

2022



National Centre for  
Truth and Reconciliation  
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

# Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE

# Governing Circle

*“This apology signals the Catholic Church’s first meaningful steps to acknowledge accountability for the profound effects of the residential school system still being felt. These effects continue to resound across Indigenous communities and generations for years to come.”*

– DR. CYNTHIA WESLEY-ESQUIMAUX, CHAIR ON TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION, LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

This past year we witnessed long-awaited progress on two of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s (TRC) Calls to Action (CTA): CTA 58, a Papal apology in Canada, and CTAs 53 and 54, creation of a National Council for Reconciliation with multi-year funding.

CTA 58: “We call upon the Pope to issue an apology to Survivors, their families, and communities for the Roman Catholic Church’s role in the spiritual, cultural, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children in Catholic-run residential schools... to be delivered by the Pope in Canada.”

The Papal visit was preceded by significant preparations. Delegations of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Survivors travelled to Rome to meet with the Pope and share their oral histories and experiences. They presented him with two pair of moccasins representing the intense suffering endured by Indigenous children, many of whom did not return from residential schools. He was asked to reflect on the moccasins as a symbol of children who went to residential schools, for those who never returned home and then to return the moccasins during his visit to Canada in the summer.

This apology signals the Catholic Church’s first meaningful steps to acknowledge accountability for the profound effects of the residential school system

still being felt. These effects continue to resound across Indigenous communities and generations for years to come.

In the late fall, the Government of Canada enacted Bill C-29 to create the National Council for Reconciliation (CTA 53), with multi-year funding (CTA 54). The Council will be an independent, non-political, permanent, and Indigenous-led organization whose purpose is to advance reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. This action will lead to CTAs 55 and 56 being realized, which call on all levels of government to track the progress towards reconciliation and for the Prime Minister to issue an annual “State of Aboriginal Peoples” report. This Council will hold the Government of Canada accountable in its responsibility to advance reconciliation.

Though progress has been realized, more work remains. The Governing Circle is committed to advancing Indigenous governance and thereby the framework of truth and reconciliation in Canada. I look forward to furthering the work of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) for all Indigenous Peoples.

*Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux,  
Chair on Truth and Reconciliation,  
Lakehead University*



MESSAGE FROM THE  
*Executive Director*

*“Truth is the foundation of reconciliation. Yet, for too long, the honest truth about the history of Canada’s residential schools was hidden and denied. Efforts to acknowledge this history only happened because of the tireless work of Survivors themselves.”*

– STEPHANIE SCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NCTR

I am honoured to work with residential school Survivors every day. They remind me that there can be no reconciliation without truth. The Papal visit and apology were historic and mark a significant milestone in the path to true healing and reconciliation. There is still much work and reparations to be done.

Survivors fought for the truth to be heard for decades. They are why the TRC came to be and how Canada learned of the history and atrocities perpetrated on Indigenous peoples through the residential school system. They worked to ensure that the National Student Memorial Cloth was at the Papal visit site so that His Holiness could witness the sacred commemoration of those children taken from our families, and to honour them. This was not an easy journey for Survivors.

The NCTR continues the research of the TRC to find all our children and to remember and care for their spirits. For this reason, the NCTR wanted to draw attention to this for Truth and Reconciliation Week by making ‘remembering the children’ the theme of our activities. We asked

Canadians to think about the role they can play in reconciliation. Take the truths learned and champion them every day.

We unveiled a deeply symbolic keepsake with the Royal Canadian Mint in September, one that supports our joint commitment to fostering reconciliation. Canadians can honour and remember the children who didn’t return home, and Survivors, by purchasing the keepsake. The proceeds support the healing journeys of our communities through the Na-mi-quai-ni-mak Community Support Fund.

We are blessed to have welcomed the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Mizhana Gheezhik (The One Who Speaks of Pictures in the Sky) and former Commissioner of the TRC to the NCTR, as a Special Advisor and Elder-in-Residence. He will share his wisdom and provide guidance in bringing reconciliation and community to all we do.

I want to acknowledge the commitment of the NCTR staff in supporting Survivors, in honouring their truths, continuing the necessary research work, by contributing to healing, and to helping to build a foundation for reconciliation for all.

*Miigwetch,  
Stephanie Scott*



MESSAGE FROM THE

# Survivors Circle

*“Reconciliation must start with the truth – a truth that I and thousands of Survivors lived through and continue to feel; a truth that was thought to have perished along with the thousands of children who never returned home. Many still don’t know. It is the responsibility of our government, our churches, and our collective peoples to uncover the truth and honour the children.”*

JIMMY DUROCHER, MÉTIS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVOR

We always knew there would be more difficult days ahead, but we embraced bringing the truth to light and following the path we were on. Pope Francis’ apology to Indigenous Peoples on our lands was a necessary step for true healing to occur and for the hard work of reconciliation to continue.

Dr. Marie Wilson, former TRC Commissioner spoke at the Papal Visit in Maskawacis, saying to Survivors, “You told us many times that a Papal Apology would be an important moment of truth for the church, and for your own journeys of healing and reconciliation.”

The Survivors Circle is committed to ensuring Survivors voices and perspectives continue to be heard and remain central to the NCTR’s programs and policies.

The Survivors’ Flag was gifted to His Holiness in advance of his visit by Indigenous delegates visiting Rome. The flag was created in 2021 by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Survivors to honour all the children who were taken and lost to their families and communities. It represents our determination to tell the truth of Canada’s history and expresses our continued strength and the resilience of Indigenous cultures.

We invited all Canadians to join us in flying the flag as a symbol of the journey we are on together. The Survivor’s Flag was raised on Parliament Hill on August 29, 2022, near West Block and the

Visitor Welcome Centre. It will continue to fly until 2024, when a decision will be made to find its permanent home.

We are honoured and committed as Survivors to provide guidance and advice to the NCTR and its partners, the Governing Circle, and the University of Manitoba.



