



Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Report

Fall 2022

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation

- The WDM Board of Directors adopted the following Statement of Intent on September 15, 2017.

The Western Development Museum affirms the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the framework for reconciliation. We commit to engaging in reconciliation by responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in our Strategic Plan. In partnership with Saskatchewan's Indigenous communities, we aim to develop more inclusive operations, programming and exhibits for the museum.

- WDM upholds the UNDRIP in our *Collections Management Policies* with respect to the care, handling, acquisition and repatriation of sacred artifacts to origin Indigenous Nations.
- WDM *Collections Development Plan* features UNDRIP assessment section in the *Collections Assessment Tool* – all incoming Indigenous artifacts must adhere to UNDRIP.
- WDM continues to encourage Elder and Knowledge Keeper access to Indigenous collections.
- Since 2019, repatriated one sacred artifact to Yellow Quill First Nation; six to the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre. In 2022, proposed one artifact repatriation to Musqueam First Nation.
- Uphold UNDRIP when creating new content on Indigenous histories; is only to be done in partnership with full community support to respect the Indigenous right to how their history and heritage is interpreted and displayed in Section 11.
- In 2022, entered into in-trust artifact care and storage agreement with Whitecap Dakota First nation on cultural artifacts belonging to the Nation, upholding UNDRIP Section 11.

<p>55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have begun sending the NCTR a copy of the WDM's <i>Annual Report</i> and will include a copy of the <i>Inclusivity Report</i> with this year's submission. • Will send any future content and project work to NCTR when appropriate.
<p>57. 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 school, 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board of Directors and Executive Team regularly receive training and education opportunities in Truth and Reconciliation. In 2022, John Lagimodiere, ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, delivered training to the Board of Directors on Indigenous awareness. In 2020, WDM Board of Directors met with Dion Tootoosis, Speakers' Bureau, Office of the Treaty Commissioner; and the Saskatoon Anti-Racism Network delivered intensive training to WDM Management group; further partnerships between the WDM and the network are in discussion. In 2018, the WDM Management group invited Lyndon Linklater, Speakers' Bureau, Office of the Treaty Commissioner to speak with them. • Corporate Office staff regularly attend conferences like <i>Wicihitowin</i> in Saskatoon and many virtual events, courses and talks. • Available resources and training opportunities are regularly shared with all levels of WDM staff on Truth and Reconciliation. • Six employees have completed the <i>Indigenous Canada</i> online course offered through the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Calgary. • WDM employees sit on three local Reconciliation circles in North Battleford, Saskatoon and Yorkton.
<p>62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to:</p> <p>i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered Orange Shirt Day in-museum program at WDM Saskatoon in 2019. • In process of formalizing partnership with Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) to offer Treaty education through in-museum curriculum-based programs and exhibitions. • Consulting with OTC on renewal of current exhibit signage on Treaty in history in all four WDM locations and education programming materials. • Partnership discussion began before the COVID-19 pandemic with Muskeg Lake First Nation to offer education program on history of urban reserves and other themes the First Nation wishes to feature. • Partnership with Whitecap Dakota First Nation on their historic relationship to the WDM with archival photo naming project and new co-curated exhibit <i>Wapaha Skā Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69</i>, opening at the WDM Saskatoon October 2022 on permanent display.

67. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Museums Association to undertake, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples, a national review of museum policies and best practices to determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to make recommendations.

The Western Development Museum (WDM), a legislated agency funded by the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport, has created and is committed to the implementation of their *Inclusivity Report*, designed to guide WDM's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action, efforts in becoming a more inclusive and diverse organization that welcomes and shares the histories of all Saskatchewan people, especially those who have been, and continue to be, underrepresented in the museum and inform the importance of decolonizing the WDM's operations and programs and outline a process for doing so.

WDM Board of Directors has laid the groundwork for Reconciliation, diversity and inclusion at the WDM. The adoption of the WDM's vision; refining the WDM's Ends Policy; and, adopting a Statement of Intent for Reconciliation, provides the framework for the recommendations in the *Inclusivity Report*.

The seven main recommendations in the *Inclusivity Report* are:

1. Publicly acknowledge Indigenous peoples and their histories.

- Treaty welcome banners up at all four WDM locations.
- Land acknowledgments open every WDM program and event.
- Treaty location message prominently displayed on WDM website.
- As of 2022, annual host venue for Métis Cultural Days at WDM Saskatoon for five years running.
- One of the host venues for Atamiskakewak Gathering at WDM Moose Jaw in 2018.
- Since 2020, have brought in temporary exhibitions on Indigenous histories like *Hiding in Plain Sight* from Library and Archives Canada and *Bi-Giwen: Coming Home – Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop* by The Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta (SSISA).
- Since 2021, developed partnership with Kanawayimik Child & Family Services in North Battleford to set up educational tipis at the WDM North Battleford, offering visitors cultural and historical programming, and co-hosted an annual pow wow for National Indigenous Peoples Day, June 21.
- Since 2019, partner of *Spark Your Pride* annual event with the Saskatoon Pride Festival which showcases Two-Spirit stories.
- In 2021, installed memorial display about the discovery of unmarked graves at residential schools in all four WDM locations.
- In 2021, WDM Board of Directors recognized September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a paid holiday and a selection of films exploring various themes on Truth and Reconciliation were played at each WDM location and admission was free. 100 beaded Orange Shirt pins were commissioned from artist Keith Sangrey-Sunchild for staff to wear on September 30.

