchewan, is the only museum in Canada dedicated exclusively to showcasing the remarkable history and evolving story of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As a non-profit cultural institution—not owned, operated, or funded by the RCMP—the Centre stands as a unique destination where Canadian history and the legacy of one of the country’s most iconic institutions come to life.

Our immersive museum galleries, educational programs, and community-focused events offer visitors from around the world an engaging experience that blends tradition, innovation, and thoughtful reflection.

We aim to connect with Canadians and visitors from around the world in meaningful, accessible, and inspiring ways. We aim to celebrate the unique historical contributions of the RCMP, while also creating a place for dialogue and space to explore difficult stories with dignity and compassion.

At its core, the RCMP Heritage Centre is a place of discovery, exploration, reflection, and reconciliation. We are committed to creating meaningful dialogue through programming that acknowledges the diverse experiences that shape our nation’s story. Every visit, admission, and purchase supports this vital work—helping us preserve history, foster understanding, and ensure that these stories continue to be shared for generations to come.

# VISION

*The RCMP Heritage Centre is a place of discovery, exploration, reflection, and reconciliation.*

# MISSION

Our mission is to share the many stories of the RCMP through multiple perspectives. We provide an opportunity to contextualize policing in civil society, for a deeper understanding of Canada —our history, our people, and our communities.

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, and where the RCMP Heritage Centre is located is Treaty 4 territory, which is the traditional territory of the Anihšīnābēk, Nêhiyawak, Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota Peoples, and the original home of the Métis Nation. We recognize and acknowledge their culture and contributions.

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

*Dear Friends and Supporters of the RCMP Heritage Centre,*

It is my privilege as Chair of the Board to share with you our ambitions for the future, marked by our resilience and unwavering dedication to being established as a Canadian National Museum.

On March 7, 2025, the Honourable Terry Duguid, Minister for PrairiesCan reaffirmed the Government of Canada's commitment to transition the RCMP Heritage Centre into a National Museum and provided a funding commitment to ensure the museum continues to evolve as a place of learning and reflection for all Canadians. This was a very exciting announcement for the Centre as we continue to live the vision through engaging education programs conducted by our high functioning team providing a service offering unlike any other in Canada.

The history of the NWMP and the RCMP is deeply ingrained and important to our Canadian history. The over 150 years of history and the RCMP's future contributions to Canada deserve to be shared with the world as a Canadian National Museum. Our goal is to honour the courageous contributions of members while also telling the most difficult stories with dignity and compassion. We want people from around the world to learn about this important Canadian history, as well as learning about evolution through modernization, diversity, and inclusion, and about the unique and important role of Canada's own national police service.

Truth and Reconciliation is a pillar of our ongoing strategy as we continue to build and enhance relationships and partnerships with Indigenous individuals, communities and businesses. The Centre is committed to work to further fully reflect the RCMP's role in Indigenous communities, including the traumatic legacy of Residential Schools, and to reflect the broader story of reconciliation in Canada.

The Centre would not be what it is today without the hard work and dedication of our CEO, Sam Karikas and the balance of the staff and management of the Centre. We



cannot overstate our appreciation to them for their continual efforts to realize the goal of national status to make the Centre all it can be for all Canadians.

I also express appreciation and gratitude to all of our board members, a truly impressive and engaged team to move us forward.

This upcoming year promises to be exciting as we continue to move forward on our journey to enhance the Centre as a place of discovery, exploration, reflection and reconciliation.

As you review the pages of this annual report, I hope you share in the immense pride and excitement we feel for the future of the RCMP Heritage Centre.