# Operations

## COVID-19

2022 saw the NCTR operations shift from fully remote to 60% of the staff returning to the office beginning in March, followed by a full return to the office in September. While we continue to exercise caution, it is wonderful to be back at work in person and participating in community gatherings and events across the country.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The growth of the NCTR communications channels (website and social media), to better serve Survivors and communities, began in 2021 with the launch of the new and improved website, continued in 2022.

### INSTAGRAM

110,000+ followers

### TWITTER

24,000+ followers

### FACEBOOK

90,000+ followers

### WEBSITE NCTR.CA

60,000 Visitors per month

**4+ MILLION  
USERS REACHED  
ON SOCIAL MEDIA  
CHANNELS**

## HUMAN RESOURCES

The NCTR staff is made up of intergenerational Survivors, '60s scoop Survivors, and other Indigenous Peoples (approximately 70%). Their diversity of experiences, perspectives and knowledge from their Nations and communities across Canada enrich the work of the NCTR. More than 50% of the NCTR leadership team identify as female.

The NCTR also relies heavily on additional human resources provided by the University of Manitoba and other partner institutions, and we are grateful for their generous support and contributions.

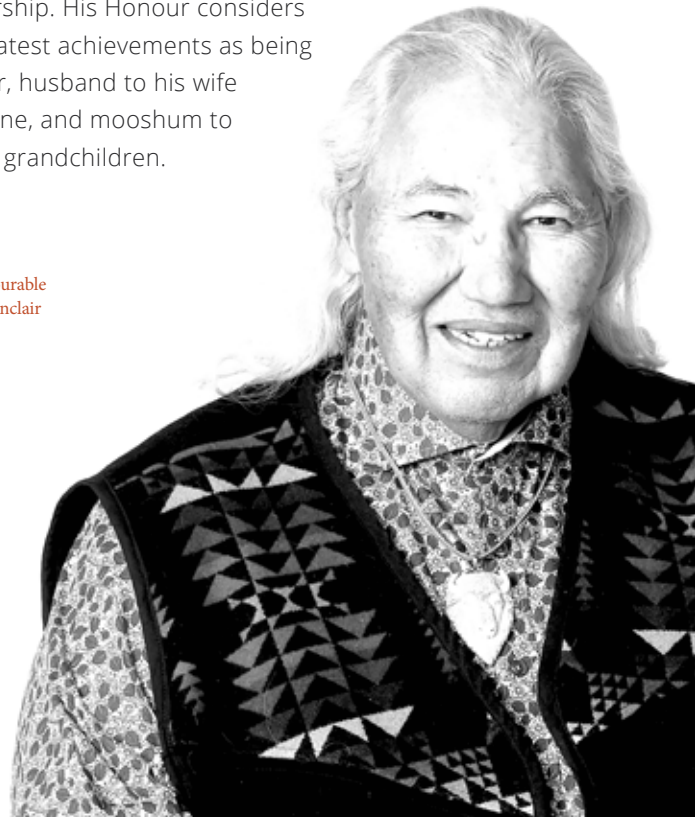
In fall 2022, the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Mizhana Gheezhik (The One Who Speaks of Pictures in the Sky) joined the NCTR as a Special Advisor/Elder-in-Residence. In this new role, the Honourable Sinclair

is providing Indigenous law guidance and expert advice to the NCTR and its governance structure. The University of Manitoba's Faculty of Law will benefit from his expertise as a knowledge keeper specializing in Indigenous culture and law to support its ongoing journey in meeting the TRC's Calls to Action.

*"In all we do, we must put reconciliation first. As we head towards the second official National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I am pleased to join the NCTR and the University of Manitoba as we collectively work towards the recognition and implementation of the Calls to Action," said his Honour.*

The Honourable Sinclair is Anishinaabe and a member of the Peguis First Nation. He is also Manitoba's first Indigenous Justice and the former chief commissioner of the TRC. In addition to his illustrious 40-year career in the justice system, he was also appointed to the Senate in April 2016, where he served for five years before retiring to return to practicing law and providing mentorship. His Honour considers his greatest achievements as being a father, husband to his wife Katherine, and mooshum to his five grandchildren.

The Honourable  
Murray Sinclair



## FUNDING FOR NCTR'S FUTURE HOME

In fall 2022, residential school Survivors and the NCTR welcomed the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, the Honourable Marc Miller to the future site of the NCTR's permanent home at the University of Manitoba. He announced funding from the Government of Canada of \$60 million toward the cost of the NCTR's new facility construction.

*"In the future, there will be fewer Survivors. This is why it is important to have a home where we can preserve our truths, our stories, our hopes, for future generations."*

— EUGENE ARCAND, RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVOR.

In addition, \$28.5 million was announced (to be paid over five years) for the NCTR's operations. This will allow vital work to continue, including collecting, reviewing, and making accessible residential school records, and supporting community-led efforts to locate and identify unmarked burials. These funds will provide necessary support for the National Residential School Student Death Register, the

online National Cemetery Registers, and the National Advisory Committee on Missing Children and Unmarked Burials.

The NCTR provides a place of learning and dialogue for ongoing conversations about the implementation of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action. This work includes educational programming and activities, research into millions of records to find the children who did not return from residential schools, collaboration on the establishment of national monuments to memorialize residential schools, and community work, such as the Na-mi-quai-ni-mak (I remember them) Community Support Fund.

TOP: Survivors Maata Evaluardjuk-Palmer and Dr. Levinia Brown, lighting the qulliq.  
MIDDLE: Survivor Florence Paynter, Minister Marc Miller, MP Terry Duguid, his Honour Murray Sinclair, Survivor Eugene Arcand, Dr. Michael Benarroch, and Stephanie Scott  
BOTTOM: Honour song



# Archives

The NCTR Archives are intended to be a powerful agent of change in the country, allowing visitors to understand the history and the mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. There are more than five million records in the NCTR archival collections. The NCTR actively collects records on various issues and subject areas important to Indigenous communities across the country.

In 2022, the NCTR worked with residential school Survivor Dawn Hill and the descendants of Survivor Crystal Gail Fraser to provide tutorial videos to help with the navigation of the archival collections accessible via the NCTR website. These tutorials include how to find a photograph, a public event or statement gathered, residential school attendance records, and how to find records from different residential schools.

