

Annual Report

November 2019 – December 2020



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



Message from *the Governing Circle*

While the pandemic caused some aspects of our lives to slow down, travel restrictions allowed the number and frequency of online Governing Circle and Survivors Circle meetings to increase. The first few years of the Centre had required all spare hands-on deck to grow and operationalize the Centre, the pandemic created enough of a pause to give the Governing Circle time to focus on and finalize the NCTR bylaws, policies and Standard Operating Procedures.

This past year saw the departure of Ry Moran who had held the Director position since the opening of the NCTR in the fall of 2015. We were fortunate that Stephanie Scott, NCTR's former Director of Operations, was able to step into the Interim Director position and allow for a smooth transition. Stephanie was appointed as the new NCTR Executive in March 2021.

There were also exciting additions to the Governing Circle and Survivors Circle. Our former chair and respected advocate for Residential School Survivors, Eugene Arcand, moved to the Survivors Circle where he can continue to ensure Survivors are at the heart of what we do at the Centre. With Eugene's departure, we welcomed long term Governing Circle member, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux as our new chair. In addition, we welcomed Survivors, and Levinia Brown to the governing circle table, as well as Dr. Crystal Fraser who is a descendant of Survivors. Joining Eugene at the Survivors Circle are Garnet Angecone and Phyllis Webstad.

We are all delighted to have such amazing voices join us in guiding the NCTR and will continue to build upon our outstanding diversity to support the Centre in years to come.

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux
Chair, NCTR Governing Circle



Message from *the Executive*

2020 was a year of change and challenges that became an opportunity to learn, grow and adapt. Like many others, the Covid-19 pandemic shifted how we operate. As a precaution, we closed our doors to the public and mobilized all 20+ staff to work remotely. We continue to serve the community and Survivors virtually to ensure the protection of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, Survivors and staff.

The NCTR was unrelenting to make progress on projects throughout 2020. We continued to engage Survivors, communities and partners as best we can to move our work forward.

Despite the dramatic changes 2020 has brought, the NCTR has successfully delivered Every Child Matters: Reconciliation through Education on September 30, 2020. This virtual event reached over 500,000 teachers and students across Canada and won two international awards and a Canadian Screen award and nomination.

The NCTR is also working hard to implementing the Calls to Action. We supported the work and Bill C-5 to make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a reality. On November 17, 2020, myself and the Governing Circle made a presentation to the Standing Senate Committee regarding adopting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Reflecting on the continued progress of 2020 and the path laid out before us by Survivors, I look forward to the future of the NCTR.

Stephanie Scott
Executive Director, NCTR

Survivor Circle Message

This past year has presented many challenges for Indigenous communities due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts to slow the spread of the virus impacted the traditional activities, ceremonies and gatherings that support and heal Indigenous nations. Some Indigenous communities which face food insecurity as a result of the loss of traditional lands and territories saw additional disruptions to their daily lives. This is especially true for those whose livelihoods are rooted in traditional occupations and in the informal sector, for example artisans, hunters and fishers, etc. For Survivors who attended Residential Schools, social distancing measures implemented for health and safety were especially hard as the isolation for many mirrored the years when we were separated from family and loved ones as children.

One of the most difficult experiences we faced this year was the passing of Survivors Circle member, Sarah Peryouar, in March 2020. Sarah was deeply committed to her role on the Survivors Circle and took every opportunity to share Inuit and Northern perspectives with staff and other Survivors. When she travelled from Nunavut for meetings she always thought of her family and what she might bring home. Shortly before her passing she shared with the health care staff that being on the Survivors Circle helped bring closure to her experience at Residential School. Although she came from the isolated community of Baker Lake, she was just like the rest of us Survivors in that spending time with one another brought her further down a path of healing.

Sarah, and all the other Survivors who are no longer with us physically, remind us that Survivors have less tomorrows than yesterdays. This is the reason why there is added urgency to our work with the NCTR. It is important that Survivors have the greatest influence on how our experiences and words are shared with the world. It is critical that we give a voice to those who were denied theirs for many years.

When we consider the work needed to ensure our truth is woven into Canada's collective history, we see a glimmer of hope in Canada's September 2020 announcement that the Residential School era is officially recognized as an event of national historic significance. While this was a celebratory moment that paves the way for additional commemorations to take place in honour of Residential School survivors, we also have to remember that a few months prior the Lessons Learned: Survivors Perspectives Report was released detailing how difficult the process of truth-telling is.

The pandemic teaching us many important lessons. It tells us that humans are not in charge, but we are very much important to one another. It reminds us that Indigenous peoples are strong and creative when it comes to adapting to preserve our knowledge and traditional ways. It is these lessons that we will carry forward for future generations.



From Left to Right:

Elder Phyllis Webstad,
NCTR Survivors Circle member

Grandfather Wanbdi Wakita,
NCTR Survivors Circle member

Lila Bruyere,
NCTR Survivors Circle member

NCTR Timeline

2014

The development of the NCTR begins at the University of Manitoba.

2014

Setting up the access and privacy legislation and governance: Governing Circle and Survivors Circle

2015

The NCTR opens at Chancellor's Hall at the University of Manitoba.

2014

Setting up the Archives and Staffing the Centre

2015

The TRC Final Ceremony and release of the Five Year Reports.