***With warm regards,***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Warsaba', written in a cursive style.

***Patricia Warsaba, K.C.***

*Chair of the Board*

## Board of Directors

Board Chair – Patricia Warsaba, K.C. – Lawyer, Retired

Vice Chair – Sylvie Bourassa-Muise – C/Supt., Retired Commanding Officer of Depot

James Barr – Partner, Advisory Services – KPMG

Rod Buckingham – President and CEO, Buckingham Security

Valerie Creighton – President and CEO, Canada Media Fund

Cadmus Delorme – Former Chief of Cowessess First Nation – Founder and CEO, OneHoop

Aaron A. Fox, K.C. – Lawyer, Retired

C/Supt. Mike Lokken – Commanding Officer of Depot

Vaughn Schofield – Former Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

R.T. Bob Smart – Retired RCMP Training Officer

Dr. Renatta Varma – Ophthalmologist, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

# LETTER FROM THE CEO

*Friends, fans, and families of the RCMP Heritage Centre,*

It is with immense pride and gratitude I share this annual report. 2024 was an exceptional year, marked by new, and strengthened partnerships, record setting classroom engagement from every province and territory, and a reaffirmed commitment from the Government of Canada to establish the RCMP Heritage Centre as a National Museum.

Our growing team is a dedicated group of people who bring their unique perspectives to everything we do. This team is made up of people from across Canada; rural and urban, New Canadians, and first-generation Canadians. Their passion, care, and belief in our vision are what inspire teachers to bring their classrooms back year after year, help the families of Depot grads celebrate milestones, give brides an unforgettable day of their dreams, and give people from 30 countries around the world a Canadian experience like none-other.

Truth and Reconciliation continues to be an important pillar of our strategic plan. I'm proud to share that last year, 85% of our programming dollars went towards programming in the spirit of truth and reconciliation. In partnership with the Place of Reflection Committee and artists, our school program for Red Dress week helped young people understand the social factors related to the issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit people. For our classroom program leading up to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we partnered with Indigenous artists to help deepen students understanding of the Indian Residential School System and its intergenerational and intersectional impacts on communities and families across Canada.

We are nothing without our partnerships. In 2024, for the first time the Centre developed and hosted a Black History Month classroom program – with many thanks to Taiwo Afolabi and our partners at the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre at the U of R, and the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum. I want to extend a special thank you to two of our partners; Lori Whiteman and Barry Ledoux, who guide us in Indigenous teachings, help our team learn cultural practices, and who participate in developing and delivering our programming.



Our primary goal continues to be establishment as a National Museum. Everything we do in our day to day serves to support this goal. We have invested in this process significantly, and implemented a relevant, and strong vision, based on what we heard from more than 6,400 Canadians.

In the December, 2024 Fall Economic Statement, the Federal Government reaffirmed their commitment to establish the RCMP Heritage Centre as a National Museum, along with a commitment of \$12M to support us in those efforts. We look forward to working closely with the Department of Canadian Heritage, and the Government of Canada on this important endeavour.

Our team is passionate, and committed to continuing to engage folks from coast to coast to coast, welcome visitors from around the world, and serve our community at home.

With great momentum, we step into 2025-26. Come along with us!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Karikas', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Sam Karikas**

CEO

RCMP Heritage Centre

# CANADA'S NEXT NATIONAL MUSEUM

The Heritage Centre has been investing in and working to become a National Museum since 2020. We've heard from Canadians – they want a National RCMP Museum that is reflective of our history and our voices.

In fact, 91% of 6,400 Canadians surveyed say it's important or very important for there to be a National RCMP Museum that honours and celebrates the courageous contributions of the RCMP while also telling even the most difficult stories with dignity and compassion. From this engagement with Canadians, and hundreds of hours of stakeholder engagement, we have now been implementing and living our vision of being a place of discovery, exploration, reflection, and reconciliation. **These uniquely Canadian stories not only deserve to be told, they must be told—inspiring, difficult, and everything in between.**

In 2024-25 the project reached another important milestone. The December 16 Fall Economic Statement outlined an allocation of \$12M over four years, and a reaffirmation of the Government of Canada's commitment to making the Heritage Centre a National Museum.



# PROGRAMMING

## ON PATROL

On Patrol is a free virtual program that offers students a rare and inspiring opportunity to engage directly with the dedicated RCMP officers. This program connects RCMP Members serving across Canada in remote regions, interesting specialized units (like Police Dog Services), and making positive impacts like with Project Lavender, which empowers young women.

This interactive program allows RCMP Members, a meaningful chance to connect with youth and share their personal experience in their community or area of focus. Together, students and officers are building bridges of understanding, one virtual visit at a time.

