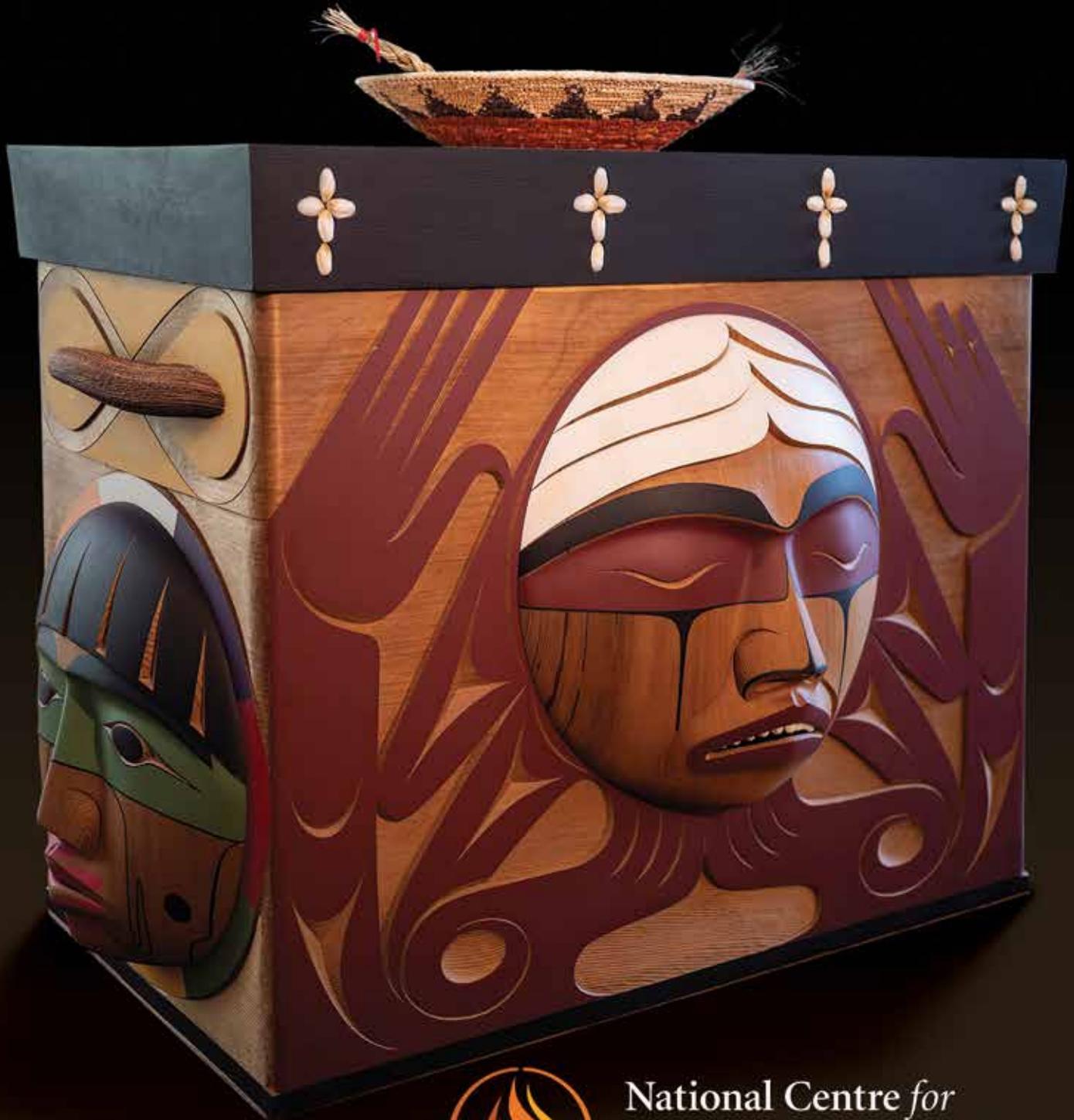


# Pathways

Five-Year Report, November 2019



National Centre for  
Truth *and* Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) closing ceremony held on December 15, 2015, marked the end of the first phase of healing in this country. At the closing of the TRC, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) accepted the responsibility to move Canada into the second phase of truth and reconciliation.

The NCTR's spirit name is *bezhig miigwan*, meaning "one feather." The NCTR educates Canadians on the profound injustices inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples through the residential school system. We preserve the record of Canada's human rights abuses and honour Survivors and their families every step of the way.

The NCTR is shifting the national narrative.



# Message from the Director

Canada was born out of a series of injustices that can no longer be hidden, ignored or brushed aside.

For 150 years, over 150,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis children were separated from their families and placed into residential schools. Thousands never returned. Physical, psychological, sexual and emotional abuse were rampant. These abuses left long-standing traumas within Indigenous families and communities across Canada. The residential schools were Canada's most direct effort to destroy Indigenous cultures.

Thankfully, Canada's attempts at eradicating Indigenous cultures, languages and identities failed. Indigenous Peoples and Nations are rebuilding, and we are proud to be a part of this. While the path ahead remains long and complex, each day at the NCTR represents another step toward a brighter future.

In fulfilling our mandate, we honour a simple, but powerful, promise made to residential school Survivors — to do everything we can to ensure that no child anywhere has to endure what Survivors lived through in the residential schools.

We dedicate ourselves to the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful relationships. We combat ignorance, prejudice, racism, oppression and the suppression of human rights through education, partnerships and new insights into Canada's past, present and future. We remain steadfast in our commitment to truth.

We honour and respect Survivors in all of our actions and thank them for their ongoing support of the NCTR.

We are proud of the work we have accomplished.

Thank you for sharing in our journey.

**Ry Moran**, Director  
Member of the Red River Métis



◀ Carl Stone, Brokenhead First Nation Cultural Teacher and Leader, Indigenous Student Advisor (Indigenous Student Centre), University of Manitoba.

# Message from the Governing Circle

As a residential school Survivor and on behalf of the Governing Circle of the NCTR, I share this report with you to highlight the important work that has occurred out of the Centre since June 21, 2015.

For us, as Survivors, it is important that we see the NCTR as our home, where our truths, experiences and lives are validated, honoured and never forgotten. The staff carry the responsibility – both today and tomorrow – to ensure our voices are carried forward in a good way.

While we look back and celebrate the work and experiences shared through the NCTR, we must keep our eyes focussed on the future. We shared our pain with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) to move this community to a better place – to ensure no child, of today or tomorrow, has to endure what we went through. However, we recognize that the harms of colonialism still visit our children and communities today, just wearing a different mask.

We also recognize that, for far too long, we have had to bear our pain within our families and communities. That is why we place such great importance on educating all Canadians on their responsibilities to become active

participants in ending the terrible conditions our people continue to face.

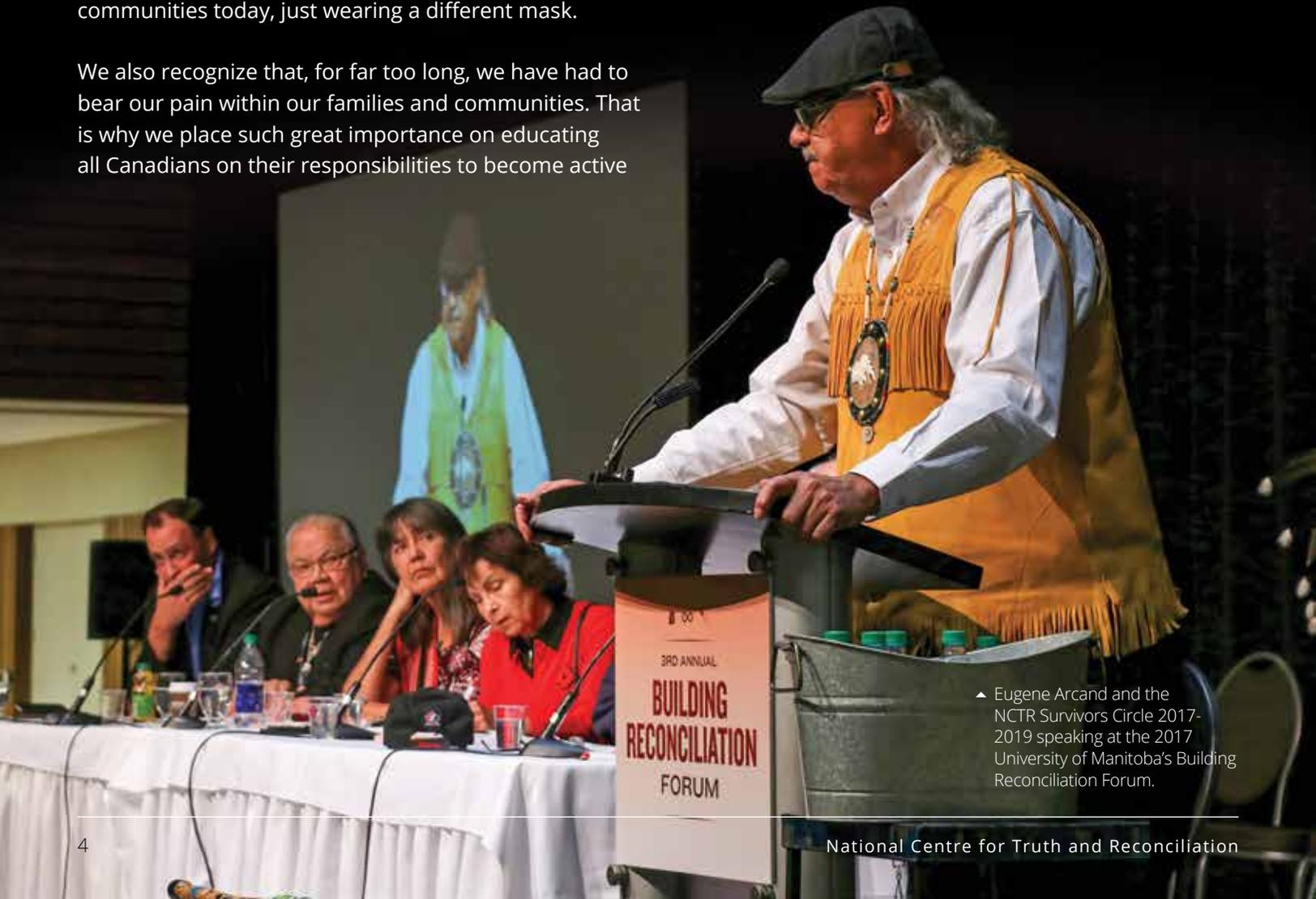
We should never forget the power of love to heal – how hugging a child and telling them you love them can make all the difference in the world.

That is what we were denied in residential schools. That is what we must collectively reclaim to turn the corner in this country.

Thank you for reading this five-year report and for joining our collective journey to engagement and reconciliation.

**Eugene Arcand, No. 781**

Residential school Survivor and Governing Circle Chair  
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation



▲ Eugene Arcand and the NCTR Survivors Circle 2017-2019 speaking at the 2017 University of Manitoba's Building Reconciliation Forum.

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▶ TRC Teepee that sat outside the NCTR.



# Origins of the NCTR



▲ From left to right - Chief Dr. Wilton Littlechild, Commissioner of the TRC, Senator Murray Sinclair, Chairperson of the TRC, and Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner of the TRC unveiling the TRC Final Reports in Ottawa on December 15, 2015.