The work begins.

Operations *The same, but different.*

COVID-19

Not surprisingly, the biggest changes to NCTR's operations last year were due to COVID-19. Our last day in the office at 177 Dysart Road was March 15, 2020. On very short notice, we mobilized our team of 21 to begin working remotely and created business continuity plans for each staff member. We closed our offices to public events, gatherings and visits but continued to provide our services electronically and by telephone. We are all looking forward to opening NCTR's doors to the public again when it is deemed safe for everyone to do so.



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Finances

Our Shop remained open online through our website with sales totalling \$83,414 between January 1 and December 31, 2020. The total value of individual donations during the same time period was \$6,057

and the NCTR also received \$100,000 from TD Bank and \$114,242 from Secret Path. The sales from our shop fund our education programs, events and programs that support Survivors and communities.

Communications

The NCTR interacts with over 10,000 visitors per year through various public programs and outreach sessions held at our main office but COVID-19 and the temporary closure required relying on digital ways to communicate and engage with the people we serve. Most notably, we took time to develop our new website that makes accessing the archives and materials housed at NCTR easier for users. We also developed a quarterly newsletter, and we enhanced our presence on social media to stay in contact with Survivors and communities. The NCTR five-year report was also released September 20, 2020.

10,000



visitors per month to the NCTR website in 2019/20

Plus, we gained many new followers on NCTR social media accounts in 2019/20:

25,000



New followers on Facebook

1,500



New followers on Twitter

2,578



New followers on Instagram

Human Resources

In October 2020, Ry Moran stepped down as Director of the NCTR and Stephanie Scott was named Acting Director. Work under her leadership marked the beginning of a critical phase for us, including groundbreaking digitization and research initiatives that will strengthen reconciliation. Unfortunately, COVID-19 did result in some temporary employee lay-offs, however we also welcomed new hire Brooke

Bunn as our Commemoration and Community Engagement Liaison Officer and Elder Harry Bone as Elder-in-Residence. A second full-time staff member, Blake Kent, joined the Access and Privacy Team as our new Administrative Assistant to ensure our responses to increasing numbers of Survivor requests continue in a timely fashion.



Parks Commemoration

On September 1, 2020, the NCTR, Parks Canada and the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change formally announced the designation of the Residential School system as an "event of national historic significance". The NCTR nominated the Residential School System for consideration by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and its nomination reflects the input of Survivors from across the country.

Na-mi-quai-ni-mak

Out of the designation of the Residential School system as an “event of national historic significance”, the *Na-mi-quai-ni-mak* (“I remember them”)

Community Support Fund was redesigned to provide grants to Survivor groups and communities working on commemoration projects, in accordance with Call to Action 79. Na-mi-quai-ni-mak was also envisioned

as a way to help Survivors and their communities gather and heal from their Residential School experience. Survivors are at the heart of this initiative and make up the Regional Advisory Circle, who determine which projects will receive grants through the fund. The Community Event small grants funding will be announced in 2021.

Lessons Learned Survivors Perspectives Report

In 2018, we conducted a five-month review of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and drafted a report outlining the lessons learned. Informed by residential school Survivors from across the country, the Lessons Learned Survivors Perspectives Report was released February 20, 2020 with speakers and a live Q&A at the NCTR.

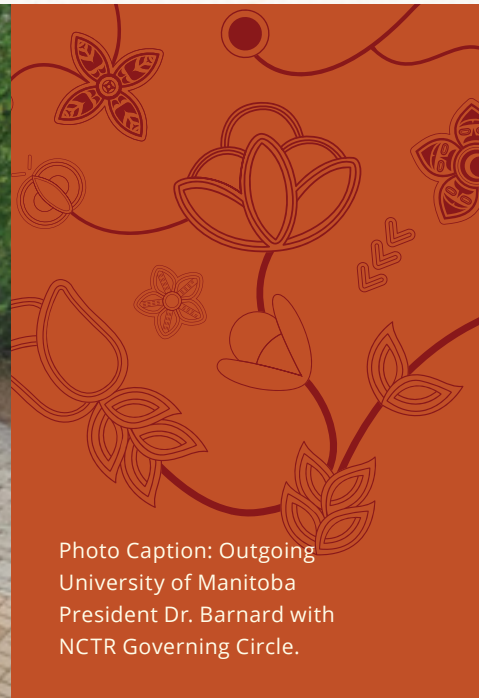


Photo Caption: Outgoing University of Manitoba President Dr. Barnard with NCTR Governing Circle.

A Farewell Ceremony for President David Barnard

On June 21, 2020, the 7th Anniversary of the signing of the NCTR Trust Deed and Administrative Agreement, the Governing Circle held a farewell to outgoing University of Manitoba President David Barnard. Due to his commitment and strategic plan for the University of Manitoba, he was the first president of a post-secondary institution in Canada to offer a

formal Statement of Apology and Reconciliation to Residential School Survivors and had put forth the bid to host the NCTR at its Fort Garry Campus. The NCTR thanked Dr. Barnard for his contributions to Truth and Reconciliation in Canada and for being a friend to the Centre over his years as President.