**We're thrilled to share that 18,000 students across Canada joined us for our 2024-25 On Patrol live-streaming series**



“The On Patrol program was a great program last year. Informative for students to see the inside of the policing world in the different areas of Canada.”

TEACHER FROM SMALLWOOD ACADEMY

GAMBO, NL



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our Black History Month program was successful in creating impactful, student-centered learning experiences rooted in the themes of equity, justice, and inclusion.

By fostering open dialogue, reflection, and critical analysis, this program took meaningful steps toward building more inclusive school environments and helping young people become informed, empathetic contributors to a more equitable society.

Our programming team shared these educational and enlightening experiences with over 200 local students. Thank our partners; the Centre for Socially Engaged Theatre, and Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum for their support and guidance.



# SUMMER CAMPS

The RCMP Heritage Centre's summer camps were a hit with young detectives and their families, offering an exciting way to make the most of the summer break.

With four well-attended sessions throughout July and August, kids ages 6 to 11 immersed themselves in hands-on learning and fun.



# TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

**The road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to Truth and Reconciliation we are forced to go the distance.** – THE LATE HONOURABLE JUSTICE SINCLAIR

Much of our programming focuses on fostering an environment of inclusion and diversity, seeking truth about Canadian history, and fostering a culture of moving forward together.

We are deeply honoured to provide a space for understanding, healing, and meaningful action—ensuring the RCMP Heritage Centre continues to be a place where important conversations happen, and where voices are heard.

## CADET PROGRAM

Through feedback and engagement with Indigenous former and current RCMP Members, and with support of our Indigenous partners, the RCMP Heritage Centre developed an education program that is now offered as part of the Cadet Training Program at Depot.

In this 3-hour learning journey, Cadets are introduced to the historical and intergenerational realities of the communities they will soon serve and live in.

Using the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada floor map as a resource and through thoughtful exploration, open discussion, and guided reflection, Cadets gain valuable insight into the impacts of colonialism, oppressive historic policies, and the intergenerational impacts still felt in communities across Canada.



## PLACE OF REFLECTION

As one of the cornerstones of our Indigenous programming, this experience invites students and visitors to engage with the heartbreaking realities that have affected—and continue to affect—Indigenous communities across Canada.

The Place of Reflection, is a sacred space dedicated to honouring the lives and memories of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). More than a memorial, it is a call to reflection, education, and action.

The Place of Reflection stands as a powerful reminder of the human cost of inaction and is a space of remembrance, learning, and commitment to change.



## RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS: LEARNING THE TRUTH

As part of our ongoing commitment to education, awareness, and reconciliation, the RCMP Heritage Centre continues to develop and deliver impactful programming that explores the harms and intergenerational impacts of the Indian Residential School System.

Once again, leading into the National Day to Truth & Reconciliation, the Centre hosted a week of free school programming focused on helping students learn the historical context and ongoing impacts of Residential Schools across Canada. The program is designed to foster a safe and respectful space for learning, discussion, and empathy. Students are encouraged to ask questions, share truths, and personally connect to the subject matter through art and expression.

Students worked closely with Indigenous artists who led the groups through interactive and engaging creative exercises. In 2024-25 we partnered with Bradley Bellegarde and Geanna Dunbar for this program.

314 students participated in this year's program.



## RED DRESS WEEK

Honouring, Remembering, and Learning Together.