## *Proactive Disclosure*

The proactive disclosure of records means records from the NCTR Archives are being authorized for release by the NCTR's Executive Director, and the University of Manitoba's Access and Privacy Officer, in accordance with Section 7 of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation Act. Records are released for information and educational purposes, and are made accessible via the public database. The NCTR strives to make new records available to Survivors, their families and communities, and the public via the proactive disclosure of records process.

When new records are released, this information is shared via the NCTR website and posted on all the NCTR social media accounts.

## *Digital Preservation Award*

The NCTR was honoured in 2022 receiving international recognition for the development of the digital infrastructure and workplan for preservation of the records held in the NCTR Archives. This includes more than 7,000 recordings of Indigenous testimonies on the history and legacy of the residential school system. This digital infrastructure project allows the NCTR to make materials meaningfully available to Indigenous communities in support of the rights and dignity of Indigenous Peoples. The NCTR applied for funding received from the Canada Foundation for Innovation to work with the National Film Board in digitizing the diverse audiovisual formats of nearly 3,000 hours of Survivor statements gathered by the TRC.

The Digital Preservation Awards are a world-wide celebration of significant and state-of-the-art contributions to securing the world's digital legacy and just one of the ways to raise awareness about the strategic, cultural, and technological issues which make up the digital preservation challenge.



## *Sisters of Saint Ann Records*

In early 2022, the NCTR and the Sisters of Saint Ann (SSA) began a new working relationship to access the SSA's records concerning their teaching and support roles in residential schools. This builds on the SSA's earlier disclosure and release of records to the TRC in 2012-2013, records which were subsequently transferred to the NCTR when it was established in 2015.

"The Sisters are making efforts to take responsibility for their role in residential schools," said Stephanie Scott, Executive Director, NCTR. "This collaboration between the NCTR and the Sisters of Saint Ann leads the example for everyone involved across church and government organizations to take an active role in uncovering how they contributed to the residential school system and to help Indigenous communities and Survivors to access these truths."

The NCTR acknowledges that the SSA responded to the TRCs original requests by providing relevant records. In collaboration with the NCTR, the SSA are re-examining existing records to identify any new information related to the Sisters' role in residential schools, and to improve upon or clarify any missing information related to the environment and context of its administration.

*"We are grateful to the NCTR for their guidance and support in this process of improving the quality and accessibility of the records we have shared," says Sister Marie Zarowny of the Sisters of Saint Ann. "One's need for information, to uncover truths and to understand the past, doesn't dissipate over time. If we can help even one person to learn more about their history, to be able to take one step further forward towards healing, then we must do all we can to ensure the records related to our activities are available and easy to access."*

Kamloops Indian Residential School, with the permission of Deschatelets Archives





## *The Oblates Archive in Rome*

The NCTR and the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (the Oblates) completed a visit in summer 2022 to the Oblate General House archive in Rome, Italy. The NCTR's Head of Archives, Raymond Frogner, was granted full access to records that may relate to the residential school legacy. He completed a preliminary five-day assessment of the archives, reviewing photographs of life in residential schools, administrative records of the Oblates in Canada and the supervisory office in Rome, as well as records of the Oblate members' service to the Order.

### **Since July 2021:**

- More than 10,000 additional Oblate records have been digitized and inventoried, in addition to the 40,000 documents previously transferred to the NCTR.
- 41 Codices (or "daily logs"), in connection to 16 former residential schools, have been digitized and inventoried. Work to digitize the remaining Codices is ongoing.
- The names of 400 Oblates who worked in residential schools as well as close to 1,000 students have been documented.
- 165 access requests have been facilitated for researchers, journalists, and Indigenous intergenerational Survivors.
- Agreements have been reached with four provincial archives to transfer relevant residential school records, while continuing to preserve this history in the geographic area where it occurred.
- Additional archival resources have been funded by the Oblates and the NCTR at all four locations.
- Indigenous communities are providing direction to interrogate the records and understand the experience of children at residential schools.

- Indigenous community leaders are prioritizing the investigation of human rights violations, evidence of the loss or abuse of children.
- Appropriate Indigenous community social protocols are informing the acquisition, storage, sharing and preservation of the discovered knowledge.

As this work continues, the Oblates are taking additional steps to accelerate access to personnel files in a way that complies with relevant privacy legislation and Indigenous knowledge and social protocols. It has been a long-standing practice to keep personnel records sealed until 50 years after an Oblates' passing. An updated agreement will retire this policy and provide accountable access to personnel files.



# Calls to Action

*The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada tabled 94 Calls to Action to address the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation. The NCTR reports annually on its own contributions to advancing the Calls to Action.*

*As many of the CTAs represent ongoing work rather than a prescriptive checklist, much of the 2022 activities for the NCTR Archives represent iterative updates to this work. These updates include the following:*



## **TOWARDS RECONCILIATION**

### **Missing Children and Burial Information**

#### **Calls to Action 71.**

*We call upon all chief coroners and provincial vital statistics agencies that have not provided to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada their records on the deaths of Aboriginal children in the care of residential school authorities to make these documents available to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.*

In 2022, the NCTR Archives continued working with vital statistics agencies and chief coroner offices in provinces and territories where disclosures were outstanding. For the 2022 calendar year, copies of death certificates from Ontario were produced, and a ceremony was held in Winnipeg and Ontario to honour the transfer.



#### **Calls to Action 72.**

*We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.*

In 2022, the NCTR Archives hired Wampum Records and CDCI Inc. to continue research into records to identify children who died at residential school. This work will be complete in April 2023, and will flow into the next phase of the work to notify families for further investigation and commemoration.

#### **Calls to Action 73.**

*We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.*

In 2022, the NCTR Archives drafted a proposal to the federal government for the work related to CTA73. The project is expected to start in the second quarter of 2023.

#### **Calls to Action 74.**

*We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child's burial location, and to respond to families' wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested.*

Although the formal project tied to CTA73 funding from the federal government will not commence until 2023, this work was underway in 2022 to help facilitate families and community research and commemoration efforts.