Archives *The heartbeat of the NCTR.*

School Histories on the NCTR Website

Over the past year, additional details such as graphics and statistical analysis showing student attendance rates over time have been added to the residential school archival records. The Archives team also worked with the Anglican Church Archives to complete the acquisition, arrangement, and description of historical residential school documents. The Archives now has a strong understanding of which records that remain and need to be acquired and the process to make the acquisition. The Archives has also begun a similar project with the Catholic Oblate Archives, the Archives of Ontario and the Royal BC Museum.



Statement, Document and Object Processing

NCTR Archives staff are adding better descriptions and documentation for photographs and audio-visual materials, digitizing objects, and also finalizing the descriptions of the thousands of physical sacred objects gifted to the NCTR as expressions of reconciliation and material forms of Survivor statements. Archives staff also finished preserving the recordings of all seven TRC public events. To

date the Archives has rendered for viewing a total of **707 audio-visual files**. Staff also drafted a style guide that will be presented to the Survivor Circle for guidance and input noting prominent archival terms and the how they should be cited in NCTR archival work, policies, communication, promotion, grant applications, and records arrangement and description.

New, better and greener acquisitions

The Archives team also completed work needed to approve the NCTR's new method to transfer records with care. The new method is an application based on the Canadian Archival Accession Information Standard, the first national standard of its kind in

the world. It will provide a more secure, efficient and environmentally friendly method to transfer and acquire archive material compared to relying on encrypted external hard drives.

A group of girls at Shingwauk Residential School in the summer of 1952.



Canada Foundation for Innovation Grant

We are excited about our successful application for a Canada Foundation for Innovation grant valued at \$6,007,864. These funds are essential to support a number of key initiatives at the NCTR that help us continue to decolonize our data, make it more accessible to the Survivors and the public, and use the archives as an agent for social change:



- Installing and developing our new Content Management system.
- Supporting research on the health legacies of childhood trauma from residential schools (to be developed in partnership with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy); this research will apply analysis methods to the historic records the Commission collected to get closer to a definite list of children and their stories, including identifying those children recorded under multiple names and numbers (research conducted by Dr. Carson Leung).
- Developing training workshops for Indigenous communities in the statistical analysis software for self-guided queries and analysis of the NCTR records.
- Preserving all Survivor statements and video footage from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's community and national events (in partnership with the National Film Board).

Things are starting to change, and we must honour those voices that were brave enough to share their pain. The work to be done through this grant is so important, not only because it preserves our words, but it will make them more available to all, including future generations. It is one crucial step we must take towards ensuring this history is not repeated.

Honourable Levinia Brown
Survivor and NCTR Governing Circle member



Children with their mother at Lesser Slave Lake Residential School in the 1920's.

Missing Children (Phase 2)

The Canadian government, through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC), pledged to provide \$3 million to the NCTR for the second phase of the Missing Children Project. The funding will support three new positions at the NCTR for this project as well as a contract research team to help review the archival holdings and identify more of the children who never returned home from residential school.

Developing the Access to Memory (AtoM) Archives Database

In December 2019, the Archives team presented its 10-year Digital Preservation Strategy. Key to the strategy was the implementation of a new content management system for all of NCTR's archival records. As part of this Digital Preservation and Access System project, we successfully migrated, installed and tested the archives on our new preservation and access

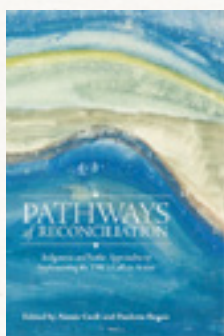
content management software: the Access to Memory (AtoM) database. Over 3 million digital records have been successfully migrated with their descriptions and are now in the process of being placed into full preservation format. The Technology Replacement Project is also underway to replace the main software, hardware and website of the NCTR.

UNDRIP and Archiving Promotion and Outreach

Archives staff continue to promote and share their decolonizing policy work on implementing UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) in public archiving. In 2020, team members:

- delivered by invitation a speech and workshop to Heritage Canada and Library and Archives Canada.
- wrote and submitted an academic study (in review with the journal *Archival Science*).

- worked with the International Council of Archives to set up a workshop that will be delivered to their members in October of 2021.
- taught four, three-hour graduate-level classes on archives records and Indigenous matters and participated as an external advisor on a graduate thesis committee.



Publications

The NCTR archives team published a chapter in the monograph *Archives, Recordkeeping, and Social Justice*.

On November 25, 2020, *Pathways of Reconciliation: Indigenous and Settler Approaches to Implementing the TRC's Calls to Action* was released, the next book in the Pathways series. Edited by Aimée Craft and Paulette Regan, Pathways is a collection of essays which address different approaches to reconciliation and highlights the complexities of the reconciliation process itself.

Education Reconciliation through education.

We held 61 public education engagement events between November 2019 and November 2020. This is significantly lower compared to 2019, where the Education unit held 100 events during the same time period, but COVID-19 resulted in fewer requests after March 2020 and a number of events were cancelled or postponed. 73% of the engagements that took place consisted of presentations and workshops with post-secondary students and educators. The remaining engagements were a mix of online dialogues and webinars, film screenings, education day events, Indigenous atlas loans, and conferences.

The NCTR also engaged with 75 diverse speakers and guests from across Canada who presented at various events and engagements. 60% of these speakers identified as female and 84% identified as First Nations, Métis, or Inuit.