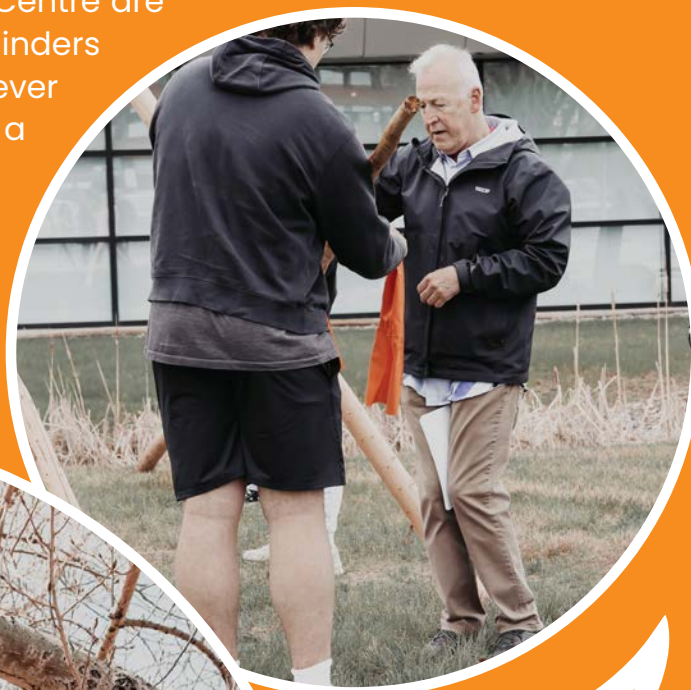
Red Dress Week at the RCMP Heritage Centre is a powerful and necessary time for reflection, remembrance, and education. For the third year in a row, the Heritage Centre hosted a week of free school programming dedicated to raising awareness and honouring the memory of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-spirit people.

We are honoured to create space at the Heritage Centre for young people to listen, learn, and reflect. Through our partnership with the Place of Reflection Committee, students explored the deeper meaning of Red Dress Day, and discussed broader social context and intergenerational factors that impact the families and lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people.

With our partners, we invited students to awaken the Place of Reflection, learn about the significance of the site, and learn the tipi pole teachings. Artist Cheryl Ring led students through a week of guided, hands-on art activity, asking them to reflect on their role in understanding the truth of this issue.

117 students from five schools from Regina and surrounding areas took part in the program.

For us – the red dresses on display at the Heritage Centre are much more than symbols; they are visible daily reminders of the voices that are missing, the stories that must never be forgotten, and the role all of us play in creating a better world.



## TIPI RAISING

In June, we had the honour of raising our own tipi for the very first time—a moment filled with deep meaning, reflection, and connection. This special occasion brought together our staff, members of the Place of Reflection Committee, representatives from the Regina Police Service, RCMP Depot, and RCMP F Division. Together, we stood side by side in unity and respect, recognizing the cultural significance of this traditional structure and the teachings it holds.

Elder Dennis Omeasoo of the Samson Cree Nation led us in an opening circle that grounded the experience with ceremony and learning. He, along with Elder Lorna Standingready shared powerful insights into the meaning of the tipi and its role in Indigenous culture, helping us understand its deeper spiritual and cultural purpose.

Following the opening circle, we came together for a traditional feast inside the tipi, a special time for sharing food, conversation, and community.

Moving forward, our tipi will now stand as a symbol of learning, respect, and the continued journey toward truth and reconciliation at the RCMP Heritage Centre.



# ARTIST COLLABORATION:

## HONOURING INDIGENOUS VOICES THROUGH ART AND STORY

In 2024, the RCMP Heritage Centre was proud to collaborate with extraordinary Indigenous artists whose powerful voices and creative expression brought deep meaning, reflection, and connection to our programming.

**Brad Bellegarde**, known on stage as InfoRed, electrified audiences with his commanding presence and spoken word performance. A celebrated hip-hop artist and storyteller, InfoRed has performed at the 2010 Olympic Games to a royal audience that included His Royal Highness King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

**Geanna Dunbar**, a Plains Cree-Métis spoken word poet and multidisciplinary artist, shared her creative spirit through an interactive workshop at the Centre. Her ability to blend poetry, visual art, and lived experience offered participants a meaningful way to engage with Indigenous perspectives and stories.

**Melissa Worme**, is a gifted performance artist from Kawacatoose First Nation, and a proud Nehiyaw (Plains Cree) woman, with a passion for cultural expression and storytelling, Melissa uses her many talents to share Indigenous traditions, and to keep cultural knowledge alive for future generations.



# EVENTS

## CANADA DAY

On Canada Day, the RCMP Heritage Centre came alive with laughter, learning, and national pride as families from all walks of life gathered for a joyful afternoon of celebration.