#### **Calls to Action 75.**

*We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.*

Although this CTA is linked directly to the federal government, the NCTR Archives did work closely with communities needing access to records to help inform their burial research. This included developing more than a dozen agreements for full access in 2022 to millions of records.



#### **TOWARDS RECONCILIATION National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**

#### **Calls to Action 77.**

*We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation 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 National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.*

This work has been ongoing since the ending of the TRC's mandate, and 2022 was no exception. The NCTR Archives continued receiving new acquisitions of records from a variety of repositories, including provincial government records, municipal archives, and an increasing volume of records from private donors.



# Education & Public Outreach

## Education Unit

Presentations and activities are available upon request and are tailored to the audience's knowledge and interest in topics related to residential schools and the archives. Programming is for all; new learners or those interested in learning how to engage the Calls to Action. The education unit provides presentations and activities to students in kindergarten to grade 12, post-secondary, and to the public and private sectors. In addition to these lecture-style engagements, the NCTR also supports information tables and booths at conferences or events, and access to educational materials such as the Calls to Action and They Came for the Children publications.

### Program content that is offered by the NCTR can include, but is not limited to:

- Residential school history and residential school experiences
- The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA)
- The TRC and other components of the Settlement Agreement
- The NCTR history, mandate, and activities
- The NCTR collection and how to access the archives
- Primary source document analysis and working with archival documents
- Colonial systems and impacts (sixties scoop, federal day schools, Indian hospitals, sanatoriums)
- Intergenerational trauma, healing, and resilience
- The student memorial register, missing children, and unmarked burials
- Allyship, the Calls to Action, and ReconciliACTION

### The Inuit and Tuberculosis

1946: a governmental medical evacuation program was implemented to remove infected Inuit from communities.

1950s: 1/3 of the Inuit population was infected with TB.

1956: 1/7 of entire Inuit population receiving treatment in Southern Canada.



Waiting for medical examination on the C.D. Howe

### Six Actions of ReconciliACTION

- Learn** the history between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples
- Understand** the history and legacy of residential schools
- Explore** the unique intersections we have between treaty, constitutional, Indigenous, and human rights we have in Canada
- Recognize** the rich contributions that Indigenous peoples have made to Canada
- Take action** to address historical injustices and present-day wrongs
- Teach** others



**Content covered under residential school history and experiences can include, but is not limited to:**

- Reports and the Indian Act related to residential schools
- Early and late history of the residential school system
- Construction of buildings and living conditions
- Arrival and departure, segregation and marriage, education and training, student labour, staff, food and hunger, health and death, sports and accomplishments, discipline, and abuse

**In 2022, the education unit undertook 198 events/activities, engaging with at least 125 unique organizations, of which 27 returned for ongoing learning events. The average number of engagements per month was 16.5 with the most occurring in March (28) and September (27).**

Examples of organizations and groups that engaged with the NCTR's education unit are:

Food and Beverage MB - Town of Calmar, AB - All Nations Child and Family Services - NPAAMB  
Indigenous Youth Employment & Training - Festival du Voyageur - University of Regina - GETCA Alberta Conference - College of DuPage - Yahoo Canada  
- Investors Group- Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club - Plattsburgh University - MFIS Educators Conference  
- Experiences Canada - Government of Alberta - Seasons Centre for Grieving Children – CBC - Ogniwo Polish Museum Society Inc - President's Student Leadership; Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference; JCI Canada; Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services - Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers - Canada Olympic Committee - Harvest Moon Festival - Riding Mountain National Park - North Bay Regional Health Centre - Pro-Demnity Insurance Company - Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation - Native Justice Coalition - University of Notre Dame - Ontario College of Social Work and Social Service Workers - Maskwacis Cultural College

## *Decolonizing Lens*

Five public events were held in this series, from February to October: 10 films were screened, hosted by nine guests from across Turtle Island and beyond. Through the support of the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the Margaret Laurence Endowment Fund of the Gender Studies Program at the University of Manitoba, the Decolonizing Lens returned to in-person screenings in addition to online events, and reached over 683 attendees. In September, Sonya Ballantyne, a Cree filmmaker based in Winnipeg, joined as the new host and moderator of the discussions with guests.



Films: Mni Wiconi: Mitakuyelo; The Pakohe Trails; Washday; Warburdar Bununu: Water Shield; Tia and Piujuq; Ste. Anne; Run as One; Fast Horse; Emptying the Tank; and Slash/back

Guests: Victoria Anderson-Gardner; Keelan Walker; Kath Akuhata-Brown; Jason De Santolo; Lucy Tulugarjuk; Rhayne Vermette; Erica Daniels; Alex Lazarowich; and Nyla Innuksuk

## *Imagine a Canada*

The 2022-2023 Imagine a Canada program asked youth from kindergarten to Grade 12 to envision a Canada reconciled.

Youth in the art and essay stream submitted an art piece, essay, or other representation to express their vision of a reconciled Canada and what they hope others will learn from their submission. Projects were selected to be included in a booklet showing their work and messages.



Students in the project stream were asked to go one step further and submitted plans on how to address reconciliation in their community or school. Projects included inviting Survivors, Elders, or Knowledge Keepers to speak at learning events, building a permanent art installation representing Reconciliation, supporting volunteer work in communities related to reconciliation. Winning projects received funding for their ideas and are included in the booklet.

Youth from both project streams were invited to participate in virtual leadership training exercises where they learned directly from Elders, Survivors, and Knowledge Keepers, as well as special guests. They received instruction on how to engage and lead difficult conversations, how to be a Reconciliation leader, project management, and how and where to secure funds for future projects.

## *December Dialogue*

On December 15, 2022, the NCTR hosted a wellness dialogue for Survivors for the holiday season. Over the course of the event, audience members learned from Dawn Deguire, Stephanie Peltier, and Brenda Reynolds about self-care.

Dawn shared how yoga is a holistic wellness practice that can unify the body, mind, and spirit. She then led the audience through a series of chair yoga exercises. Stephanie shared insight into Indigenous teachings such as making a feast offering when experiencing grief for a loved one and how to honour the spirits. Brenda shared how to take care of oneself during the holidays when family dynamics and triggers could bring up unexpected emotions.