Year	Month	# of Activities
2019	Nov	12
2019	Dec	4
2020	Jan	6
2020	Feb	8
2020	Mar	7
2020	Apr	0
2020	May	1
2020	Jun	4
2020	Jul	1
2020	Aug	1
2020	Sep	5
2020	Oct	5
2020	Nov	7
TOTAL		61

Canada School of Public Service – Call to Action 57

The Canada School of Public Service Call to Action 57 event was held March 2 and 3, 2020.

Seventeen in-person delegates from across the country attended, each representing their government or public service training agency. The session was also livestreamed to reach a broader audience across Canada. A final report on successes, challenges and best practices was developed and shared with the government offices responsible for training public servants.

We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

Call to Action 57, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



NCTR Dialogues

In response to the limitations of hosting in-person events during COVID-19 lockdowns, the NCTR developed a *dialogue series* to engage Canadians on topics such as 2-Spirit solidarity, Indigenous education, working with Indigenous Peoples, and youth and reconciliation. Hundreds of Canadians across the country tuned in to learn from life and experiences of the Survivors, Elders, researchers and Indigenous allies. Each one-hour talk was followed by a question-and-answer period and was hosted live on Facebook.

On October 7, 2020, the NCTR produced a webinar for Health Canada with guest speakers who spoke on the importance of a holistic worldview and practicing active allyship. A summary report and video were released to Health Canada for reference and use.



Selina Young, City of Toronto Director of Indigenous Affairs
Office at the Canada School of Public Service - CTA 57 event.

What benefits students is a hands-on and realistic way, to kind of own that concept. So that reconciliation isn't just something we teach about, it's an actual mindset or attitude that students can take on. [...] Students are a lot more conscious about the message. [Their work] is more polished and they put more time and effort and thought into it.

Imagine a Canada

From 2016 to 2019, the *Imagine a Canada* arts and youth initiative asked students to imagine and express their vision of a Reconciled Canada. During 2020, the NCTR paused the program and engaged in an evaluation to highlight its successes and areas of improvement. A report was released in November 2020 and includes the perspectives of honourees, their parents and guardians, teachers, as well as members of the Survivors Circle on engagement, experience, and future ideas for the program.

Online Education Resources

The expansion of the NCTR's [online education resource page](#) continues as files are uploaded into the new AtoM database (310 English resources and 135 French resources). Plans are underway to further expand the resource list to include items on closely related topics such as day schools, Indian hospitals and sanatoriums, the 60s scoop, and more.

TRC Five-Year Anniversary

In our efforts to continue moving forward the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, a special event was held on December 15, 2020 to mark the fifth anniversary of the TRC Closing Ceremonies. In partnership with APTN, the TRC Commissioners came together to discuss Canada's progress on the Calls to Action. Senator Murray Sinclair, Dr. Marie Wilson and Chief Wilton Littlechild expressed their concerns about the slow and uneven pace of implementation of the Calls to Action, the adoption of UNDRIP, and the

Decolonizing Lens

The film and discussion series engaged 920 attendees, including people from across the country in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and BC. There were four Decolonizing Lens events held with five films screened and 14 guests who made appearances at a mix of in-person and online events. Additionally, the film series won a University of Manitoba Community Engagement Award for enlarging and enriching contact between the University and community.

execution of the National Council on Reconciliation. As expressed in our [Public Statement](#), all Survivors and their families deserve truth, justice and healing.

APTN broadcasted the event and streamed it live on Facebook and YouTube. The livestreams were also on the NCTR Facebook page and posted on the NCTR YouTube channel following the broadcast. About 300 viewers watched the online event and the NCTR also received 1,500 social media engagements during the program.

Survivor Holiday Jamboree

We held our 2020 virtual Survivor Holiday Jamboree on December 21 to gather with the NCTR Survivor Circle and celebrate the Winter Solstice. Due to the pandemic, the NCTR could not hold the annual open house and Survivors have not been able to visit for safety reasons, leading to potential feelings of isolation similar to their feelings experienced in Residential Schools. The virtual holiday get-together was therefore livestreamed over Facebook, YouTube and Eventbrite to support Survivors through songs, stories and ceremony as well as a laugh or two with Comedian Don Burnstick. This special event was hosted by NCTR Survivors Circle members Grandfather Wanbdi Wakita and Elder Phyllis Googoo. The event was viewed by 100–125 people throughout the program, received 13,500 views in awareness of the event, had 1,300 people view clips of the video following the event, and 573 social engagements such as likes, shares and comments.

100-125  Event Viewers

13,500  Awareness Views

1,300  Clip Views

573  Social Engagements

We held our 2020 virtual Survivor Holiday Jamboree on December 21 to gather with the NCTR Survivor Circle and celebrate the Winter Solstice.

Orange Shirt Day

Every Child Matters: Reconciliation through Education

Over 500,000 Canadian youth in grades 5 to 12 from across Canada joined our virtual Orange Shirt Day event, *Every Child Matters*. On September 30, 2020 youth learned first-hand from the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Buffy Saint-Marie, Autumn Peltier the Water Keeper from Wiikwemkoong First Nation, the artist Notorious Cree, Rosie on being Métis, Survivor Eugene Arcand and many other residential school Survivors, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, artists and leaders from nations and cultures across the country.