We celebrated with over 800 visitors who enjoyed mini motorcycles, an obstacle course, face painting and balloon creations.

Thanks to the support of the Canadian Heritage Celebrate Canada Fund, the RCMP Heritage Centre was proud to offer a Canada Day experience that was free, fun, and filled with meaning.



## FAMILY DAY- FREEZIN' FRENZY!

On what may have been the coldest day of the year, our Freezin' Frenzy Family Day celebration proved that with enough heart, laughter, and hot chocolate, even the frostiest day can become a cherished memory.

Around 200 visitors bundled up and came together for a full afternoon of fun, creativity, and pure winter magic. It wasn't just about braving the cold—it was about embracing it, and turning it into a reason to celebrate.

From cozy indoor crafts, a magical Moana movie, and delightful meet-and-greets with RCMP mascot Monty the Moose and a special visit from the Island Princess, there was something for everyone to enjoy. One of the highlights of the day was the exciting scavenger hunt that had families explore the galleries, uncover clues, and solve fun challenges together.





## **THE MISTLETOE MARKET**

On November 30th, the RCMP Heritage Centre was transformed into a winter wonderland for the second annual Mistletoe Market! Families soaked up the holiday spirit with festive fun, free holiday movies in the theatre, hands-on crafts for kids, and a magical visit from the jolliest guest of all—Santa Claus.

Shoppers discovered unique, heartfelt gifts from a variety of incredible local vendors and deals at the Heritage Centre gift shop. This was the perfect one-stop shop to kick off the holiday season.



## **FOUL PLAY – A PRAIRIE INVESTIGATION**

Foul Play – A Prairie Investigation was anything but your average night out on the prairies. It was an unforgettable evening of mystery, mouthwatering cuisine, and a touch of wine-fueled detective work that turned our 75 dinner guests into savvy sleuths.

Hosted in partnership with the Regina & District Chamber of Commerce, this unique event brought together curious minds and sharp eyes for a one-of-a-kind investigation into a murder mystery where the names were changed to protect the innocent.



## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Led by CEO Sam Karikas, The RCMP Heritage Centre continues to strengthen its presence as a key destination for both local visitors and tourists. Recent messaging has highlighted the Centre's expanding lineup of family-friendly events, interactive educational programs, and immersive experiences.

Updates on the journey toward National status have also been shared, generating enthusiasm and support. Media coverage has played a valuable role in raising awareness, attracting new audiences, and reinforcing the Centre's reputation as a vibrant, engaging place to visit.



## Select Programs have been generously funded by:

PrairiesCan

City of Regina Community Partner Grant

Tourism Saskatchewan

Government of Saskatchewan MMIWG2S Community Response Fund

Canada Summer Jobs

SaskCulture Multicultural Initiatives Fund

Community Initiatives Fund

Canadian Museums Association - Young Canada Works

Government of Canada Truth & Reconciliation Commemoration Fund

South Saskatchewan Community Foundation

Museums Association of Saskatchewan



## AT A GLANCE



Total # of students who attended virtual programming  
**27,081**



Total Number of Hours of Virtual Programming  
**147 hours**



Over **2,000** Grad family members visited the museum in 2024-25.



Close to **5,000** cups of coffee served in 2024 during vets coffee.



