



Tomasin Playford

After starting an archaeology degree at Brandon University, Tomasin began to fully recognize and appreciate that powerful connection between people and place. She was fortunate to study with a professor whose passion for local history inspired students to be involved in their communities. It was then that Tomasin began volunteering. She sat on the board of the local archaeological society, helped organize student conferences and workshops, and talked to interested groups about archaeology. This is also when she began sharing her research at local, provincial and national conferences, something she continues to do today.

Her research in archaeology centers on the relationship between people and animals. Her Master's degree from the University of Saskatchewan focused on better understanding the different types of animal food people ate in the past. After graduation, she returned to Manitoba and spent a few years teaching and undertaking small archaeological consulting projects. Then she returned to school to complete a PhD from the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba. Her dissertation examined the relationship between seasonality and animal food use on the northern Plains. During this time, Tomasin was the student representative on several committees and acted as the returning officer for a student election.

As a student, Tomasin had her first experience in boreal forest archaeology as part of a community-based research project. She spent time over two

summers in northern Manitoba with *Asiniskow Itbinimak* (Rocky Cree) members, exploring a lithic quarry site, recording archaeological and traditional land use, as well as participating in youth culture camps. She also began working with Swan Lake First Nation as their archaeological advisor for the Manitoba Hydro BiPole 3 Transmission Line project. This is also when Tomasin became involved with the Manitoba Archaeological Society, holding the volunteer positions of Vice-President then President. That experience led to her current position as the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society (SAS) in 2013. Her role is to work with the board on governance and manage operations of the Society in the delivery of over 30 programs and services.

Since moving back to Saskatoon, Tomasin has learned a tremendous amount about the challenges and opportunities facing Saskatchewan's heritage sector. She has seen how Heritage Saskatchewan's work, research and leadership strengthens the sector, provides support to communities, and improves the quality of life for all Saskatchewan citizens. Tomasin has been honoured to serve Heritage Saskatchewan as a board member for the past two years. During that time, she has gained a deeper understanding of Heritage Saskatchewan's impact and governance. She identifies strongly with Heritage Saskatchewan's Vision, Mission and Values. Tomasin believes her long history of volunteerism, previous board experience, background in archaeology and current role in a Saskatchewan heritage organization would enable her to continue making meaningful contributions to Heritage Saskatchewan as a member of the board.