Overall, 12,000 teachers registered for the event and over 500,000 students viewed the virtual event. In addition, our social media posts to raise awareness and engagement for Orange Shirt Day were viewed 6,233,896 times and shared or liked 21,000 times, the highest the NCTR has experienced in any social media campaign to date.

Every Child Matters: Reconciliation through Education has won the intermedia-globe Gold Award and *The Special Award "Hand in Hand"* from the World Media Festival and has been nominated for the 2021 Best Children's or Youth Non-Fiction Program or Series, and the Every Child Matters Team (Insight Productions LTD and CBC) received the 2021 Canadian Screen Award for *Best Picture, Editing, Factual*. And on November 3, 2020, The *Live Q & A* aired following a replay of the virtual Orange Shirt Day event to discuss the program's development, educational resources on truth and reconciliation and how to incorporate the sensitive subject into the classroom year-round.



12,000

Teachers Registered



500,000

Student Viewers

6,233,896

Social Media Views



21,000

Likes and Shares

*As Canadians, we
are called upon to
take action to learn,
share and celebrate,
and to build a better
country together!*



From Left to Right: Logan Courchene, Ayva Muswagon, Oscar Lavitt, Myah Muswagon, and Tecumseh Hotomani.

CTA #80 – The National Day of Reconciliation

Survivors and then-Acting Director of the NCTR, Stephanie Scott, then called upon all political parties to support Bill C-5 and adopt September 30 (Orange Shirt Day) as the National Day of Reconciliation, CTA #80. If adopted, this day will recognize and honour the Survivors and their families and remember the children who never returned home from the residential school system.

Governance

Honouring residential school truths *for all time, for all of Canada.*

New Governing and Survivors Circle Members

A seven-member Governing Circle provides guidance on the NCTR's policies, priorities and activities, on methods and sources for expanding holdings and resources, and on prospective partners, thus ensuring Indigenous self-determination over the materials and records held by the NCTR.

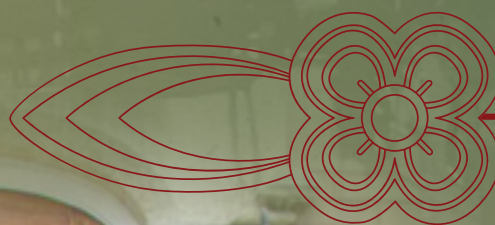
The Governing Circle is, in turn, supported through the guidance of Indigenous Elders as well as advisory circles, such as the Survivors Circle and the Nominations Committee.

With Governing Circle terms coming to an end in September of 2020, the NCTR Nominations Committee issued a call for Governing Circle members. Members of the Nominations Committee include Elder Harry Bone, Elder Florence Paynter, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux and Dr. Catherine Cook.

I embraced the opportunity to sit with NCTR's Governing Circle because it aligns with my deeper commitment as a Survivor to creating a brighter and better path to reconciliation for all Canadians and future generations."

Honourable Levinia Brown

Survivor and NCTR Governing Circle member



The NCTR Survivors Circle in 2019. *Top left to right:* Ted Quewezance, Jimmy Durocher and Grandfather Wanbdi Wakita. *Bottom left to right:* Eugene Arcand, Sarah Peryouar, Elder Phyllis Googoo and Lila Bruyer.



Luke Marston, Coast Salish artist who created The Bentwood Box.

Three new members were selected to join the circle:

- Stephen Kakfwi, northern Dene, former Premier of NWT and National Chief of the Dene Nation
- Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser, Assistant Professor, History & Classics Dept. at University of Alberta
- The Honourable Levinia Brown, Inuit, former Deputy Premier for Nunavut and mayor of Rankin Inlet

Four members are continuing to serve on the Governing Circle:

- Dr. Catherine Cook, Vice-President (Indigenous) at the University of Manitoba
- Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Chair on Truth and Reconciliation at Lakehead University
- Andrew Carrier, Manitoba Metis Federation, Vice-President Winnipeg Region
- Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International) at the University of Manitoba

Former Governing Circle Chair, Eugene Arcand, joined the Survivors Circle and will continue to share his knowledge and wisdom in a liaison capacity between the two Circles. With the departure of Eugene from the Governing Circle, Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux became the new Chair.

In addition to Eugene Arcand, the Survivors Circle welcomed additional Survivors to the Circle:

- Garnet Angeconeb (CM), Lac Seul First Nation, member of the Order of Canada and former journalist
- Phyllis Webstad, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, Executive Director, Orange Shirt Society

They joined Survivors:

- Phyllis Googoo, We'koqma'q First Nation
- Lyla Bruyere, Couchiching First Nation
- Wanbdi Wakita, Sioux Valley First Nation
- Jimmy Durocher, Métis (Ile-à-la-Crosse)
- Eugene Arcand, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation



In Remembrance

Sadly, our team learned that Sarah Peryouar, our member from Baker Lake, passed suddenly on March 20, 2020. NCTR is making arrangements to provide support to Sarah's family and a tribute will be planned once members can meet again. Sarah's family shared how much her participation in the Circle meant to her and that it helped provide closure from her experience at residential school.

