



Western Development Museum Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action Report

Fall 2023

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 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 2023, the CEO attended training on Indigenous Engagement through the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy. 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>Wichitowin</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, as well as additional sub-committees. In 2023, WDM Saskatoon was added as a meeting venue for the Learning Committee of Reconciliation Saskatoon.
<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"> • Since 2017, the WDM Moose Jaw has had a partnership with the New Southern Plains Métis Local #160 to take part in the annual Heritage Day event (public program) and lead demonstrations and workshops on Métis culture at Museum Day (school program). • Since 2019, have offered various programs at all WDM locations on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation [Orange Shirt Day] September 30. • Signed five-year MOU in June 2023 with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) to offer Treaty education through in-museum curriculum-based programs and exhibitions. • As of 2020, WDM has been consulting with OTC on the renewal of current exhibit signage on Treaty in history in all four WDM locations and education programming materials. • In 2023, WDM has reached out to Muskeg Lake First Nation to renew pre-pandemic discussions to offer education program on history of urban reserves and other themes the First Nation wishes to feature.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023, WDM and Whitecap Dakota Nation are co-developing education programs to accompany the <i>Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69</i> exhibit. • In 2023, several WDM Seek and Find programs were updated to exclusively feature or include Indigenous histories.
<p>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.</p>	<p>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 <i>Inclusivity Report</i>, 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.</p> <p>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 <i>Inclusivity Report</i>.</p> <p>The seven main recommendations in the <i>Inclusivity Report</i> are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publicly acknowledge Indigenous peoples and their histories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • One of the host venues for Atamiskakewak Gathering at WDM Moose Jaw in 2018. • Since 2019, partner of <i>Spark Your Pride</i> 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. 125 beaded Orange Shirt pins have been commissioned from artist Keith Sangrey-Sunchild for staff to wear on September 30. • Since 2020, temporary exhibitions on Indigenous histories have been brought in, including <i>Hiding in Plain Sight</i> from Library and Archives Canada; <i>Bi-Giwen: Coming Home – Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop</i> by The Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta (SSISA); and <i>Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think</i> (Canadian Race Relations Foundation/Ontario Science Centre).

- Since 2021, developed a partnership with Kanaweyimik 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.
- Partnership with Whitecap Dakota Nation on their historic relationship to the WDM with archival photo naming project and new co-curated exhibit *Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69*, opened at the WDM Saskatoon October 2022 and is on permanent display. In 2023, the partnership was awarded the Museums Association of Saskatchewan Award of Merit for their work together. Also, in 2023, the community returned to participating in Summer Fun Day (a smaller version of Pion-Era) at the WDM Saskatoon, to showcase Dakota culture, dance and food.
- 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. In June 2023, featured an exhibit on the project at WDM Saskatoon and WDM North Battleford.
- As of 2023, annual host venue for Métis Cultural Days at WDM Saskatoon for six years running.
- In 2023, the WDM Moose Jaw was chosen as the new venue and partner for the Wakamow Aboriginal Community Association's annual Every Child Matters pow wow.
- In June 2023, the WDM North Battleford was chosen as the host venue for BATC's inaugural Two-Spirit Masquerade Ball, with companion community history exhibit.
- In 2023, produced an outreach installation on historical research project of two Métis beaded artifacts in the WDM Collection with Dr. Cheryl Troupe (U of S) and Batoche National Historic Site.
- Hiring the new Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator in 2023 has significantly extended the reach of the Museum across the province, with dozens of events attended and communities reached so far.
- 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.
- In 2023, a free professional development session was offered to WDM Saskatoon volunteers in the *Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think* exhibit facilitated by the Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan (MCOS). This session also included a guided tour of WDM exhibit *Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing Our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69* led by Curator Dr. Elizabeth Scott. A free Lunch & Learn Professional Development Day for teachers and school administrators was also offered in the *Behind Racism: Challenging the Way We Think* exhibit facilitated by MCOS; there were 28 participants from seven local schools in attendance.

- In 2023, began drafting an *Indigenous Cultural Awareness Policy* for the WDM.
- 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 Senior Manager, Community Engagement and Indigenous Initiatives on Call to Action #67 for museums to Annual Conference of the Museums Association of Saskatchewan.
- In 2022-23, several WDM Virtual Coffee Club sessions featured Indigenous history themes, including featuring guest speaker Dr. Sheldon Krasowski from the OTC on Treaty history, with more planned.
- 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 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 Nation which could be replicated with other nations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See #43 above <p>5. Develop and implement a plan for exhibit renewal at all WDM locations to increase overall diversity and inclusivity in the stories being told.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • <i>Winning the Prairie Gamble</i> exhibits now referred to as <i>The Saskatchewan Story</i> (WDM Saskatoon) and <i>100 Years of Saskatchewan History</i> (WDM Moose Jaw, North Battleford and Yorkton). • All new in-house larger scale and showcase exhibits will feature artifacts and histories that showcase our diversity (i.e. <i>Doukhobor Living Book Project</i>; <i>Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69</i>). • See points in #62 for other partnerships on new exhibits. <p>6. Review, update and renew all education and public programs to ensure they align with Reconciliation and inclusivity goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All education programs are under review. None that previously offered Indigenous content are currently offered until community consultations are done. • Any new program offerings are co-developed in partnership with Indigenous communities. <p>7. Review, update and renew overall WDM operations to align with Reconciliation and inclusivity goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023, a new WDM Strategic Framework was developed wherein the Museum’s TRC and inclusion commitments broadly inform each of the four strategic pillars in the framework. • The WDM has taken steps to remove unconscious bias in its hiring practices.
<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. • In 2023, added one new permanent FTE staff position of Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator to WDM Corporate Office staff in the Department of Community Engagement – Tara Arcand began the role in March 2023; awarded one temporary contract to Gloria Lee of Leading Mountain Consulting to conduct a TRC review for the WDM and host four town halls with Indigenous communities in the four WDM Museum locations, which will inform a renewed TRC strategy for the WDM.

<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.
<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>Wapaha Ska Oyate: Living Our Culture, Sharing our Community at Pion-Era, 1955 – 69</i> exhibit.