Throughout the gathering, Gerry Barrett shared some laughs with humorous insights and a sing along as Indigenous Elvis. Finally, Paul Rabliauskas ended the dialogue with a comedy set that left everyone rolling in the aisles (or their living rooms) with laughter.

## *Bear Witness Day*

On May 5, 2022, the NCTR wished a happy birthday to Spirit Bear! May 10 is Bear Witness Day and the NCTR encourages everyone to learn more about Jordan River Anderson, Jordan's Principle, and participate in education, awareness, and action! You can learn more by visiting <https://fncaringsociety.com/jordans-principle>

## *Open House*

The NCTR opened its doors to the public on September 29. This provided visitors with the opportunity to learn about the work of the NCTR in supporting Survivors and families and working toward realizing the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' Calls to Action, through research and education. Exhibits within the NCTR contain a wide array of documents and materials that show the construction and operation of the residential schools and the policies that governed them, their legacy and impact on generations of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and some of the steps taken on the path towards healing and reconciliation.

### National Truth and Reconciliation Day

On September 30, the NCTR staff led events on unceded Anishinaabe Algonquin territory in Ottawa, Ontario as well as on Treaty One Territory in Winnipeg, Manitoba, to "remember the children" lost to the residential school system and honour Survivors, their families, and their communities. Thousands joined together to grieve, heal, and learn together.

The bentwood box, on permanent display at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

## *#94in94 Campaign*

In 2022, the NCTR collaborated with Circles for Reconciliation (CFR) and Reconciliation Thunder (RT) in the second annual #94in94 Campaign.

### **Campaign Goals:**

- Address the fact that there are still so many Canadians who have not read the TRC's 94 Calls to Action (7 years after their release)
- Challenge individuals and organizations to choose at least one Call to Action to act on using a ReconciliAction Plan

From September 12 to December 15, 2022 information from the TRC's 94 Calls to Action was released in addition to 22 unique ReconciliACTION plans. A ReconciliACTION Plan was developed for each one of the different thematic topic areas of the 94 Calls to Action and included suggested books, films, activities, and actions you can take to advance Reconciliation.

### **There were 3 public webinars held:**

#### **How to Create a ReconciliACTION Plan**

with Kaila Johnston

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LDIj7JUIXNk>

#### **Call to Action #6**

Webinar with Senator Stan Kutcher

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cURI9rwO5g>

#### **Moving past the #94 -**

What lies ahead for Reconciliation?

▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4ZePQq3C6E&t=1s>



# National Truth & Reconciliation Week

## REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN NATIONAL SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

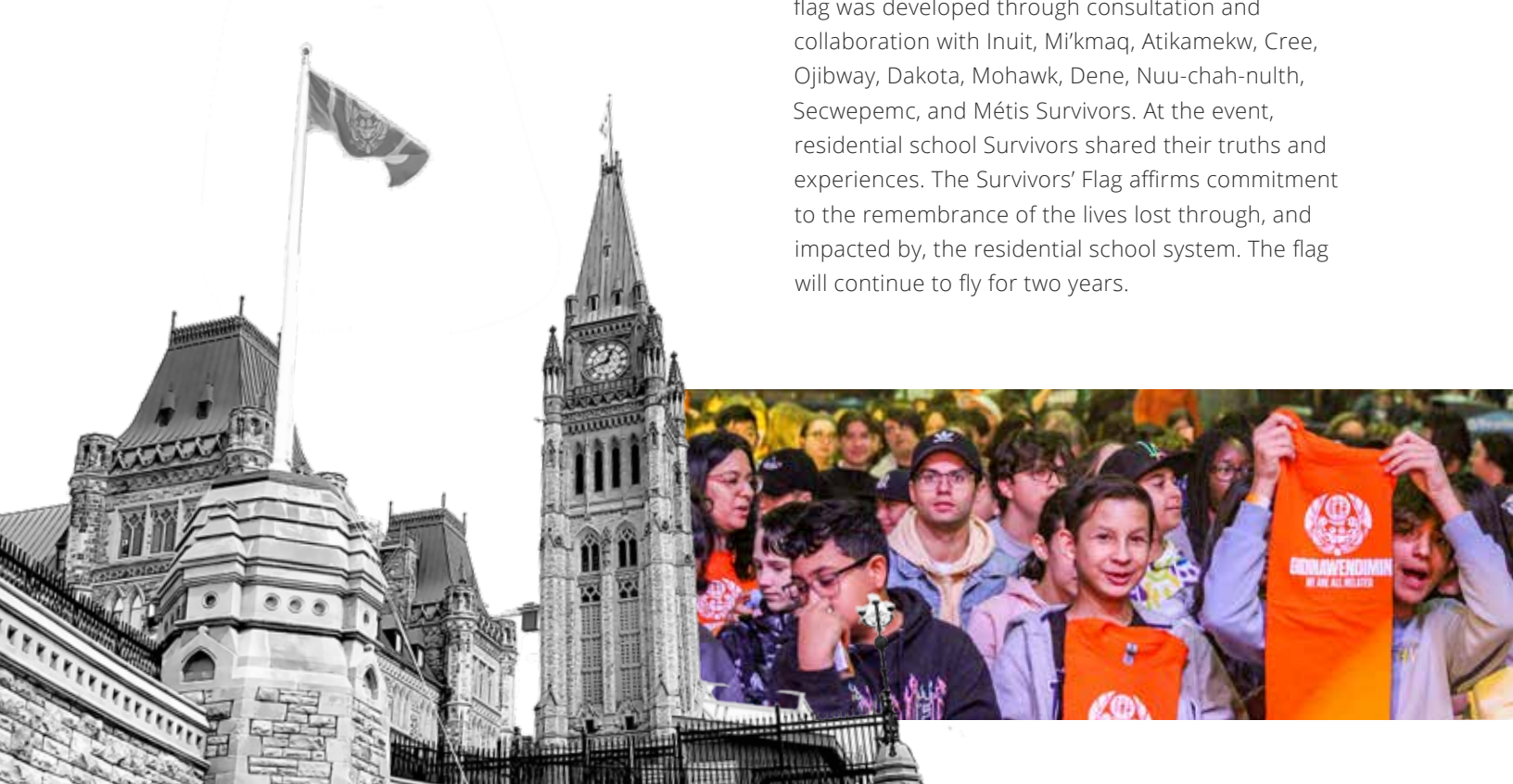
'Remembering the Children' was the theme of the 2022 Truth and Reconciliation Week's national educational programming offered to all students in grades 1 through 12. More than 500,000 students and 11,000 educators participated in both pre-recorded and live sessions. They learned about Indigenous culture, languages, and traditions and heard the truth about the history of residential schools from Survivors, Indigenous performers, activists, and Knowledge Keepers. Most of all, they were remembering the children that did not come home from residential schools.