Accessibility, service and adherence to privacy laws and cultural access protocols.

COVID-19 meant that staff weren't able to regularly use office resources to print and mail packages to Survivors, but we continued to work on tasks that could be performed remotely and then mailed out packages in bulk when partial returns to the office were possible.

NCTR received 296 Survivor Inquiries in 2019/20 (compared to 91 Survivor Inquiries in 2018/19). The day school settlement agreement resulted in a large uptick in requests in January and early February.

Approximately 90 of the 2019/20 requests are for day school records or for both residential and day school records.

Total Number of Closed Access Requests (2016-April 2020)	178
Total Number of Open Access Requests	72
Number of Access Requests Opened in 2020	25
Number of Requests Closed in 2020	47

New Process

During the year, the Proactive Release process was refined and coordinated with the Archives team, resulting in a significant expansion of records available for use. There were 21 batches of records reviewed and authorized for release during the year, which consisted of over 1,110 individual files. The files

ranged from textual documents to photographs to audio-visual files. Some of the content was assessed and reviewed for eventual release publicly through the new NCTR website, whereas other records were reviewed for release directly to communities.

Litigation

Ensuring preservation of historical records and protection of Survivor privacy.

Non-Claims Records and Statistical Data Appeal

In the fall of 2019, the Chief Adjudicator for NCTR sought approval from the supervising courts under the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to donate to the NCTR the vast majority of the operational records of the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat upon its final closure on March 31, 2021.

These records are referred to as the "Non-Claim Records." At the same time, the Chief Adjudicator also sought approval to publish statistical reports generated from the approximately 38,000 claims processed under the Independent Assessment Process (IAP). These reports reveal historically important information such as national and provincial aggregate data on compensation awarded for each level of act of abuse, harm level proven and proven loss of opportunity in residential schools.

The NCTR's focus during this litigation was to ensure the broadest possible preservation of historical records, subject to protecting Survivor privacy, and particularly the privacy of former students who made claims under the IAP.



The NCTR's focus during this litigation was to ensure the broadest possible preservation of historical records, subject to protecting Survivor privacy, and particularly the privacy of former students who made claims under the IAP.

However, in January 2020, the supervising court released its decision and ordered that the statistical reports be destroyed. The Court also ordered that the Secretariat's operational records be retained in the same fashion as any other government record, under the Library and Archives Canada Act, but ordered the Government of Canada to create a collection of these Non-Claim Records for the NCTR. The Court, however, excluded certain confidential records from this the collection.

On October 29, 2020, the NCTR appealed the destruction of the statistical reports and the exclusion of confidential records from the collection.

On April 1, 2021, the Ontario Court of Appeal released its decision: on the key ground of appeal relating to the destruction of aggregate statistical data, the NCTR was successful thereby overturning the lower court's decision.

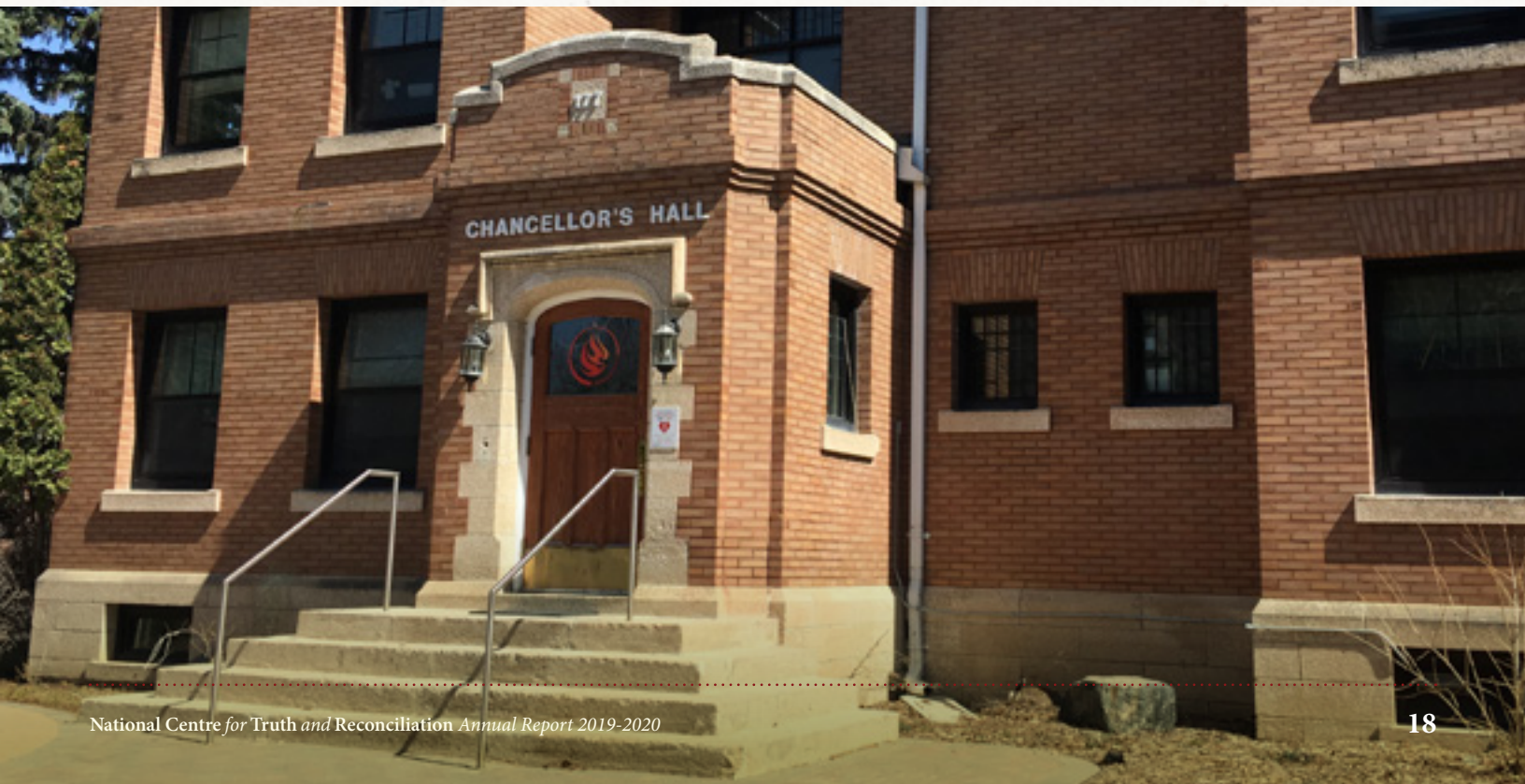
With this decision, the Ontario Court of Appeal confirmed the historical value of the data, observing that the "data no doubt hold important information