- In 2022, completed a 2SLGBTQ+ Oral History project with 2SLGBTQ+ seniors, half of whom are Indigenous Two-Spirit Elders, funded in part by the Community Initiatives Fund.
- See all points in #62.

2. Provide training and educational opportunities for staff and volunteers including cultural awareness, anti-racism and sensitivity training to improve overall cultural competency.

- Updated the WDM Style Guide to include most up-to-date terminology when referring to Indigenous peoples and nations.
- See #57 above

3. Report on Reconciliation and inclusivity activities and progress.

- Report in *Annual Report*, in quarterly report to the Board of Directors, on social media and website, in *Sparks* newsletter, and at Reconciliation Saskatoon, Reconciliation North Battleford and Reconciliation Yorkton groups.
- Since 2019, various speaking engagements to community on Truth and Reconciliation commitments, including: *Wicihitowin* Conference in Saskatoon; Canadian Museums Association Annual Conference; Museums Association of Saskatchewan conferences and 'Community Chat;' Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association; and others. In 2022, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, WDM Curator, was invited to present with Stephanie Danyluk, Canadian Museums Association Reconciliation Manager on Call to Action #67 for museums to Annual Conference of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.
- The WDM participates in roundtable discussions concerning the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action when invited. In 2021, CEO Joan Kanigan and Scott participated in the Museums Association of Saskatchewan's virtual roundtable on intangible cultural heritage and museums. In 2022, Kanigan and Scott were joined by WDM North Battleford Manager Joyce Smith and Indigenous partners for a Canadian Museums Association roundtable discussion, sharing their experiences with museums and Reconciliation.
- Regularly publish in journals like *Prairie History* and the CHA's *Intersections* magazine about our Truth and Reconciliation commitments and projects.
- Regularly featured in tourism and other local publications around Saskatchewan on Truth and Reconciliation commitments.

4. Assess collection management practices to ensure they support inclusivity and Reconciliation.

- *Collections Development Plan* prioritizes collecting from unrepresented, underrepresented, misrepresented or erased peoples in Saskatchewan's history.
- From 2018 to 2022, completed photo-naming project with Whitecap Dakota First Nation to name members in WDM photographs found in collection.
- In 2018, created dedicated *Saskatchewan 2SLGBTQ+ History Collection* which includes Two-Spirit stories.
- Developed in-trust agreement with Whitecap Dakota First Nation which could be replicated with other nations.
- See #43 above

5. Develop and implement a plan for exhibit renewal at all WDM locations to increase overall diversity and inclusivity in the stories being told.

Language remediation and exhibit renewal project underway at all four WDM locations. Over 1,200 exhibit signs and exhibits under review. Approximately half require remediation.

- *Winning the Prairie Gamble* exhibits now referred to as *The Saskatchewan Story* (WDM Saskatoon) and *100 Years of Saskatchewan History* (WDM Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton).
- See points in #62 for other partnerships on new exhibits.
- All new in-house larger scale and showcase exhibits will feature artifacts and histories that showcase our diversity (i.e. *Doukhobor Living Book Project*; *Wapaha Skā Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69*).

6. Review, update and renew all education and public programs to ensure they align with Reconciliation and inclusivity goals.

- All education programs are under review. None that offered Indigenous content are currently offered until widespread community consultation can be done.
- Preliminary discussions began in 2022 to co-develop educational programming with Whitecap Dakota First Nation for the *Wapaha Skā Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69* exhibit at the WDM Saskatoon.

7. Review, update and renew overall WDM operations to align with Reconciliation and inclusivity goals.

<p>77. We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the NCTR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided list of residential school artifacts in WDM Collection to NCTR.
<p>79. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal organization, and the arts community, to develop a reconciliation framework for Canadian heritage and commemoration. This would include, but not be limited to:</p> <p>ii. Revising the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history and</p> <p>iii. Developing and implementing a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating resident school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada's history.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We relate this call to #67; committing to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of Indigenous people in Saskatchewan on their own terms, while addressing the more difficult parts of settler-colonial history like the Pass and Permit and residential school systems.

87. We call upon all levels of government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, sports halls of fame, and other relevant organizations, to provide public education that tells the national story of Aboriginal athletes in history.

- Commit to feature Indigenous sports histories while not overlapping with the work of the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. For example, the late Whitecap Dakota Elder and FSIN Senator Melvin Littlecrow's history of champion chuckwagon racing and rodeoing is featured in the new *Wapaha Skā Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69* exhibit.