On September 29, the general public, teachers and students joined virtually or in-person for Truth and Reconciliation Week's first-ever live stage

program – "Gidinawendimin – We Are All Related" at the Paramount Fine Foods Centre in Mississauga, featuring some of Turtle Island's best performers. Some 5,000 students attended in person supported by funding from Nine Golden Horseshoe community foundations.

## SURVIVORS' FLAG RAISING

Residential school Survivors and the NCTR were joined by the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations for the raising of the Survivors' Flag on Parliament Hill. This commemorative flag was created by Survivors to share their expression of remembrance with the broader public and to honour all residential school Survivors, families, and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. The flag was developed through consultation and collaboration with Inuit, Mi'kmaq, Atikamekw, Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, Mohawk, Dene, Nuu-chah-nulth, Secwepemc, and Métis Survivors. At the event, residential school Survivors shared their truths and experiences. The Survivors' Flag affirms commitment to the remembrance of the lives lost through, and impacted by, the residential school system. The flag will continue to fly for two years.





## IN WINNIPEG

### Winnipeg Art Gallery

The Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG)-Qaumajuq hosted a special day of programming in partnership with NCTR. Truth and Reconciliation Week program episodes were screened as well as NCTR's live national broadcast, *Remembering the Children*. Following the screening, a book launch of *Lessons in Legitimacy: Colonialism, Capitalism, and the Rise of State Schooling in British Columbia* by Dr. Sean Carleton was held, with an author's talk and public discussion about the history of the residential school system.

Orange Shirt Days at the Manitoba Museum featured special, all-day programming in the Museum Galleries focused on the history of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The programming included videos from the NCTR, a self-guided tour of the many exhibits relevant to the history of the residential school system and the TRC, as well as a Manitoba Cares station where visitors shared their thoughts and made their own commitment to take action for Reconciliation.

*Truth and Reconciliation Week is hosted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), with the support of Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), the Government of Canada, Telus, NIB Trust, the Winnipeg Foundation, ARC'TERYX, Know History, the Governments of Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Yukon, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, Canada's History, Wapikoni & Télé-Québec, META, Hubilo, the Golden Horseshoe Community Foundations, Orange Shirt Society, Canada Post, and the National Film Board of Canada.*

### Remember Me

A national youth-led initiative on Parliament Hill featuring an opening ceremony with Elder Claudette Commanda, performances, and speakers such as Autumn Peltier — Global Indigenous Water Activist & Chief Water Commissioner, Anishinabek Nation and an eagle feather ceremony for Survivors.

### Traveling Song & Spirit Walk

A youth-led walk from Parliament Hill to LeBreton Flats Park led by children and residential school Survivors. Upon arriving at the park, thousands of attendees placed Indigenous children's footwear on the stage as a symbol of remembrance of the children who never made it home.

### Remembering the Children

The NCTR and APTN produced a one-hour commemorative gathering presented in English, French, and Inuktitut that was broadcast live from LeBreton Flats Park. Survivors shared personal reflections as well as His Honour Murray Sinclair, speaking about their experiences and the importance of reconciliation.



# Honouring Survivors

## *The Royal Canadian Mint*

The Royal Canadian Mint, with the NCTR, unveiled a keepsake honouring the victims and Survivors of residential, day and boarding schools in the week leading up to Truth and Reconciliation Week. The deeply symbolic keepsake acknowledges the truths behind the residential school experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and their families, and supports their commitment to fostering Reconciliation.

Artists Leticia Spence, Jason Sikoak, JD Hawk and Survivors collaborated to weave a thoughtful and compelling story of the residential school experience for Indigenous communities across Canada. Its dual-sided design acknowledges the intergenerational impacts of residential, day and boarding schools, and it invites reflection about the impact of those schools, the conditions that created them, and how people living in Canada can turn that reflection into acts of reconciliation.

All proceeds from the sale of the Truth and Reconciliation Keepsake support the work of the Na-mi-quai-ni-mak Community Support Fund (Na-mi-quai-ni-mak is an Anishinaabemowin name meaning “I remember them”).

To learn more, visit <https://nctr.ca/memorial/na-mi-quai-ni-mak/na-mi-quai-ni-mak-community-support-fund/>

## *Remembering Will Shape Future Generations*

The Na-mi-quai-ni-mak (Anishinaabemowin meaning: “I remember them”) Community Support Fund provides small grants to support community-based healing and remembrance. The name Na-mi-quai-ni-mak was given to the program by a residential school Survivor and Elder.