on how widespread the physical and sexual abuse was in the Indian Residential Schools" and that the data would "serve to provide a better understanding of the claims process and the scale and scope of abuse at the Indian Residential Schools."

The NCTR played a critical leadership role in bringing this decision: without its appeal, the statistical data on the 38,000 IAP claims of Survivors would have been destroyed effective March 31, 2021.

The issue of the statistical reports, however, is not yet fully resolved. In 2021, the NCTR and other parties will return to the courts to address how and what data are generated and published.

In terms of the operational records of the soon-to-close Secretariat, the Court ruled in January 2020 and April 15, 2021, that a complete and unredacted set of these records may be archived at Library and Archives Canada and dismissed the NCTR's appeal of the exclusion of certain records from its collection. Accordingly, under the Court's order, the NCTR will receive a subset of the Non-Claim Records redacted of various confidential information. The NCTR will receive these records on a rolling basis until 2026/2027.



Calls to Action

NCTR's progress on fulfilling Canada's national obligations *to truth and reconciliation.*



In order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission made 94 Calls to Action. We report here on our current and past efforts to continue moving the Calls to Action forward.



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Calls to Action 13, 14 and 17

As an integral part of the NCTR's mandate, we are continually looking for opportunities to bring Indigenous languages and culture into the NCTR and our work. We continue to include in the archives the names of the children given to them by their family and communities in the colonial church and government records as well as in the National Student Memorial database.



HEALTH

Calls to Action 18, 19 and 24

The NCTR is working with the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy to study the health effects of childhood trauma on later generations. The NCTR is also working with the Helen Glass Centre for Nursing at the University of Manitoba to support their residential school history education for future nurses in the province.



JUSTICE

Calls to Action 27, 28 and 41

The NCTR has delivered presentations to law students, lawyers, and police services in Manitoba about topics of special interest surrounding the history of residential schools and their legacy on the justice system. The NCTR works with law schools to provide necessary materials for their curriculum including the University of Victoria Indigenous Law Degree program. The NCTR is working to preserve a copy of the records from the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls currently held at Library and Archives Canada.



RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 43, 44 and 48

The NCTR's decolonizing work to implement UNDRIP into public archives has helped attract national and international recognition. In July 2019, the NCTR was recognized by the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme. We intend to apply next for international recognition of the collection.

Students in the classroom at Lesser Slave Lake Residential School in the 1920's.





ROYAL PROCLAMATION AND COVENANT OF RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 45 and 46

The NCTR educates graduate students on the *Royal Proclamation of 1763* and its implications for reconciliation. A draft of the Covenant of Reconciliation is now also underway and the NCTR is developing a companion educational booklet explaining Indigenous law and the framework behind the wording in the Covenant. Governing member Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux and Christine Lenze currently sit on the working group.



Photograph of young children at Holy Angels Residential School in the 1940's.



EQUITY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM

Calls to Action 51 and 52

The NCTR is currently working on making legal documentation easier to find within the archives. In particular, we are making it easier to find legal decisions concerning Indigenous rights along with the foundational documents of Indigenous rights in the colonial era—documents that can be used in research and study to help our justice system correct the harms that still persist.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Call to Action 57

We continue our ongoing engagement with public servants at various levels of government, from municipal to federal, including the Canadian School of Public Service and Health Canada. Engagement activities have included presentations and guided discussions with NCTR staff as well as coordination of events with other speakers.



Photo of grade 1 students was taken in April 1960 at Christie Residential School.



CHURCH APOLOGIES AND RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 58–60

Ongoing engagement with religious organizations continues such as with the Catholic, United, Anglican and Mennonite Churches who have requested presentations for book clubs, clergy and congregants. The NCTR archives also hold over 50 sets of records from the repositories of religious orders who have a history of managing residential schools in Canada. The *Bentwood Box* that now sits at the NCTR has received many acts of reconciliation from several church groups and religious communities.



EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 62–65

The NCTR archives team developed a teaching resource for the Ministry of Education in Alberta on residential school history in K–12 classrooms that includes photos, documents and Survivors' testimonies for all 25 residential schools in the province recognized in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

The NCTR also wants to encourage research into the archives to supplement education on this dark history while maintaining the utmost sensitivity and privacy for Survivors. An Academic Access Committee has been created to review all academic requests for the archives and is comprised of Indigenous scholars from across the country. The Committee's objective is to ensure that: academic research into the NCTR archives is guided by the concerns of Indigenous communities; the data and research products are shared with communities; and the research incorporates Indigenous worldviews and philosophies.



MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

Calls to Action 70–72 and 73–76

The Head of Archives at the NCTR is a member of the Association of Canadian Archivists Task Force, a working group created to address Call to Action 70; the Association has recently released an update report. The NCTR also launched the National Student Memorial Registry in September of 2019 to honour the children who never returned home. We continue to work with communities and governments to find all the children, including working with provinces to submit their coroners' records to aid in this research. The NCTR has also started planning and development for a project to investigate and commemorate unmarked gravesites of Residential School children.



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Calls to Action 77 and 78

The NCTR was established in 2015 at the University of Manitoba and is currently under a seven-year agreement for support and resources with the Government of Canada and the University of Manitoba. The Centre is actively pursuing and discussing with multiple sources across the country for more records, statements and materials that can be added to the archives.



COMMEMORATION

Calls to Action 79 and 80

The NCTR and Survivors assisted in submitting a report and nomination to designate the Residential School system as an "event of national historic significance", which was announced September 1, 2020.

The NCTR is also supporting work to make the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation a reality. Bill C-5, "An Act to amend the Bills of Exchange Act, the Interpretation Act and the Canada Labour Code," had its second reading October 23, 2020. If passed, September 30 would be considered a national statutory holiday with the same labour code distinction as Christmas Day, Labour Day and Remembrance Day. On November 17, 2020, Stephanie Scott and Stephen Kakfwi made a presentation to the Standing Senate Committee regarding adopting the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.



Partnership Work

Achieving our mandate in partnership with people, communities, and organizations across Canada.

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. We gratefully thank our partners for their contributions and support.

Collaborations

The NCTR is in the final stage of drafting and signing Memorandums of Understanding for partnership work with Manitoba Vital Statistics and the Ontario Attorney General to produce the records of children who passed away at residential schools. The NCTR is also in drafting and signing a Memorandum of Understanding to work with the National Film Board on new collaborative projects.

The TD Internship program is supporting several projects at the Centre. Currently, Dennis Anderson, the Research Assistant, is a TD Intern at the NCTR. His work is invaluable as he is creating Residential School narratives, attendance graphs, and researching descriptions for photographs that were sent to the TRC with no titles or context. The NCTR is currently working on hiring more interns to work on several archival projects and working with partners such as the UBC Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre and Dalhousie University to extend the TD Internship Program across Canada.

Tandanya, The Adelaide Declaration, written by an archives staff member in 2019, continues to receive international endorsement. This partnership work with the International Council Archives (an office of UNESCO) is a formal expression of archival matters that concern Indigenous Peoples. Since its release at the end of 2019, the Declaration has been endorsed by the National Archives of New Zealand, Australia and Canada as well as the Association des Archivistes du Québec. It has been translated into Japanese, Spanish, French and Russian and we intend to have Indigenous Canadian languages soon.

Financials

NCTR revenue and expenditures for the University of Manitoba's 2019-2020 fiscal year.



University
of Manitoba

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
Revenue and Expenditure Statement
For the Year Ended March 31, 2020

	March 31, 2020 <i>Total Funds</i>	March 31, 2019 <i>Total Funds</i>
Revenue		
Donations	\$ 132,982	\$ 2,426,326
Non-Government Grants	-	218,730
Economic, Development and Training	1,717,539	1,741,970
Federal and Other Government Grants	896,708	182,767
Sales of Goods and Services	249,967	402,331
Total Revenue	\$ 2,997,195	\$ 4,972,123
Carryover	\$ 2,383,246	\$ 805,367
Total Revenue & Carryover	\$ 5,380,442	\$ 5,777,491
Expense		
Salaries	\$ 1,281,194	\$ 1,251,635
Staff Benefits and Pay Levy	228,011	206,460
Materials, Supplies and Services	618,131	596,627
Professional and Other Services	306,635	1,179,900
Travel & Conferences	173,629	185,276
Maintenance and Repairs	1,230	417
Total Expense	\$ 2,608,829	\$ 3,420,316
Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ 393,786	\$ (6,516)
Fund Balances End of Year	\$ 2,377,827	\$ 2,363,691

Thendral Ganesan

Signature

Thendral Ganesan B. Eng, CPA, CGA
Acting Manager, Financial Reporting
University of Manitoba

March 25, 2021

Date

About NCTR

The NCTR is the permanent, safe home for all statements, documents, and other materials gathered by the TRC. We also work with our network of partners and supporters to continue to expand this collection and promote ongoing research and learning.



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA