



Below is a revised version of an article that was published in *The Canadian Quilter*. Please feel free to copy/share with your guild/group and encourage them to participate in the **Alberta Quilt Project**.

The Western Canadian History Programme at the Royal Alberta Museum is embarking on an Alberta Craft Research Initiative to document the material culture of craft production, including stylistic and technical origins as well as the dissemination of production methods within the Alberta context. This research project will address the history of craft development in the areas of studio pottery, hand weaving and QUILTING.

The *Alberta Quilt Project*, a component of this research initiative, will look at

- heritage quilts; quilts made in Alberta or brought by immigrants to Alberta and,
- contemporary quilts made in Alberta over the last 25 years.

As we proceed with the *Alberta Quilt Project*, we hope that our research will help us tell the Alberta quilting story. We will be building on a previous quilt documentation project done in 1982 that culminated in a traveling exhibition and published catalogue. Our goal is to extend our efforts to document and photograph quilts found in regional museums as well as in private collections throughout Alberta.

Most excitingly, we have been invited to participate in the Quilt Index, a partnership of the Michigan State University Museum, the Alliance for American Quilts, and MATRIX: The Center for Humane Arts, Letters and Social Sciences Online. The Quilt Index is an online database of thousands of quilts, utilized by quilt scholars and enthusiasts around the world. At this point only quilts from U.S. institutions are available online. The Quilt Index consortium is very excited about our project as they are looking to include international contributions. They have agreed that once we have identified quilts that contribute to the Alberta quilting story, we can include them in the Quilt Index along with the Royal Alberta Museum's quilt collection.

We also wish to capture the current trends in quilting. There is no doubt that there is great diversity in the types of quilts made today, from traditional to contemporary art pieces. This is where we need your assistance. **We are calling all Alberta guilds, groups and/or individuals to help us document today's quilting history by completing a survey questionnaire.**

Once we collect our research data from the regional museums and the quilting guilds/groups/individuals throughout Alberta, analyse the data, we will schedule yearly outings to various parts of Alberta to photograph and document quilts that are unique to Alberta's history. **Be a part of Alberta's history today!**

Return your survey questionnaire to Lucie Heins, Royal Alberta Museum, 12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5N 0M6. The **deadline for survey submissions is March 1, 2011**. Send an email titled Alberta Quilt Project to lucie.heins@gov.ab.ca to receive your questionnaire electronically.

Regards,

Lucie Heins,
Assistant Curator, Western Canadian History

Government of Alberta ■