*“One of the things the TRC is attempting to do is to establish a national memory about residential schools so that, in four or five generations, no one can say, ‘This never happened.’”*

~ Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of the TRC

The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement settled the largest class action lawsuit in the country's history. This complex agreement created multiple national processes including the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) and the TRC.

Learning from lessons of post-TRC implementation challenges around the world, the Canadian TRC was mandated to establish a National Research Centre. This Centre would be the permanent repository for all statements, documents and other materials collected by the TRC to ensure no one can ever deny what occurred within the residential schools.

**Beyond the documents held by the NCTR is a record of hope, pain, tears, promises, optimism, healing and sorrow of a Nation.**

Honouring the long line of ceremonies that occurred — from the first sacred fire of respect lit at the Winnipeg national event to the ongoing responsibilities of caring for the TRC's Bentwood Box — the NCTR plays an active role in realizing a more just and equitable country for all.

### **The TRC's Closing Ceremonies in Ottawa**

Our teams played an active role in planning the TRC's closing ceremonies.

On behalf of the TRC, the NCTR recorded over 250 private and public statements during the two-day closing ceremonies, marking just how many Survivors still wanted their voices heard.

Guided by Survivors and Elders, and to honour the significant responsibilities of the NCTR's mandate, ceremonies were held during the TRC's closing event to acknowledge the forthcoming of the NCTR.

### **Release of the Final Reports of the TRC**

We helped to distribute the TRC's final report, performed the final disposition of the TRC's records, accommodated staff and continued in the TRC's footsteps in the fight for the protection of residential school history through the courts.

**December 15, 2015 didn't mark the end of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. In fact, it was only just beginning.**



# Creating a New Institution

Building the NCTR required commitment, vision and a lot of hard work. Canada has never developed an institution whose top priority is to bring to light the harms Canada inflicted upon Indigenous Peoples, while pursuing relationships to one day reach reconciliation.

New legislation was needed, governance structures implemented, documents transferred, staff hired, technical systems built, partnerships realized and a new home created.

By keeping to our mandate and including Survivors, ceremonies, Knowledge Keepers and Elders in every step of the process, the NCTR became what it is today: an internationally recognized organization that honours the lived realities of residential school Survivors and dedicates each day to reconciliation in Canada and around the world.

▲ The NCTR Teepee that now sits outside the NCTR. As an extension of the Centre, it is a special place where staff and partners gather for ceremony, teachings and meetings.

## Issuing the Call

### Establishing the Mandate of the NCTR

In 2012, the TRC issued a national call for proposals, seeking submissions from organizations to host the NCTR. The University of Manitoba — with an impressive roster of partner organizations — was identified as the frontrunner.

Two foundational documents were created between the TRC and the University of Manitoba: The Trust Deed and the Administrative Agreement. These agreements were brought to life in a signing ceremony on National Indigenous Peoples Day 2013.



▲ The NCTR home, Chancellor's Hall at the University of Manitoba.



The Trust Deed<sup>1</sup> established the legal mechanism to ensure the records would remain housed and protected in a spirit and manner consistent with the TRC's objectives.

The Administrative Agreement<sup>2</sup> established the objectives, mandate and governance structure of the NCTR and anchored the importance of ongoing partnerships with organizations around the world.

With these agreements firmly in place, the work of building the institution could commence.

## Staffing the Centre

In February 2014, Ry Moran was appointed as the first Director of the NCTR. Mr. Moran's previous experience as Director of Statement Gathering and the National Research Centre at the TRC proved invaluable in the establishment of the NCTR.

Since then, the NCTR's team has continued to grow to over 20 dedicated full-time

staff. The NCTR relies heavily on additional human resources provided at the University of Manitoba and other partner institutions.

The NCTR's team is a diverse mix of Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors, 60s Scoop Survivors, First Nations, Métis, non-Indigenous Peoples and newcomers. About 70 per cent of NCTR staff are Indigenous and bring with them a rich diversity of experience, perspective and knowledges from their Nations and communities across Canada. Over 50 per cent of the NCTR leadership team are women.

We are proud that some staff who have worked with us over the years have moved on to other vital and important organizations, including the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Indian residential school History and Dialogue Centre at the University of British Columbia, the federal public service and to their home communities to advocate on behalf of their nations.

▲ The NCTR draws on the knowledge, expertise and ambition of individuals across the country through secondment initiatives with various partner organizations, student internships and contractual relationships. Students working at the NCTR have included those from prestigious international fellowships at Princeton University to students with extensive community and cultural knowledge from Indigenous communities across the country.

1 [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous\\_connect/media/IND-00-013-NRCAS-TrustDeed.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous_connect/media/IND-00-013-NRCAS-TrustDeed.pdf)

2 [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous\\_connect/media/IND-00-013-NRCAS-AdminAgreement.pdf](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/indigenous_connect/media/IND-00-013-NRCAS-AdminAgreement.pdf)



## Building a Safe Home

After extensive renovations to create a dedicated space suited to the work of the NCTR, in 2014, the NCTR moved into Chancellor's Hall on the University of Manitoba's Fort Garry campus. Located along the banks of the Red River, this quiet and serene setting proved an excellent fit for the serious work occurring inside the building.

In honour of this move, a special pipe ceremony was held. During this ceremony, Knowledge Keepers acknowledged the NCTR's spirit name -- *bezhig miigwan*, meaning "one feather."

*Bezhig miigwan* calls upon us to see each Survivor coming to the NCTR as a single eagle feather and to show those Survivors the same respect and attention an eagle feather deserves. It also teaches we are all in this together — we are all one, connected, and it is vital to work together to achieve reconciliation.

- ▲ The NCTR began its life at the University of Manitoba in one shared office just off the main campus in Smartpark. The Director and archive staff were the first to join the NCTR team. The move from the TRC to Smartpark and then to its final home Chancellor's Hall was extensive, as the responsibility to protect all the records and objects in the archives for each move had to be handled with care and through ceremony.

## *The NCTR Act and Protecting Personal Information*

*“It is important to the reconciliation process that these records and documents are preserved with purpose and careful consideration of the privacy of Survivors .... This legislation will help the Centre to fulfil its role as a safe place for Survivors, educators, students, artists and others to obtain important resources that help move us forward on the path of reconciliation and healing.”*

~ Senator Murray Sinclair,  
Chair of the TRC

Before any documents were transferred between the TRC and the NCTR, new legislation was required to align Manitoba privacy legislation with the complex national mandate of the NCTR. Following a lengthy period of negotiations and discussions between the NCTR, the TRC and Province of Manitoba, the Manitoba legislature enacted *The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Act* in 2015.

*The NCTR Act*, the first of its kind in Canada, is essential for the fulfilment of the NCTR’s mandate.

▲ Sacred fires are central in the ceremonies conducted at the NCTR. These fires are lit for important gatherings, events and as an opportunity for healing.

# Establishing our Governance Structures

## Governing Circle

In summer 2014, an 11-person nominating committee selected the first Governing Circle of the NCTR. Establishing our own governance structures were essential to ensuring Survivors and partners were anchored at the very heart of the organization.

Three members of the Governing Circle represent Survivors, their families or ancestors (one First Nation, one Inuit and one Métis) and, at all times, at least four members of the Governing Circle must self-identify as Indigenous. The remaining four members represent the University of Manitoba and other NCTR partner organizations.

Governing Circle members serve a minimum two-year term, meet quarterly and advise on the NCTR's policies, priorities, activities, ceremonies, protocols and methods. The Governing Circle ensures ongoing Indigenous oversight of the NCTR.

*“We have made it a priority to have a balance in representation on the Governing Circle. Women play a significant role in governance, and provide an appropriate balance to decision making as we embrace the restoration of Indigenous jurisdiction and authority across Canada”*

~ Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Chair on Truth and Reconciliation at Lakehead University





▲ An important step in welcoming our first Survivors Circle to the NCTR involved returning the Bentwood Box to the NCTR.

### Survivors Circle

*“It was the Survivors’ truth and the power of their statements that changed this country’s perception of itself. Having Survivors at the core of the NCTR is essential, not only for respecting the past but also for understanding where we’re going.”*

~ Ry Moran, Director of the NCTR

Following a national selection process, the NCTR welcomed its first Survivors Circle in 2017. One of their first ceremonial acts was to welcome the TRC’s Bentwood Box back to the NCTR after being on display at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights since the TRC’s close.

The Survivors Circle worked closely with staff at the NCTR, providing invaluable

expertise and guidance on an array of NCTR actions. Their perspectives were instrumental in the Independent Assessment Process (IAP) Records Case and development of the enhanced notice program for IAP records.

Their direct advocacy efforts resulted in the NCTR’s *Lessons Learned* report and the *National Student Memorial Register*.

*“I had great pleasure serving on the first Survivor Circle of the NCTR. It is important to have the Survivor voice in the development and decision making of the Centre. This will ensure inclusivity, balance and truth in the reflection of “our legacy” for future generations.”*

~ Terri Brown, Survivor and the Chair of the NCTR founding Survivors Circle

◀ NCTR Staff and the 2017-2019 Survivors Circle at the NCTR.



## Working Together - Knowledge Keepers and Elders

Elders and Knowledge Keepers play a significant role at the NCTR. From visioning the Turtle that sits in front of our building, to the sensitive work of honouring children that never returned home from the residential schools, our work would not be possible without them.

### Reconciliation Star Blanket

Handmade and designed by Elder Sylvia Genaille, the Reconciliation Star Blanket hangs in the front hallway of the NCTR. It shows the relationships necessary for reconciliation to occur through the joined hands around the outside of the blanket. At the Centre are four bald eagles, which, through their long vision, guide the people forward.

### NCTR Turtle

The Turtle that sits in front of the NCTR is a powerful reminder of the NCTR's duty to truth. Facing east, it looks toward new beginnings, and reminds us to teach the creation stories of the land where the NCTR sits.

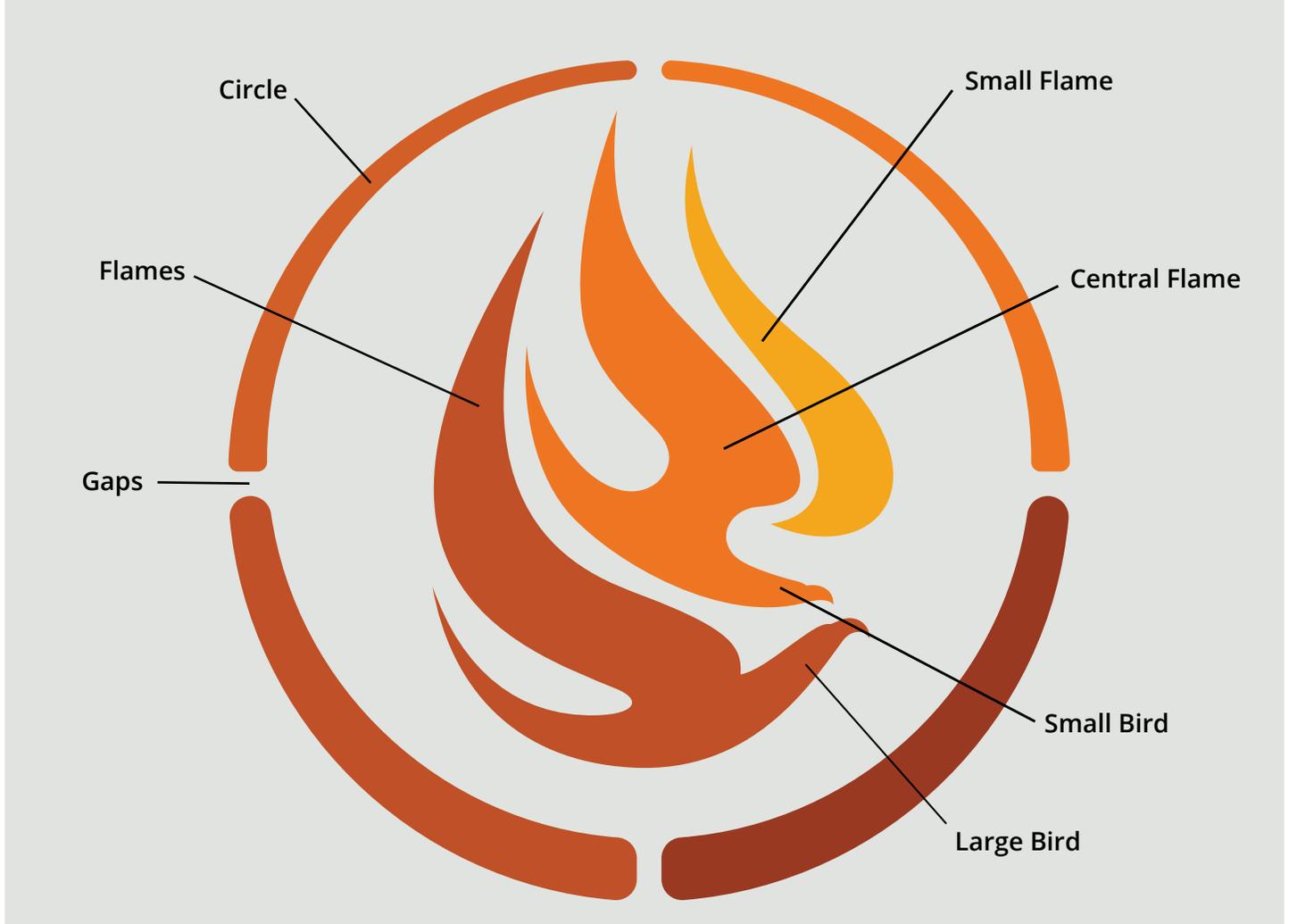
### Turtle Lodge

The NCTR attended multiple gatherings at the Turtle Lodge to seek instruction at national gatherings of Elders. We also held important ceremonies to honour all the children that never returned home from the residential schools.



▲ Reconciliation Star Blanket, created by Elder Sylvia Genaille.

◆ The Turtle that sits outside the NCTR is a daily reminder of our responsibilities to the truth.



## Our Logo

**What are you bringing to the fire? What is your personal contribution to ensure the fire of reconciliation burns bright and strong in Canada?**

In summer 2014, we revealed our logo and designated our new name, the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Designed by an Intergenerational Survivor, our logo reflects the work we do, while also acknowledging and respecting our origins out of the TRC.

- **Flames** — When you look into the flames, you see relationships: Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors, parents, children, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.
  - **Central Flame** — Seven fires and Seven Sacred Teachings. The coming together of the TRC's seven flames within its logo represents the continuous nature of this work.
  - **Small Flame** — Children. Our responsibility to pass on a better world.

- **Birds** — Represents how the truth of our experiences can set our spirits free.
  - **Large Bird** — Relationships. Healing. Survivors.
  - **Small Bird** — Reconciliation. Intergenerational Survivors.
- **Circle** — Four Directions teachings. Protection to the fire.
- **Gaps** — Welcoming everyone to take part in reconciliation. Always possible to join.



**National Centre for  
Truth and Reconciliation**

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



## Setting up the Archive

*“We have the honour of safeguarding records that many people have never seen. Document by document, we are repatriating history.”*

~ Ry Moran, Director of the NCTR

Opening the NCTR involved significant planning, preparation and work.

From the transfer of records from the TRC’s offices, to the security reviews, to new technical infrastructure and backup systems, the work to establish the NCTR’s archive required significant teamwork between the University of Manitoba and NCTR staff.

- ◀ The Bentwood Box travelled with the TRC to different provinces and territories, where offerings were made to it to commemorate personal journeys toward healing and reconciliation. It now lives at the NCTR where it continues to receive offerings and represents who we are working for and what we are working towards.



▶ The Shingwauk baseball team from Shingwauk Indian Residential School (Sault Ste. Marie, ON).

# Opening the NCTR

*“One of the great responsibilities for the National Centre of Truth and Reconciliation is to ensure that Canada never forgets about what it once did to its most vulnerable.”*

~ Senator Murray Sinclair while speaking at the NCTR opening ceremony

*“The Centre will provide opportunities for Survivors, families of Survivors, researchers, students and the public to interact with the oral and documented history of residential schools. We promise we will be responsible keepers of the stories that have been gathered and the work that has been done. It will be our honour to do so.”*

~ Dr. David Barnard, President and Vice-Chancellor at the University of Manitoba, speaking at the NCTR opening ceremonies

- ▼ The grand entry led by the TRC’s Eagle Staff to the official opening ceremonies of the NCTR at the University of Manitoba.





The official launch of the NCTR occurred November 3-4, 2015 and commenced with a sacred fire at Chancellor's Hall.

The official opening ceremonies at University Centre included important speakers such as the NCTR Director Ry Moran, TRC Chairperson Senator Murray Sinclair, Commissioner Dr. Marie Wilson, Elder Dave Courchene, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President Natan Obed, Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba Dr. David Barnard, and members of the NCTR Governing Circle.

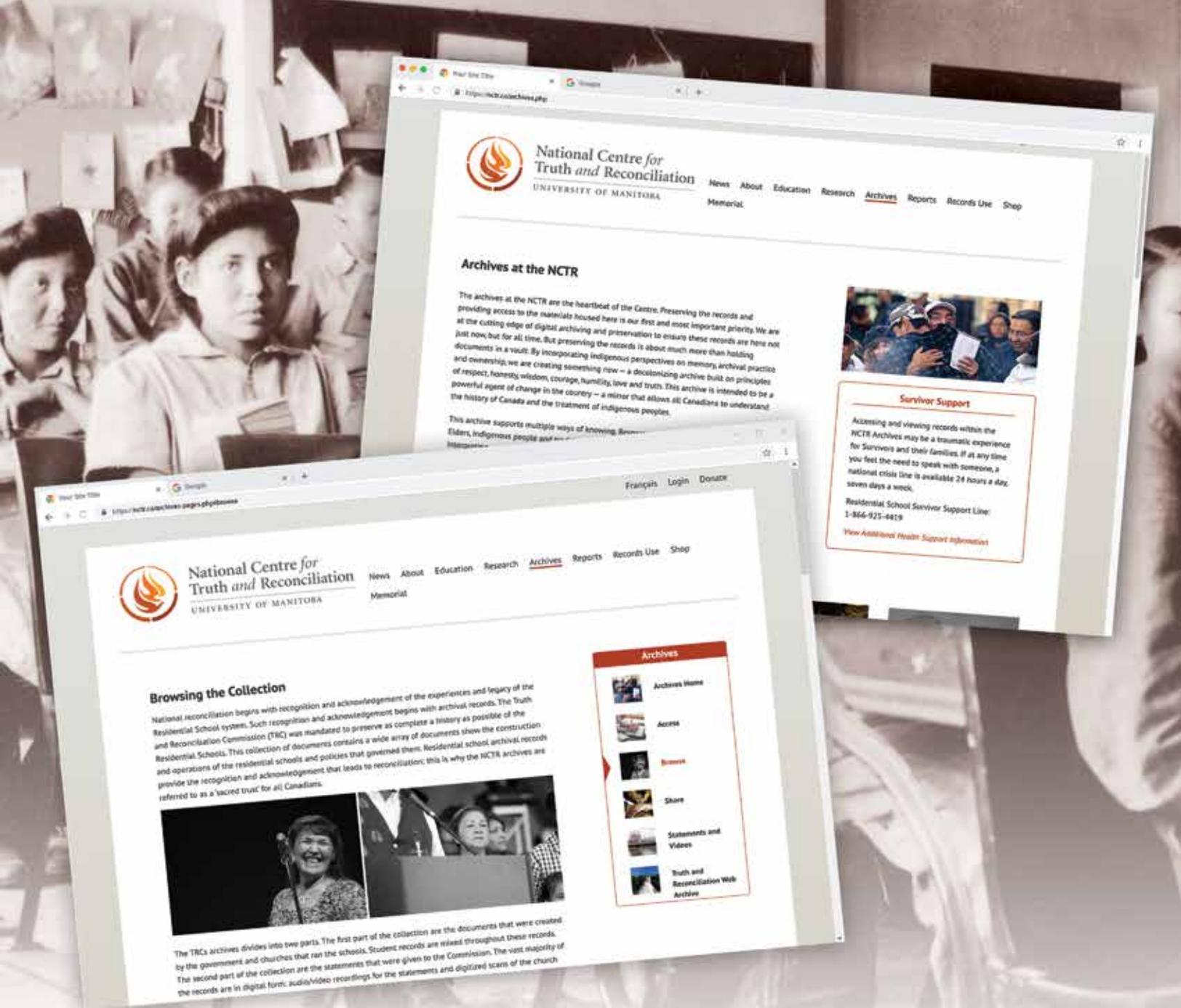


The NCTR's opening ceremonies also acknowledged the 25-year anniversary of former National Chief Phil Fontaine's historic disclosure of residential school abuse on national television. A special ceremony took place to honour his courage and determination to reveal the truth.

A Reconciliation dialogue involving TRC Honorary Witnesses, Survivors, students and members of the broader community followed the opening ceremony.



- ▲ Former National Chief and residential school Survivor Phil Fontaine speaking at the NCTR Opening Ceremony following his honouring ceremony.
- ◆ A special honouring ceremony for Phil Fontaine marked 25 years since his historic disclosure of abuse to national television audience.
- ▼ Students on November 4, 2015 taking part in reconciliation workshops and activities.



▲ Children assembled in a school room at Hay River Residential School in 1918.

## The Launch of the NCTR's Archives

The second day of the NCTR's opening ceremonies celebrated the official launch of the NCTR archives with over 2,200 students and 350 teachers from across Manitoba. This youth-focused event brought youth leaders, Knowledge Keepers and educators together in a powerful day of learning, healing and truth-sharing.

The release of the NCTR's main archival website marked the first time school-specific information — profiles, photos, school histories and maps — was available. Combined with thousands of Survivor statements, the NCTR's website represented a tangible turning point in sharing and acknowledging the country's history.

# Community Engagement

## Listen first, act second

To ensure the NCTR followed community expectations, prior to launching our public archive, we travelled to meet with residential school Survivors in both remote and urban environments. These community engagement sessions focussed specifically on what Survivors and their families wanted to see happen with the records and how they would like to be included as the NCTR developed.

A central theme in these conversations was how we would present information out of the archive and how the NCTR's truth-telling mandate would respond to the real need to protect personal information.



▲ The Prince George Community Engagement participants and presenters.



◀ The NCTR staff arrived at the Iqaluit airport. The NCTR traveled across the country to hold engagement sessions with residential school Survivors. Ensuring the voices of the north are heard remains an important part of the NCTR's work.

# Where We Are Today



▲ The new NCTR Teepee outside the NCTR.

## *NCTR Operations from January 2016 to the Present*

*“If the stories of our people are not accessible to the public, it will be as if their experiences never occurred. And if their voices are rendered as museum pieces, it will be as if their experience is frozen in time. What we need are open, dynamic, interactive spaces and participatory forms of narrative, knowledge and research. This would be a fitting way to step into the 21st century and into a new kind of relationship...”*

~ George Erasmus, speaking at the TRC event.



# The Archives

The NCTR Archives cares for over 4 million archival records made up of over 15 million digital files. At the heart of the NCTR Archives are the 6,757 Survivor and witness statements that total 44,805 individual files or 2,629 hours of audio-visual content. The Archives also cares for more than 1,000 physical objects that were gifted to the TRC during ceremony.

## Since 2015:

- The NCTR has received  
**349 sets of records**  
from private donors, totalling just  
under **5,000 records**
- Updated the descriptions of more than  
**60,000 public records**
- Preserved over  
**2,300,000 records**  
to move to a new digital platform
- Re-organized more than  
**15,000,000 files**  
within the Vault

## 8 Servers of Data

15 million files  
170+ TBs of data

Unorganized  
data

## 1 organized environment

15 million files  
170+ TBs of data

### TRC Events and Statement Gathering

- National events
- Hearings
- Regional events
- Special events

### TRC Document Collection

- Religious entities
- Federal entities
- Provincial and territorial entities
- Background research

### New NCTR Records

- RCAP
- Private donations
- Event photographs
- IAP records

### Material objects

- Bentwood Box
- Material submissions
- Artistic submissions

## Expanding our Technical Infrastructure

Since receiving documents and materials from the TRC, the archives team has initiated multiple projects to further enhance the digital preservation of the collection. Modelled after the international standard for digital preservation known as the Trusted Digital Repository model, the team is leading a complex technology strategy to process digital objects in compliance with the Open Archival Information System model. Efforts include significant enhancements to the database structures and technical systems that preserve the records and new integration with the NCTR's website.

## Gaining Insight

Archives staff have reordered the original arrangement of the archival files received from the TRC in ways that bring the voices and personalities within the records to life. This involved the order and consolidation of eight separate collections of information, totalling more than 170 terabytes (TBs) of data, into a single virtualized environment.

To further expand this work, the archives team applied for a Canada Foundation for Innovation grant to greatly enhance the preservation of records held at the NCTR.

# Preserving Our Physical Records

The archives team completed an inventory of thousands of objects, ranging from art, poetry, songs and sacred items. They represent Survivors', families', communities' and organizations' experiences and commitments to truth and reconciliation. The inventory process included documenting each object with photographs, storage needs, donation information and descriptive information.

Now centralized, this information has been ingested into the NCTR's archival database where we can preserve it for generations. Objects are now linked directly to associated video clips so each item is described and contextualized by the individuals who created it.

## Preserving the History of the TRC

The work of the TRC was documented through thousands of photographs.

The NCTR has carefully preserved these photographs alongside other records created by the TRC, creating the most significant collection of materials on the TRC in the country.

- ▶ Newspaper article from January 6, 1937 about the four boys who ran away from the Lejac Residential School. For the full story and other individual stories about the children who were forced to attend residential schools visit the NCTR Facebook page @nctr.ca.
- ▼ Children sledding in 1947 at Fort George Residential School.



# Accessing the Archives

## Honouring Requests

### Prioritizing Survivor and Intergenerational Access

The NCTR has prioritized getting records, statements and other materials back into the hands of communities, Survivors and their families. Each request is completed with the utmost care and sensitivity. Every week we send out new packages of information to community members, Survivors and their families, assisting in healing, discovery and raising understanding across the country.



## Stimulating Conversations and Discovery

We have received over 3,000 requests for access to the materials held at the NCTR. These requests come from journalists, community-based organizations, students and members of the public.

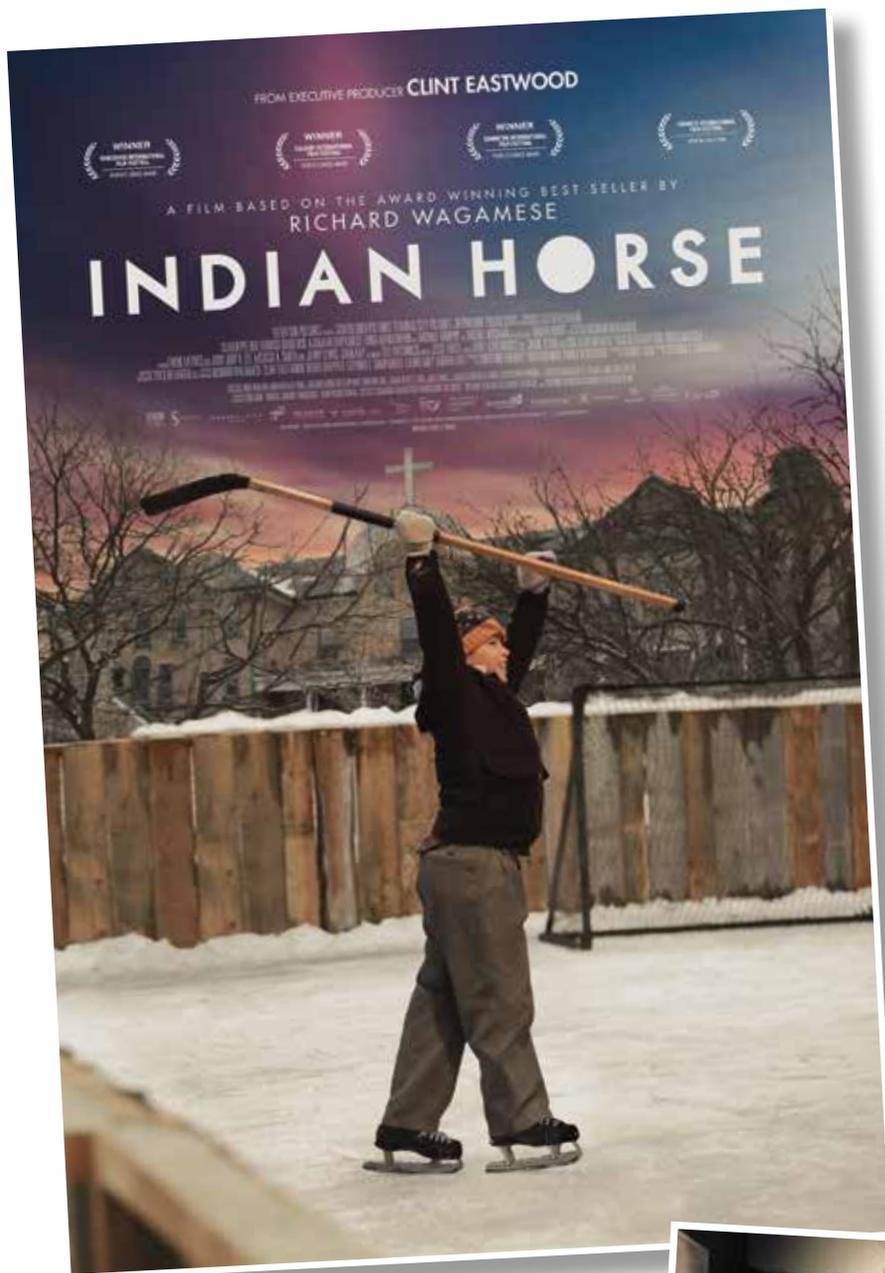
We have supported multiple museums with content for their public displays, sent materials overseas for international exhibitions raising awareness of Canada's

human rights record abroad, fueled countless media stories, and contributed materials to multiple documentary films in Canada and around the world.

Content from our archives has been used in academic research papers, presentations, online textbooks, educational resources and training modules.

▲ Students at Carcross Residential School in the 1930's.

▲ Fort George Residential School in 1977.



## Project Highlights

The NCTR has contributed photos, records, loaned artifacts and consulted on several high-profile projects and organizations such as:

*Indian Horse* film

*All Our Father's Relations* independent documentary<sup>3</sup>

Rideau Canal National Historic Site Visitor Centre

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Canadian Museum of History

Venice Biennale

*Retracing my Mother's Escape from Residential School*<sup>4</sup>

Independent documentaries

*Time for Reconciliation*

Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Organization of American States.



<sup>3</sup> <http://allourfathersrelations.com>

<sup>4</sup> [www.cbc.ca/radio/tapestry/making-peace-with-the-past-and-present-1.4428128/retracing-my-mother-s-escape-from-residential-school-1.4428623](http://www.cbc.ca/radio/tapestry/making-peace-with-the-past-and-present-1.4428128/retracing-my-mother-s-escape-from-residential-school-1.4428623)

## Growing the Archives through Ceremony

In 2016, after extensive engagement between members of the NCTR Governing Circle, Elders and community members, NCTR staff travelled to a special ceremony in Couchiching First Nation to retrieve an object of terrible importance to our collective national memory — a crudely made strap manufactured by former staff at the Fort Frances (St. Margaret's) Residential School, used to inflict abuse on children at the school.

Found hidden in the walls of the former caretaker's residence by a former residential school Survivor, the strap is a painful testament to the atrocities inflicted on children at the hands of school officials. The strap, and the stories associated with it, form an important part of the NCTR's public education efforts and has been featured in special features on APTN and CBC.

A National Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support to former students. This 24-Hour Crisis Line can be accessed at: 1-866-925-4419





## Remembering the Children Memorial Register

In a profound and moving ceremony on September 30, 2019, the NCTR, in partnership with APTN, released the names of all children that never returned home from a residential school. Over 2,800 children's names were honoured on a 50-metre-long memorial cloth. Broadcast twice nationally on APTN, and with front-page coverage in *The Globe and Mail*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Winnipeg Free Press* and other newspapers across the country, together with our Survivors Circle, we ensured these children will never be forgotten.

To support the ongoing memorialization, a print version of the memorial register provides families, communities and others with an important memorial to honour and remember these children. An

online register maintains an active list of children's names. We continue to update this on a near-daily basis as more children are found and honoured through ongoing collaboration with communities.

We continue our search for children that never returned home from the residential schools in close collaboration with residential school Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors, families, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities from coast-to-coast-to-coast in the development and design of the register and database.