The grants support commemoration projects to Indigenous communities for memorial and healing activities such as community-led healing gatherings, ceremonies and feasts, commemorative markers (healing gardens, murals, carvings, plaques), and maintenance of burial sites. Applications are reviewed by the Regional Advisory Circle made up of Indigenous Elders and residential school Survivors from across Canada. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year the Regional Advisory Circle and the NCTR supported 52 applicants in their efforts towards Survivor-led community gatherings and commemorations.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Jennifer Wood (NCTR), Marie Lemay (Royal Canadian Mint), keepsake design artists Jason Sikoak, Leticia Spence, JD Hawk, and Stephanie Scott (NCTR)

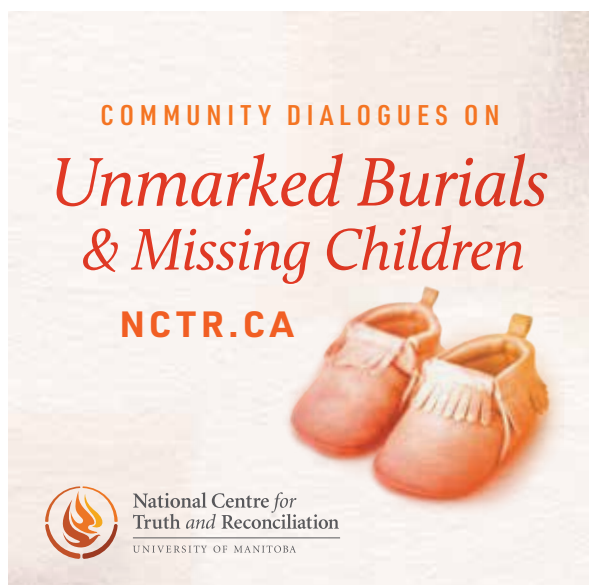


## *Community Dialogues on Unmarked Burials & Missing Children*

A two-day virtual gathering was held March 30-31, 2022, to convene Indigenous leaders, residential school Survivors, and organizations that have begun, or intend to begin, searching for burial sites at former residential schools. The gathering was attended by communities who shared their ongoing experiences in their search for unmarked burials at former residential school sites. The keynote speaker was Chief Cadmus Delorme, Cowessess First Nation. Other sessions included an overview of different legal considerations for searches, including Indigenous legal approaches, Canadian legal approaches and working with landowners at which lessons learned and best practices were shared. Information on where research, records and other resources exist, and how to access these was provided.

The dialogues that took place will serve as a valuable resource for communities engaging in the search to find and/or identify children that did not return from residential schools.

The two days of programming were supported by funding from the Slaughter Family Foundation.



## *National Gathering on Unmarked Burials*

In late November 2022, the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor, in partnership with the NCTR, hosted the second National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Addressing Trauma in the Search and Recovery of Missing Children associated with Indian Residential Schools.

Attendees included Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors, families, communities, First Nations, Inuit and Métis governments; Indigenous leadership, communities leading or interested in leading searches and investigations for missing children and unmarked burials; and health and wellness service providers.

Taking place over three days, this National Gathering was the second of many planned across Canada to discuss issues of concern around the identification, preservation, and protection of unmarked graves and burial sites, including the potential repatriation of remains.

*“There is so much more to the truth about residential schools. Survivors continue to bravely tell their truths and Indigenous communities, nations, leaders, and researchers are sharing their crucial learnings and experiences as they look for the little ones”*

*JENNIFER WOOD, A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVOR AND COMMEMORATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT LIAISON WITH THE NCTR.*

The Special Interlocutor, Kimberly Murray, was appointed in June 2022 and is working closely and collaboratively with Indigenous leaders, communities, Survivors, families, and experts to identify needed measures and recommend a new federal legal framework to ensure the respectful and culturally appropriate treatment and protection of unmarked graves and burial sites of children at former residential schools.

A report on this second National Gathering will be available in 2023. It will be available on the website of the Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor, <https://osi-bis.ca>

# Governance

## GOVERNING CIRCLE

The NCTR is overseen by a Governing Circle. The Circle includes Survivors and representatives of the University of Manitoba and other partners. The majority of Governing Circle members are First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The Governing Circle is in turn guided by a Survivors Circle, as well as by associate Elders, former members of the Survivors Circle, and community Knowledge Keepers. Establishing these governance structures was essential to ensuring Survivors and partners are always at the very heart of the NCTR and that the NCTR honours and upholds Indigenous laws and protocols.

## CURRENT MEMBERS:

### Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux (Chair)

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux served as Vice Provost for Aboriginal Initiatives at Lakehead University for three years, and effective September 2016 was appointed as the 1st Indigenous Chair for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

### Andrew Carrier (Vice-Chair)

Andrew has served the Manitoba Métis Federation for the past 20 years as a Regional Director and in 2018 became the elected Vice-President for the Winnipeg Region.

### Dr. Catherine Cook, MD, MSc, CCFP, FCFP

Dr. Cook is Métis and grew up in northern Manitoba. She is the Vice-President (Indigenous) at the University of Manitoba. Prior to this, she was head of Ongomiizwin – Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing and Vice-Dean, Indigenous Health, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences and Provincial Lead, Indigenous Health at Shared Health.

### Dr. Crystal Gail Fraser

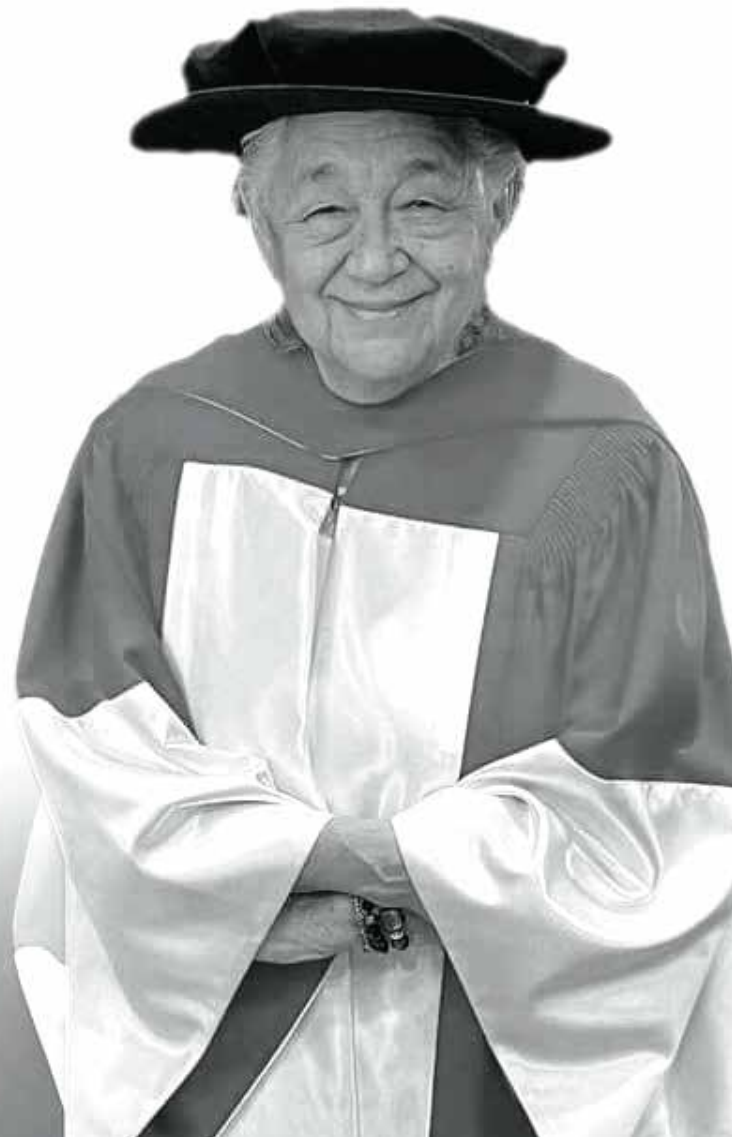
Dr. Fraser is Gwichyà Gwich'in and originally from Inuvik and Dachan Choo Gèhñjik in the Northwest