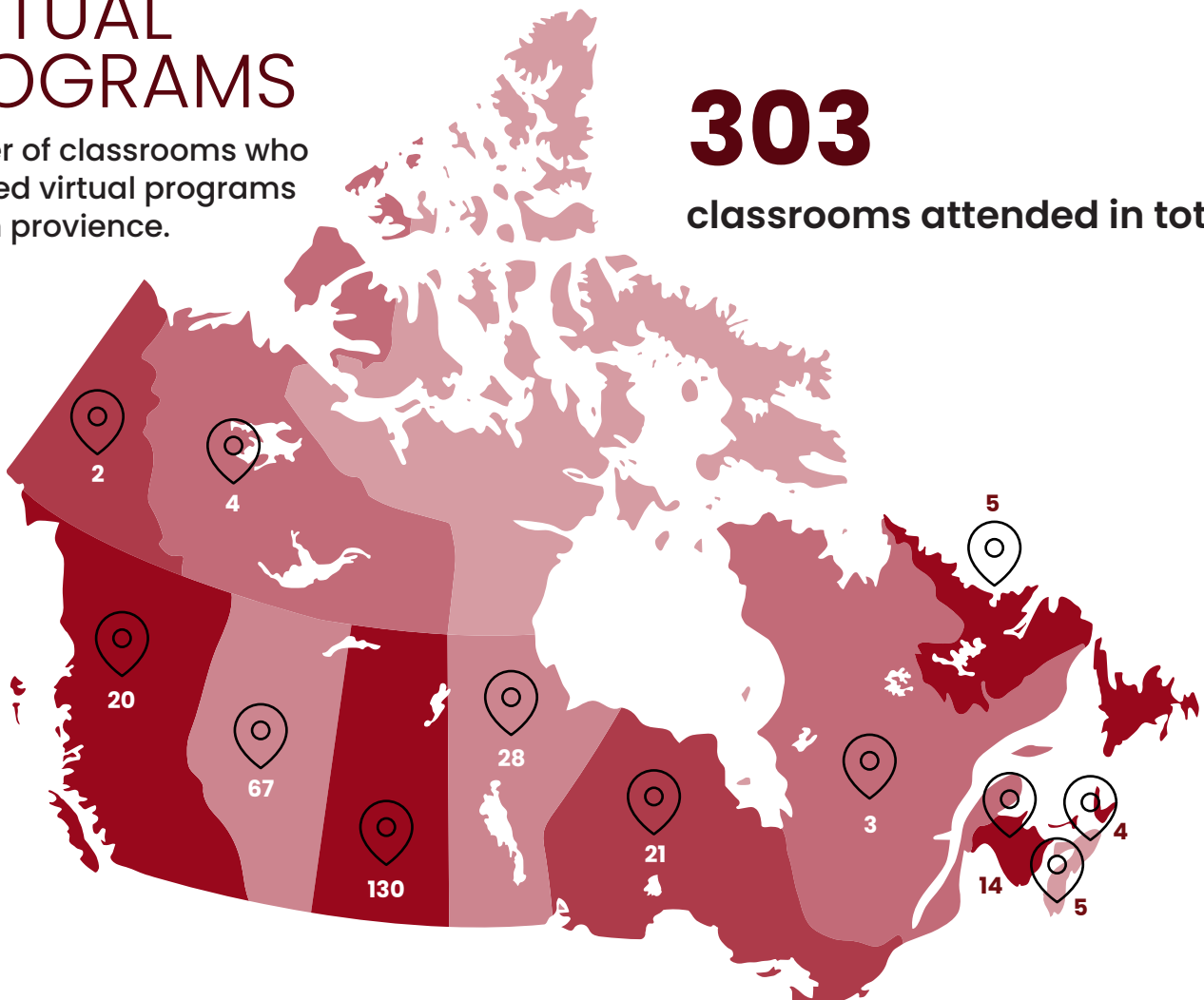
We are a non-profit organization; not owned, operated, or funded by the RCMP. Our operating funding comes from admissions, programming, rentals, gift shop, grants, and generous donations.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Number of classrooms who attended virtual programs in each province.

**303**

classrooms attended in total.



# AT A GLANCE

## TOP 10 VISITORS FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WHO SIGNED THE GUEST BOOK

 United Kingdom **60**

 Germany **50**

 Australia **49**

 Tennessee **46**

 Virginia **44**

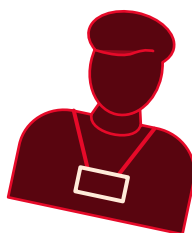
 Minnesota **37**

 Texas **37**

 India **36**

 North Dakota **35**

 Florida **30**



Followers **19,000**



Followers **8,323**



In 2024-25 The RCMP Heritage Centre received over **\$180,000** in donations.



In 2024-25 close to **19,000** visitors went through the galleries.



We welcomed visitors from around **30** countries across the world!