▲ The memorial cloth sharing the names of over 2,800 children who never returned home. Continuing to honour these children is an ongoing responsibility of the NCTR. There are thousands more children to be found. For more information visit [memorial.nctr.ca](http://memorial.nctr.ca). If you know of a child who did not return home from a residential school, contact us at [nctrRecords@umanitoba.ca](mailto:nctrRecords@umanitoba.ca)

A National Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support to former students. This 24-hour Crisis Line can be accessed at: 1-866-925-4419

[memorial.nctr.ca](http://memorial.nctr.ca)

## Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada

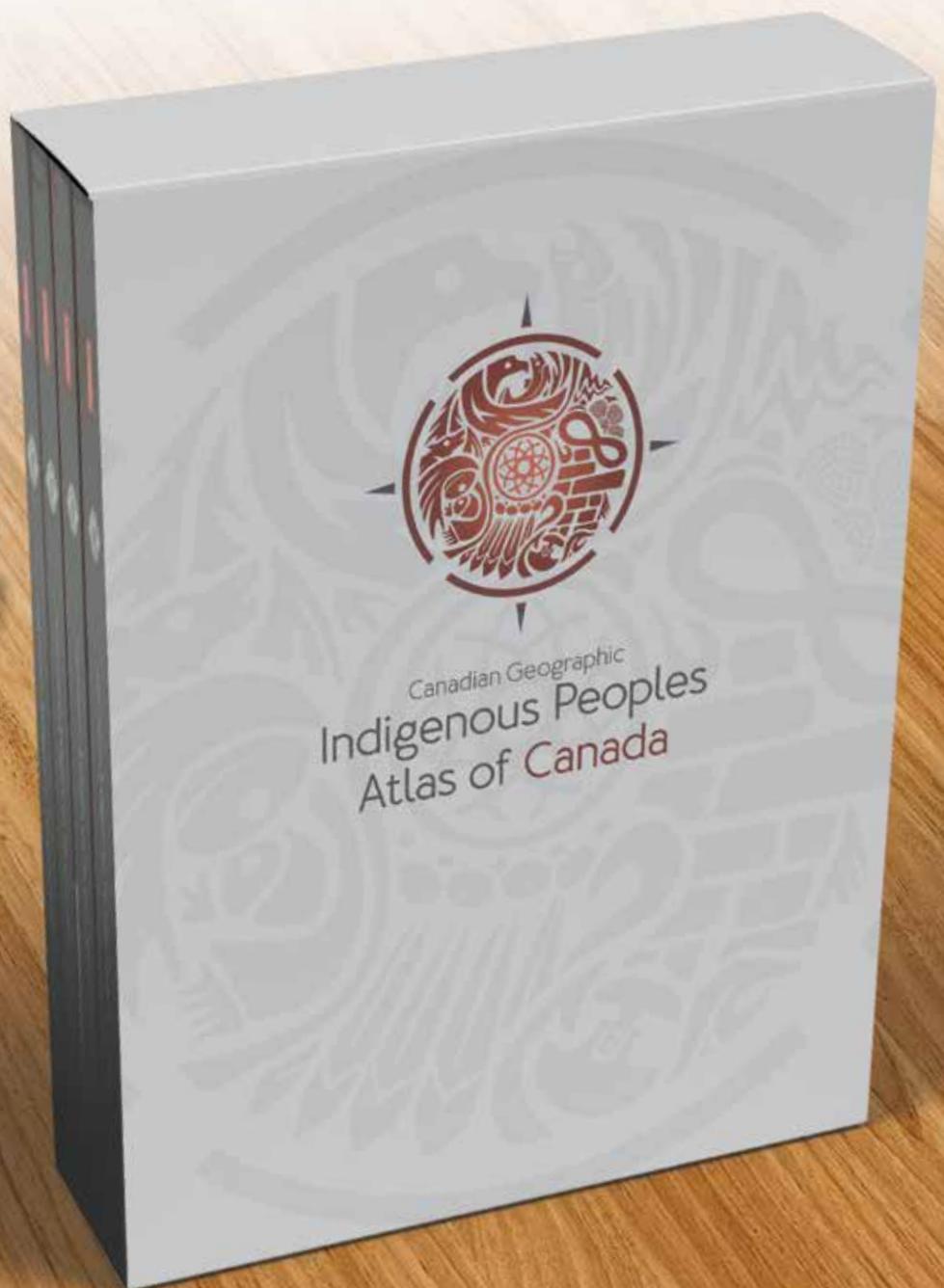
The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, in direct partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, Indspire and the NCTR, developed and launched the first national Indigenous Peoples Atlas.

With thousands of copies distributed to date, this atlas provides students, teachers and learners with an incredible educational resource of culturally appropriate curricula that includes

information about Indigenous lands, languages, communities, treaties, cultures and topics such as the residential school system, racism and cultural appropriation.

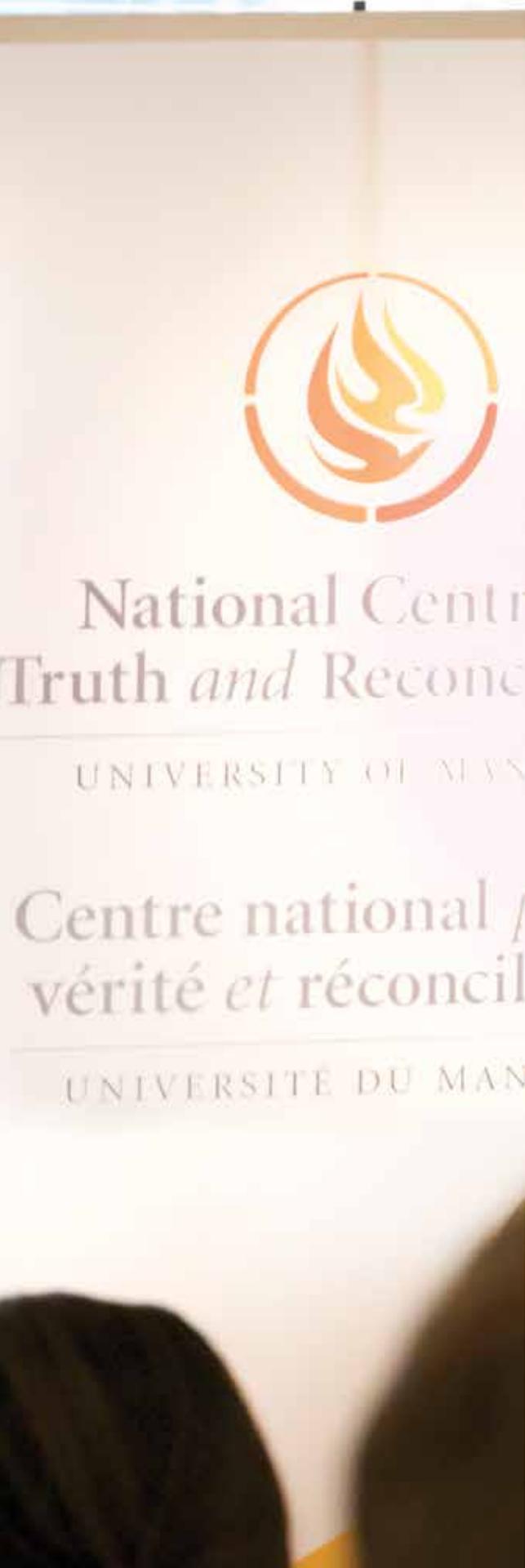
Distribution includes over 1,600 copies sent to schools throughout Alberta.

The NCTR was honoured to be a major contributor to this atlas.



Much of the history and geography available in the Indigenous Peoples Atlas has never been written or shared with educators in this scope prior to its publication in 2018.





## UNESCO Memory of the World Register

On July 25, 2019, the Canadian Advisory Committee for the UNESCO Memory of the World Register accepted the NCTR's application for inclusion in the Canada Memory of the World Register. Support for inclusion of the NCTR's archives was unanimous.

The Committee commented the NCTR's archives represent "a troubling but very important period in Canada's history" and cited the NCTR's exemplary nomination. The Committee's decision congratulated the NCTR for sensitive and innovative policies, and also noted the application's nuanced discussion of the collection's cultural and spiritual significance was also a strength.



- ▲ Students reading outside at Carcross Residential School.
- ◀ Elder Phyllis Webstad, *Every Child Matters*, presenting at the special event for the official designation of the NCTR collection within the UNESCO Memory of Canada Register.



Through these partnerships, we created a foundation for truth and reconciliation initiatives across the country.

## Partners

*“We both need to and want to educate both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples about a very dark chapter in Canadian history that continues to have consequences and ramifications today.”*

~ Angela Cassie, Canadian Museum for Human Rights

The NCTR was founded on the importance of partnerships. From arts-based initiatives to ongoing work directly with Survivor-based organizations, partnerships have been the key to long-term sustainability.

## Institutional Partnerships

The NCTR’s institutional partnerships are long-term alliances with a diversity of organizations. Since launching with a set of original proposal partners, such as the University of British Columbia and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, we have expanded our list of partners to include other major post-secondary institutions such as Dalhousie University, Cambrian College, the University of Ottawa, the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta. These partnerships form the basis of a network of aligned actions from across the country.



◀ Treaty Bear at the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus.

## Partnership Feature

### **The UBC Residential School History and Dialogue Centre**

The Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at the University of British Columbia partnered with the NCTR from the beginning. They supported the University of Manitoba's bid for the home of the NCTR, with an intention to establish a West Coast independent affiliate with access to TRC records. They also continue to partner with the NCTR on several projects to bring the truth of the residential school system and legacy to light from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

A West Coast Centre could provide Survivors, their families and communities with access to TRC records, and could also serve an important role in bringing many more people into informed and productive conversations.

### **Dalhousie University NCTR Hub**

Dalhousie University has partnered with the NCTR through opening the first East Coast hub of the NCTR. The space is located in the Indigenous Community

Room of the Dalhousie Libraries' MacRae Library on the Agricultural Campus in Truro. Dalhousie's NCTR hub encourages education and awareness about Indigenous history and serves as a constant reminder to students, faculty and staff of the University's commitment to reconciliation.

Through this partnership, Dalhousie Libraries will ensure the NCTR's archives are more accessible and better used in the Atlantic region. In the future, Dalhousie will grow the service to include contributing additional holdings to the NCTR; facilitating additional oral history and community narratives, research and reports; supporting a broad scope of public education, research, cultural and reconciliation activities; assisting the NCTR in serving the public in a variety of Indigenous languages as well as in English and French; and fulfilling regional or community needs and desires related to residential school research, education and reconciliation.

▼ Ry Moran, Dr. Paulette Regan, Dr. Barney Williams and Dr. Linc Kesler at the opening of the Residential School History and Dialogue Centre at UBC.



## Project-Based Initiatives

The Google Voyager Project resulted in tours of residential school history via Google Earth. The *Indian Horse* film and New Constellations Tour project challenged Canadians to engage in reconciliation during Canada 150 celebrations. Facebook released its anti-bullying initiative in four different Indigenous languages. All of this demonstrates how, when working together with our partners, we can and will advance meaningful reconciliation based projects.

The NCTR has partnered with countless groups and organizations on a variety of projects that have educated and engaged audiences across Canada. Our project-based partnerships have been monumental in ensuring we continue to share the history of residential schools and colonization with as many people, organizations and leaders in Canada as possible.

▼ Mob Bounce performing at the New Constellations Tour concert in Winnipeg, 2017.





◀ Gord Downie, Ogoki Post Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, and Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation during Downie's visit with Chanie Wenjack's family and community.

*“I have always wondered why, even as a kid, I never thought of Canada as a country — It’s not a popular thought; you keep it to yourself — I never wrote of it as so. The next hundred years are going to be painful as we come to know Chanie Wenjack and thousands like him — as we find out about ourselves, about all of us — but only when we do can we truly call ourselves, ‘Canada.’”*

~ Gord Downie

## Arts

### New Constellations Tour

The New Constellations Tour brought Indigenous and non-Indigenous performers together in an incredible celebration of partnership. Funded through a Canada 150 grant, this tour included top-tier talent from across the country, including A Tribe Called Red, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Jeremy Dutcher, Feist, Cris Derksen, Billy-Ray Belcourt, Jason Collett, Damian Rogers and DJ NDN. Workshops and mentorship opportunities provided excellent opportunities for youth to work on music with leading Canadian talent. Documentary films continue to reach and inspire thousands.

Website hits: **29,266**  
 Concert Attendance: **5,000**  
 6 workshops in: **Edmonton, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Wiikwemkoong, Fredericton, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg**



▲ Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and Ry Moran.

### Secret Path

On September 9, 2016, the late Canadian rock legend Gord Downie pledged all proceeds from the *Secret Path* to support the *Gord Downie Secret Path Fund for Truth and Reconciliation* at the NCTR. The NCTR was honoured to help launch the Secret Path Project — a project that captured Canada’s attention in a way few others have.

Proceeds from the Secret Path Project — which include donations from artist Jeff Lemire and Canadian music label Arts and Crafts — provide funding opportunities to communities looking to commemorate children who never returned home from the residential schools, and will assist with ongoing educational initiatives.

**4 Years**  
**68 films**  
**55 Guest Speakers**  
**4,000 Attendees**

## *Decolonizing series*

Founded in 2016, the Decolonizing Lens series hosts free film screenings for the public with the opportunity to engage in discussion with special guests. The series is collaboratively sponsored by the NCTR, the University of Manitoba's women's and

gender studies department (Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund) and the Winnipeg Art Gallery.

The series has worked with the National Film Board of Canada, Gimme Some Truth Documentary Festival, WNDX Festival of Moving Image, Appleton Charitable Foundation, CBC Short Docs, imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival, and Friends of Shoal Lake 40. Over the past four years, the series has screened more than 68 films and hosted over 55 guest speakers, including Erika MacPherson, Katherena Vermette, Michelle St. John, Ryan McMahon, Alanis Obomsawin, Tasha Hubbard and Kent Monkman.



▼ Decolonizing Lens screening of *This River* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.





# Education

## Canada School of Public Service [Call to Action 57]

There are over 225,000 federal public servants across Canada. The NCTR is proud to be a partner with the Canada School of Public Service (CSPS) as it looks to reform and enhance its offerings to public servants across the country. These efforts are directly advancing *Call to Action 57* and will contribute to a better-informed federal public service from executive levels down.

*The NCTR and the CSPS have joined forces since 2017 and have had a collaborative partnership with the objective of achieving meaningful results on Call to Action 57. Some of the accomplishments include partnering on engagement sessions with Indigenous organizations, educators and youth, as well as provincial and municipal governments and academia, to inform the development of the CSPS Indigenous Learning Series. The NCTR also collaborated with the CSPS on its 2019 National Indigenous Peoples Day event, which was webcast across the country. The NCTR has been and continues to be a key partner for the CSPS in moving forward on the reconciliation agenda.*

- ▲ Gathering of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educational professionals and community members at Musqueam Community Centre for the CSPS engagement sessions on *Call to Action 57*.
- ▲ Visualizing the work of truth, reconciliation and *Call to Action 57* in partnership with the CSPS.

[https://www.cspc-efpc.gc.ca/About\\_Us/currentreport/ils2018/index-eng.aspx#toc1](https://www.cspc-efpc.gc.ca/About_Us/currentreport/ils2018/index-eng.aspx#toc1)

## National Education Roundtables

To stimulate educational efforts across the country, the NCTR hosted two national education roundtable meetings in 2015 and 2016. These gatherings brought educators from across the country together to share best practices, current efforts and activities.

The roundtables were instrumental in connecting different regions of the country with one another, establishing relationships and sharing information and best practices across various educational authorities.

## Alberta Education

*“We can’t know where we’re going until we know where we’ve been, so this enhancement to the curriculum will serve to enrich the knowledge and understanding of current and future generations of Albertans.”*

~ David Eggen, Alberta Minister of Education

The NCTR was proud to sign onto a Joint Commitment to Action with the Province of Alberta. Through this commitment, the Alberta Teachers’ Association, the Alberta Association of Deans of Education, the Alberta School Boards Association and the NCTR are putting enhanced resources into the hands of K-12 teachers across the province.



▲ The signed Joint Commitment to Action with the Province of Alberta and partners.

# Honouring Youth, Listening To Communities



▲ Honouree Siku (Yurac) Rojas and her family at the Imagine a Canada welcome dinner.

## Celebrating Youth Visions of Reconciliation

### Imagine a Canada

Since our inaugural ceremony on March 1, 2016, the NCTR's Imagine a Canada program has welcomed thousands of submissions from youth across the country. Imagine a Canada calls upon students to show us their vision of the future of the country through a lens of reconciliation.

Imagine a Canada submissions have grown, on average, 21 per cent each year, with over thousands of submissions from across the country.

Our 2017 program marked a very special moment for the country, with Lieutenant Governors and Territorial Commissioners attending an event at Rideau Hall in Ottawa to celebrate youth visions for reconciliation, with regional events occurring prior to that.

Imagine a Canada not only recognizes and honours students for their reconciliation vision, but also aids them in becoming ambassadors in their communities so they have a hand in making their vision of reconciliation a reality.

*“The most valuable takeaway was the knowledge I gained. I think the ceremony was probably the most impactful part because of the experience of being with the Elders and all the other Honourees. We all thought the same thing and we all wanted to stand up and fight.”*

~ 2016 Imagine a Canada Atlantic Honouree.

# Research

## Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Partnership [*Call to Action 65*]

The NCTR was proud to travel to Turtle Lodge with members of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council at a special gathering of Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The report from this gathering summarized the proceedings and was instrumental in developing a national reconciliation research framework.

*“We are very grateful to the NCTR for their wonderful collaboration in the Strengthening Indigenous Research Capacity Initiative. The NCTR facilitated a discussion with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers at a gathering at Turtle Lodge, which set a path for a national dialogue, and enabled the co-development, with Indigenous communities, of an interdisciplinary, Indigenous research and research training model that contributes to reconciliation with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.*

~ Ursula Gobel, Vice-President,  
Stakeholder Engagement and  
Advancement of Society, SSHRC

- ▶ Elders and Knowledge Keepers at Turtle Lodge.





## Locating Unmarked Burial Sites

In partnership with Dr. Terrance Clark (University of Saskatchewan) and Dr. Kisha Supernant (University of Alberta), the NCTR was able to assist the communities surrounding the last standing residential school in Saskatchewan (Muskowekwen). In the initial visits, the NCTR gathered statements and first-hand accounts from residential school Survivors, which turned into an important mini-documentary on the community's search for unmarked graves on the former residential school site.

Drs. Clark and Supernant then came to the community with ground-penetrating radar equipment to assist community efforts to find the burial sites of children. The team was successful in marking a number of suspected grave locations. There is still more work to be done at the site.

## Measuring Reconciliation — Dr. Katherine Starzyk and the Reconciliation Barometer Project

Under the academic leadership of Dr. Katherine Starzyk (University of Manitoba), a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers are partnering to take active steps to measure reconciliation efforts across the country. Inspired by Reconciliation Barometers in South Africa and Australia, this project is tackling the measurement of whether societal efforts at reconciliation are resulting in better relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples.

- ▼ Elder Dave Courchene and Knowledge Keepers at Turtle Lodge speaking to NCTR staff and partners.



## Residential Schools and Manitoba Tuberculosis Sanatoriums Photo Exhibit

The NCTR has been working with the Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis Photo Project (MITPP) on a photographic exhibit as a service to Survivors of residential schools and Manitoba tuberculosis sanatoriums and hospitals.

The NCTR and MITPP are making photos available from residential schools and Manitoba tuberculosis sanatoriums and hospitals, allowing Survivors, Intergenerational Survivors, families and community members to view and possibly identify themselves and other individuals in the photographs as part of their healing journeys. Staff from the NCTR, Archives of Manitoba (including the Hudson's Bay Company Archives) and MITPP have been available to aid in finding photographs and, if requested, making copies for Survivors.

- ▶ Children in class at Hay River Residential School.
- ▼ Senior classroom in 1945 at Old Sun Residential School.



- ▶ Children at Pelican Lake Residential School, Sioux Lookout, ON.



# Stimulating the Conversation

Keeping the Dialogue Moving Forward

## Publications

### TRC mini booklets

With over **300,000 mini booklets** supplied to government organizations, not-for-profits and a wide range of other groups across the country, these booklets have proven to be an invaluable tool to advance understanding on the 10 Principles of reconciliation, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and the 94 *Calls to Action*.

### Truth and Reconciliation Publication Series

The NCTR, in partnership with the University of Manitoba Press, launched a special publication series on truth and reconciliation. The first volume of the series, *A Knock on the Door*, provides readers with an enhanced version of the TRC's summary report. Additional volumes will soon be added to this series.



▼ Ry Moran delivering the keynote speech at the Canadian Conference of Medical Educators, Winnipeg, 2017.





▲ Community members, Survivors, scholars and practitioners gather at the 2016 Pathways to Reconciliation conference hosted by the University of Winnipeg and the NCTR.

## Public Education

### Public Speaking

NCTR team members have presented at over **500 conferences** in fields of health, education, heritage, law, archives, public service and beyond. Our efforts to help the Canadian public better understand the history, legacy and impact of the residential schools are tireless.

## Conferences

### Pathways to Reconciliation Conference

One year after the closing of the TRC, this partnership-based conference explored understandings of Reconciliation and ways to implement and monitor reconciliation initiatives. Pathways to Reconciliation brought together over **400 people**, representing a cross-section of Canadians, to examine work done to date and take steps toward reconciliation.



▲ The Honourable Carolyn Bennett meets with University of Manitoba Indigenous students, 2019.

## Sharing the Land, Sharing the Future

This important gathering was an opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges since the release of the seminal Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. The conference specifically reflected on the 20-year anniversary of the reports' release and included a special ceremony marking the sharing of the hearings, testimony and other records from Library and Archives Canada to the NCTR.

## Public Programs - Welcoming Visitors to the NCTR

The NCTR interacts directly with over **10,000 learners** per year through various public programs and outreach sessions held at the NCTR main office. Elected officials, faith-based groups, public servants, teachers, administrators and university students are just some of the many visitors that come to the NCTR for presentations and learning sessions.



◀ Bighetty and Bighetty Emceeding the Maamiikwendan Gathering.



▲ Maamiikwendan Gathering, 2019.



◀ Piita Irniq from Nunavut presenting at the Maamiikwendan Gathering.

## **Maamiikwendan Gathering - Remembering Residential Schools & Cemeteries as Indigenous Sites of Conscience**

The *Maamiikwendan* Gathering: Remembering Residential Schools & Cemeteries as Indigenous Sites of Conscience was held in partnership with the Government of Canada, the National Indigenous Residential School Museum of Canada and the National Trust for Canada.

This historic gathering of Indigenous Survivors and community representatives from over two dozen Indigenous residential school and cemetery sites focussed on the work Indigenous communities are doing to protect and remember residential school sites, gravesites and other memorials.



## International Dialogues

The NCTR is now recognized as a trusted and expert organization at an international level. We have welcomed delegations from TRCs from across the world. These dialogues have focussed on discussing statement-gathering approaches and the challenges and opportunities associated with establishing post-TRC social memory institutions such as the NCTR.

We have welcomed groups from places such as Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, East Timor, Colombia, Australia and the United States. Our own outreach has included engagement with Indigenous Peoples and organizations in Taiwan, Malaysia, Australia and beyond. Partnerships with UN Agencies, Global Affairs Canada and Advocates Sans Frontiers have been instrumental in the NCTR's ability to support truth and reconciliation initiatives around the world.

- ▲ Malian Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commissioners and delegation with NCTR Survivors Circle members and staff.
- ◆ Indigenous leaders and members of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei on a cultural tour of Bunun's traditional territories.
- ▼ The Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission members Pia Lane and Ketil Zachariassen with Ry Moran.



By thinking globally, but acting locally through our own efforts and our partner sites, we have achieved tangible, measurable results consistent with local needs, realities, cultures and discussions.



Colombia - Museo Casa de la Memoria, Ivory Coast, Mali - Malian Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (made possible through the Lawyers Without Borders Canada), Norway - Norwegian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Taiwan - Subcommittee on Reconciliation from Taiwan's Truth and Reconciliation Committee (made possibly through Global Affairs Canada), East-Timor - Centro Nacional Chega.



▲ A round dance at the Pathways to Reconciliation Conference held at the University of Winnipeg in 2016.

## Advocacy Initiatives

### Ensuring Social Memory - Toward a National Strategy for Residential School Sites and Unmarked Burial Locations

A major public advocacy initiative of the NCTR addresses the multiple Calls to Action around protecting and preserving remaining residential school sites and unmarked burial locations. To date, we have presented to parliamentary committees, and worked extensively with the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, Indigenous communities and the media to advance understanding and action on these important initiatives.

### Honouring Survivors - A National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

A major call for action by the TRC was the *Call to Action 80* - the establishment of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The NCTR has been a major supporter of this day, appearing in front of parliamentary committees and media to advance understanding and support for its establishment.

### Making Amends - An Apology from the Pope

During countless TRC hearings, Survivors expressed their disappointment in the lack of an apology from the Pope. The NCTR continues to advocate for a papal apology in a manner consistent with the Calls to Action issued by the TRC.

# NCTR on the Road

The NCTR has made the sharing of history a focus since its beginning. Our travelling exhibits, digital kiosks and displays have travelled across Canada and beyond.

Our educational displays have appeared internationally at the Organization of American States and have travelled on tour with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Conferences where NCTR had exhibits: Manitoba Teachers' Society Conference, Lost Prizes Conference, 40th Annual General Assembly (Assembly of First Nations), Anglican Synod, Fort Albany First Nation Community Land Based Healing Gathering and Residential School Special, Educating for Action: Our Learning Journey, Canadian School of Public Service engagements, National Trust Conference and many others.





# Challenges

*“Our children are entitled to learn what happened to us. My great-grandchildren are entitled to learn what happened to me.”*

~ Mike Cachagee, residential school Survivor

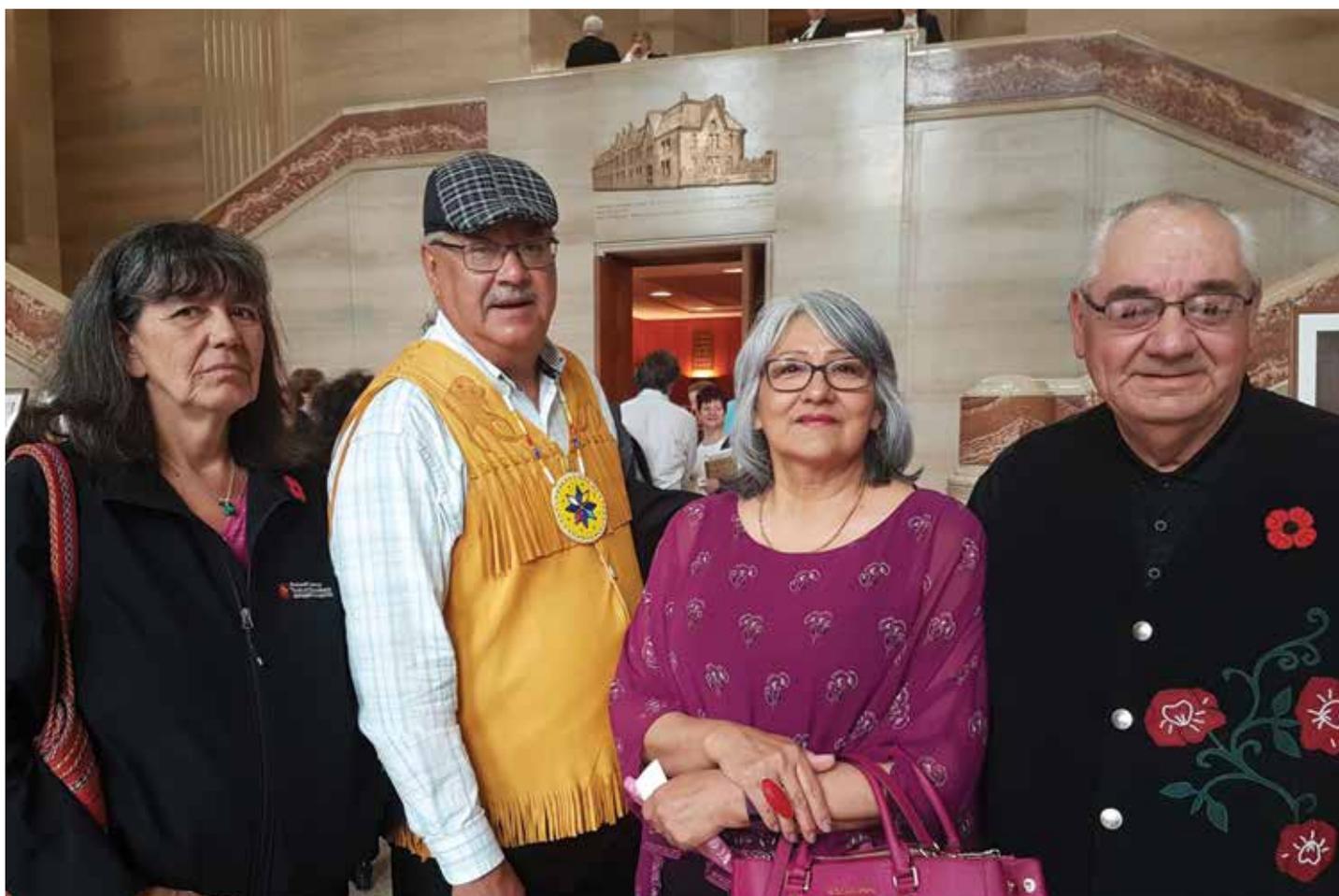
Building and establishing the NCTR has not come without its challenges. The preservation and accessibility of the records, testimonies and photographs in our archives is crucial to ensuring that future generations will always remember residential schools and their effect on the Indigenous Peoples of this country. The NCTR inherited many complex matters that have required significant attention, time and resources. Litigation and court proceedings have remained constant throughout the NCTR's existence.

## The Struggle to Preserve History - Records of the Independent Assessment Process

In August 2013, following years of discussions and negotiations between the Indian residential schools Adjudication Secretariat (the “Secretariat”) and the TRC over the eventual fate of the records generated by the IAP, the TRC filed a Request for Directions in the courts.

## Why the TRC and NCTR Worked to Protect the IAP Records

From the perspective of the TRC, and one shared by the NCTR, the IAP records formed the most in-depth accounting of the abuse inflicted by church and government officials within the residential schools. Both the TRC and the NCTR further believed



▲ Left to Right: Helene Johnson, Eugene Arcand, Terri Brown and Ted Quewezance at the Supreme Court of Canada in 2017.

the preservation of these materials was consistent with international obligations on Canada to preserve records of its own mass human rights violations. At the

*“We have fought hard for the protection of residential schools history. This was a fight that we inherited from the TRC but have carried it forward. Our concern has always focussed on ensuring the historical record is not sanitized and that the truth of what was done to us Survivors will forever be known.”*

~ Eugene Arcand

same time, the TRC and NCTR recognized the sensitivity of these records and proposed various orders to ensure the protection of the personal information contained within them. For the TRC and NCTR, protection of privacy of

personal information within the preserved records were of the utmost importance.

### **The Court Rulings**

This matter was argued in the Ontario courts with a decision rendered shortly before the conclusion of the TRC’s mandate. In August 2014, the trial-level court ruled that due to the highly personal nature of the records and the promises of confidentiality to IAP claimants, the IAP records must be destroyed unless individual IAP claimants expressly consented to the preservation of their records. Destruction, however, could only take place following the development of an enhanced notice program to provide notice to IAP claimants of their right to preserve their records. The TRC and the NCTR were initially directed to develop and implement the Notice Program.

This decision was appealed to the Ontario Court of Appeal by multiple parties.

**April 2016** – Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the trial-level court decision and directed the Chief Adjudicator to run the Notice Program.

**May 2017** – Decision appealed and proceeded to the Supreme Court of Canada.

**October 2017** – Supreme Court upheld the Ontario Court of Appeal’s decision. The records could and should be destroyed following an enhanced notice program to inform Survivors of their options.

**January 2019** – Notice Program was launched under the Chief Adjudicator.

### **The Notice Program**

The full and complete set of IAP records, including copies of records held at churches and the Government of Canada, will be destroyed in September 2027. Survivors have until this date to obtain a copy of their records for themselves, to deposit a copy of their records at the NCTR or to do both. By doing nothing, the records will automatically be destroyed in 2027.

*“The NCTR is a safe place for our stories, we must never be forgotten. Never Again. The truth which shaped our lives, the lives of our families, communities, clans and nations must be protected at all cost. Matriarchs must have their rightful place.”*

~ Terri Brown, Survivor and the Chair of the NCTR founding Survivors Circle

## Protecting the Mandate

Following resolution of the IAP case, the NCTR faced a substantive legal challenge of its own that could have resulted in the mandate of the NCTR being significantly impaired. In March 2018, a Request for Directions (RFD) was filed by Independent Counsel against the NCTR. "Independent Counsel" is one of three groups of class action lawyers who signed the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

The RFD sought a number of specific orders against the NCTR, which if granted would severely limit the NCTR's public education mandate. These broad-ranging measures included provisions that would have made the operations of the NCTR's mandate difficult, if not impossible. For example, if successful, the orders sought by Independent Counsel would have required the NCTR to remove from public access most, if not all, of the public statements provided by former students and others in the course of the TRC's public statement-gathering process – statements that had already been widely seen, heard and witnessed by thousands over the course of the TRC's work. Documents made accessible on the NCTR's website, including those readily and openly accessible at other archives, would also need to be removed.

In the end, the trial-level court ruled in favour of the NCTR. The court dismissed the RFD and recognized the robust privacy protections available at the NCTR as well as the NCTR's role as an archive in public education and fulfilling the "duty to remember" human rights violations.

## Governance Challenges - The Search for Self-Determination

For any organization reconciliation can be challenging. There have been many opportunities and challenges between the University of Manitoba and the NCTR in establishing the Centre throughout the past 5 years.

Ongoing efforts to strengthen Indigenous governance systems of the NCTR bear the distinct possibility that the University and NCTR will develop structures that enhance the operations of the NCTR while also serving as an important model for other institutions to explore as they look to incorporate Indigenous Peoples, practices and knowledge systems into their organizations.





# Funding - Stabilizing the NCTR

## Early Years

Early financial support for the NCTR came from a number of sources and included funding from the TRC, University of Manitoba and Government of Canada. Initial funding and expenditures focussed on establishing the technical backbone necessary to operationalize the NCTR's mandate, build its systems and close out many of the important responsibilities given to the NCTR at the conclusion of the TRC's mandate.

## Middle Years

By year three, financial stability at the NCTR was becoming strained. The NCTR had experienced strong growth, and demand for its services was reaching significant levels. Continuity of funding between fiscal periods was not stable challenging the ability of the NCTR to implement multi-year plans.

During these years, the NCTR sought and obtained project and initiative-based funding from a number of funding agencies.

## Current State

In late 2016, the Government of Canada announced a \$10-million operating grant for the NCTR to support seven years of operations. The University of Manitoba also made a five-year commitment to support the NCTR shortly thereafter. Together, these two funding sources supply the core operating dollars for the NCTR.

In the fifth year of operation, the financial footing of the NCTR has stabilized. Looking ahead, the NCTR will need to renew funding commitments in coming years, both from the University and the federal government.

The NCTR is deeply thankful for the efforts of both the University of Manitoba and the Government of Canada to supply stable core funding to support its operations. In both cases, but especially with the Government of Canada's financial support, the funding was received as a grant, which greatly assists the NCTR in maintaining its political independence — a necessary and highly important element of its mandate.

Ensuring long-term, stable core funding is the highest priority for the NCTR. It is likewise important the NCTR maintains independence from funding sources while still retaining the highest values of effective public service.

# Donations and Fundraising

The NCTR is grateful for the many donations from individuals and organizations since its inception. Contributions from key donors have been instrumental in assisting the NCTR reach its goals.

TD Bank Group's contribution of \$1 million over 10 years has resulted in a number of important opportunities for students to undertake work at the NCTR and other partner institutions.

*“The TD internship program allowed me to complete the four months required internship for my archival program while being able to support my family. It provided me with both the first worry-free summer as well as my most academically rewarding one since beginning my academic career for which I will be forever grateful.”*

~ Carmen Miedema, B.A., M.A., Digital Archivist Assistant and Former TD Intern at the NCTR

The Gord Downie, Jeff Lemire and Secret Path team have provided annual donations that support NCTR education projects.

The McConnell Foundation and the Rideau Hall Foundation were instrumental in the 2017 Canada 150 Imagine a Canada initiative.

We continue to be deeply thankful for the many donors, both at home and abroad, that support the NCTR.

THANK YOU!

▼ left to right: TD representative Anthony Yu, the University of Manitoba representative Danielle Dunbar, TD intern Carmen Miedema, NCTR Director Ry Moran, TD intern Andrew Webster, and TD intern Jason Carrier.





## Governing Circle Members

### Eugene Arcand

A Cree from the Muskeg Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan, Eugene Arcand spent nine years at the St. Michael Indian Residential School in Duck Lake and two years at the St. Paul's Lebret Students

Residence, both in Saskatchewan. A First Nation Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Arcand has dedicated much of his time to organizing regional and national events geared to the advancement of First Nations youth.

▲ NCTR Governing Circle - left to right back row: past member Greg Juliano, Eugene Arcand, Ry Moran; left to right front row: Andrew Carrier, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Dr. Catherine Cook, Elder Dr. Harry Bone, absent Dr. Digvir Jayas.

Over the past few years, through the Indian Residential Schools Survivor Committee at the TRC and the NCTR Governing Circle, he has worked to ensure that both the public and Survivor communities are kept informed of the developments and processes associated with the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

### **Dr. Catherine Cook**

Dr. Catherine Cook is the University of Manitoba's inaugural Vice-President (Indigenous). Dr. Cook, MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP is Métis and grew up in northern Manitoba. She received her undergraduate and postgraduate medical education at the University of Manitoba [MD/87, MSc/03]. Dr. Cook has focussed on Indigenous health as a priority in her career. She practiced as a family physician in remote nursing stations for several years before focusing on public health practice, and has held numerous positions in health and academic administration. Actively engaged in board and committee membership throughout her career, Dr. Cook currently serves on several local and national boards and committees.

### **Dr. Digvir Jayas**

Distinguished Professor Dr. Digvir S. Jayas was educated at the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology in Pantnagar, India; the University of Manitoba; and the University of Saskatchewan. Before assuming the position of Vice-President (Research and International), he held the position of Vice-President (Research) for two years and Associate Vice-President (Research) for eight years. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and a Registered Professional Agrologist. Dr. Jayas is a former Tier I (Senior) Canada Research Chair in Stored-Grain Ecosystems. He has authored or co-authored over 900 technical articles in scientific journals, conference proceedings and books dealing with issues of storing, drying, handling and quality monitoring of grains. He has collaborated with researchers in several countries but has had significant impact on the development of efficient grain storage, handling and drying systems in Canada, China, India, Ukraine and USA. Dr. Jayas has received awards from several organizations in recognition of his research and professional contributions, and serves on boards and committees of many organizations.

### **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux was hired as Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) at Lakehead University in 2013, and in 2016, was appointed by the President of Lakehead as the first Indigenous Chair on Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. She serves as a Status Only Asst. Professor at the Factor-Intwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, an Adjunct Asst. Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Lakehead and is a Director of the Teach for Canada non-profit. She is a member and resident of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation in Lake Simcoe, Ontario, and an Intergenerational Survivor. She has dedicated her life to building bridges of understanding between people. Her research and academic writing advance understanding of the continuing transmission of historical and intergenerational trauma within the Indigenous community. Cynthia is deeply committed to public education and active youth engagement, and in 2008, she co-founded the Canadian Roots Exchange program out of the University of Toronto.

### **Andrew Carrier**

Andrew is Métis and currently serving Manitoba Housing and Community Development. A Survivor of a Catholic boarding school, he has over 30 years of volunteer experience within Métis, First Nation and Persons with Disability non-profit organizations. Carrier's accomplishments include presenting at the United Nations in 2006 on Métis history and culture and on current challenges facing Métis in Manitoba; serving as official spokesperson in 2013 for French Canada on the Manitoba Metis Federation Supreme Court of Canada's decision on the 1867 Métis Land Claims; and serving as Minister responsible for Michif Languages, and Métis Residential and Day Schools.

# Past Governing Circle Members

## Grand Chief Edward John

Grand Chief Edward John is a Hereditary Chief of Tl'azt'en Nation located on the banks of the Nak'al Bun (Stuart Lake) in northern British Columbia. He is an Indigenous leader who has dedicated his life to the pursuit of social and economic justice for Canada's Indigenous Peoples, having worked as a leader in Indigenous politics, business and community development. Chief John has been a lawyer for more than 30 years and received an Honorary Doctorate of Law degree from the University of Northern British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Chief John is currently serving his 11th consecutive term (June 2016 – June 2019) as an elected leader on the First Nations Summit Political Executive. He is a former Expert Member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (January 2011 – December 2016) and was involved in the development of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007. Chief John continues to actively engage with all levels of government, as well as community groups and organizations, to advocate for the full recognition and implementation of the Declaration.

## Greg Juliano

Greg Juliano is the Associate Vice-President for Employee Services at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). He is a practicing lawyer with more than 20 years' experience. He has spent most of his career leading the legal and human resource functions at large post-

secondary institutions. He holds an LL.B. from the University of Manitoba (1998) and a B.A. from the University of Toronto (1992). He is called to the Alberta Bar and the Manitoba Bar. He formerly served as the Associate Vice-President, Human Resources at the University of Manitoba.



# Survivors Circle Members

**Inaugural Survivors Circle, 2017-2019.** Four of the inaugural Survivors Circle members were part of the TRC's Survivors Committee, and their extensive knowledge and experience were instrumental to the NCTR. To this day, we continue to work with the First Survivors Circle regularly, drawing on their advice and guidance when needed and relying on them as Knowledge Keepers.

**Terri Brown** is a former Chief of Tahltan First Nation, British Columbia, and helped break the silence on violence against Indigenous women and girls, establishing the first National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

**Helene Johnson** is a residential school Survivor and Métis educator. She has worked as a teacher and Stay-in-School coordinator, served as the Métis Nation Minister of Residential Schools and assisted residential school Survivors tell their stories as a form filler for Saskatchewan under the Indian Residential School Alternative Dispute Resolution Program.

**Doris Young** is a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, a residential school Survivor, and an educator and researcher specializing in government policy, program development and evaluation. She is also the Assistant to the President of Aboriginal Affairs at the University College of the North.

**Ted Quewezance** is the past Senate Chair of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations of Saskatchewan; a Chief of Keeseekoose First Nation, Saskatchewan; and a residential school Survivor and advocate for reconciliation. He is active in project management, working on projects in health and wellness using traditions and culture. He will also continue as a member of the 2019-2021 Survivors Circle.

**Barney Williams** is Nuu-chah-nulth and a member of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations in Meares Island, British Columbia. He is a Knowledge Keeper and residential school Survivor, social worker and clinical counsellor, and a former elected councilor of the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation. In November 2017, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the University of Victoria for his lifelong work in the helping field.

**Piita Irniq** is an Inuit Cultural Teacher and Consultant. He served two terms in the Territorial Council of the Northwest Territories, representing the Keewatin Region Riding (1975-89). Irniq has worked for the Public Service of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in various capacities. In April 2000, he was appointed the Commissioner of Nunavut and served a five-year term. He presently sits on the Museum of History's Aboriginal Advisory Committee.





## Survivors Circle 2019-2021

In 2019, we welcomed new members to the Survivors Circle. These Survivors have brought new relationships and perspectives to the NCTR.

**Lila Bruyere**, Dancing Eagle Woman, is Ojibway from Couchiching First Nation located on Treaty 3 Territory and a residential school Survivor from St. Margaret Residential School. Bruyere has worked in the field of addictions for 15 years. She received certifications in addictions, earned her Honours Bachelor of Social Work (HBSW) from Carleton University and completed her Master's in Social Work – Indigenous Field of Study at Wilfred Laurier University. She is a mother of three boys, a grandmother to seven and a great-grandmother to two.

**Wanbdi Wakita**, Dakota Spiritual Leader and Sundance Chief, has devoted three decades to working with men in prison and is a gifted counselor, captivating storyteller and presenter. He is currently the Access Program Unkan (Grandfather or Elder-in-Residence) at the University of Manitoba.

## Elders

**Elder Dr. Harry Bone** is a member of Keeseekoowenin Ojibway Nation, where he served as a Chief and Director of Education. He also worked as a CEO at the West Region Tribal Council and as a Director of the Manitoba Indian Education Authority. Many individuals and communities touched by his work recognize his distinguished achievements in leadership, scholarship and public service. The University of Manitoba honoured Elder Bone with an Honorary Doctor of Law degree for his work that continues to advance Indigenous education in Canada. In December 2017, Elder Bone was announced as an appointee to the Order of Canada “for his contributions to advancing Indigenous education and preserving traditional laws, and for creating bridges between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples and communities.”

**Phyllis Googoo** is a member of the Waycobah First Nation. She is a mother of three children, and has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. As a Mi'kmaw speaker and lifelong advocate of the Mi'kmaw language, Googoo raised her children to be fluent in Mi'kmaq. In 2008, she received the Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. Elder Achievement Award, recognizing her lifelong contribution to the Mi'kmaw community.

**Jimmy Durocher** is a Métis leader from Île-à-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. He is a board member of the Gabriel Dumont Institute and a former President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

**In memory - Sarah Peryouar**, from Nunavut, she was passionate about teaching and worked as an educator in Baker Lake for most of her life after attaining her Teacher's Certificate in 1993 from McGill University and Nunavut Arctic College. She believed in keeping the Inuktitut language and culture alive.

### Elder Sylvia Genaille

Sylvia Genaille was the Elder-in-Residence at the NCTR until winter 2019. She is an Ojibway woman who grew up in Pine Creek First Nation. She has worked with the Winnipeg School Division and the TRC. At the TRC, Sylvia was a statement gatherer and provided support to over 7,000 Survivors who shared their story.

Thank you for joining us on this journey over the past five years.

There remains a long road ahead of us but together we will ensure that the vision of a more just, fair and equitable country for all is achieved.

**Thank You**

**Ekosani**

**Miigwetch**

**Marsi**

**Musi-cho**

**Pidamaya**

**Marsee**

**Nakurmiik**

**Kleco Kleco**

**nya:weh**

**Wela'lin**

**Kwukwtsetsemc**

**Hai Hai**



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