Territories. Her PhD research focused on the history of student experiences at Indian Residential Schools in the Inuvik Region between 1959 and 1996.

### Elder Levinia Nuqaqlaak Brown, LLD (honoris causa)

Levinia Brown is an Inuit Survivor from Rankin Inlet. She served as the first female mayor of Rankin Inlet from 1989-1991 and was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut in 2004, at one point serving as Deputy Premier.

*The Governing Circle thanks outgoing member Dr. Digvir Jayas for his seven years of service.*



Elder and Governing Circle member,  
Dr. Levinia Nuqaqlaak Brown.

## SURVIVORS CIRCLE

The Survivors Circle guides the NCTR and ensures that Survivors' voices and perspectives remain central to programming and policies. They provide critical guidance and advice to the NCTR staff, the Governing Circle, the University of Manitoba, and our partners.

### THE SURVIVORS CIRCLE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS IN 2022:

**Miiyubinoskum** (He Who Brings New Life, Abraham Bearskin), Cree Elder from Cree Nation of Chisasibi

**Dorene Bernard**, Mi'kmaki Grassroots Grandmother (Nova Scotia)

**Richard Kistabish**, Anicinabe (Algonquin) from the First Nation community of Abitibiwinni, Quebec, Canada

**Francis "Dickie" Yuzicapi**, Traditional Knowledge Keeper, Okanese First Nation

### CONTINUING MEMBERS:

**Eugene Arcand**, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation (Saskatchewan)

**Susan Beaudin**, Cree/Anishinabe, Cowessess First Nation (Saskatchewan)

**Barbara Cameron**, Wolf Clan, Midewiwin Shkabehekwe to Minweyweywigaaan Midewiwin Lodge, Long Plain First Nation

**Edna Elias**, Inuk (Kugluktuk, Nunavut)

**Maata Evaluardjuk-Palmer**, Inuk (Mittimatalik/Pond Inlet, Nunavut)

**Laurie McDonald**, two-spirited Métis, Enoch Cree First Nation (Alberta)

**Brian Normand**, Metis/Michif, Red River Settlement (Winnipeg)

**Navalik Tologanak**, Inuinnaq (Cambridge Bay, Nunavut)

**Phyllis Webstad**, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band, British Columbia)

*The Survivors Circle thanks outgoing members Garnet Angeconeb (Lac Seul First Nation) and AJ Felix (Sturgeon Lake First Nation) whose terms ended in 2022, for their dedication and guidance in supporting the work of the NCTR.*

#### LEFT TO RIGHT:

TOP - Brian Normand, Edna Elias, Phyllis Webstad, Maata Evaluardjuk-Palmer, Eugene Arcand BOTTOM - Laurie McDonald, Navalik Tologanak, Susan Beaudin, Barbara Cameron



## PARTNERSHIPS

The NCTR is hosted by the University of Manitoba and works in partnership with universities, colleges, museums, governments and many organizations across the country.

The goal of our partnerships is to create the broadest possible network from coast to coast to coast. The NCTR continues to receive guidance and advice from Survivor groups and communities about issues such as Indigenous rights, culture, and the TRC's Calls to Action. The NCTR is committed to working in partnership with Survivors, families, and communities across Canada.

### Current partners include:

Archives of Manitoba, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Carleton University, Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources, Dalhousie University, Kichi kikinàmàdinàn Odàwàng, Lakehead University, Legacy of Hope Foundation, Manitoba Museum, National Association of Friendship Centres, Red River College Polytechnic, Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, St. John's College, St. Paul's College, St. Francis Xavier University, The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma University, Université de Saint-Boniface, University of Alberta, University of British Columbia, University College of the North, University of Manitoba, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and University of Winnipeg.

## PRESERVING SACRED HISTORY

A new partnership began in 2022 between the NCTR and the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). This will allow for the long-term preservation of Survivor statements and other master audio-visual content from the TRC. The oral histories of thousands of Indigenous voices will be preserved, with the support of the Canada Foundation for Innovation's Innovation Fund grant.

The NFB has worked for decades preserving audio-visual recordings in cultural domains and is a recognized leader in their industry, having digitized and preserved its collection of more than 14,000 titles. The NFB will use its state-of-the-art equipment to preserve digital audiovisual recordings that have been entrusted to the NCTR. In doing so, they will consult with First Nation, Inuit and Métis Survivors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers to best understand the significance of the content.

"The Truths shared by Survivors and their families are not simply an Indigenous experience, but very much part of Canada's story. By having the digital recordings of the TRC made available and accessible, we are one step closer to protecting the spirit that lives within the words Survivors so bravely shared with the world." Garnet Angeconeb, NCTR Survivors Circle



# Research

## RECONCILIATION NETWORK

On February 1, 2022 the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the NCTR announced their partnership on a national research program to advance understanding of Reconciliation. This partnership responds to the TRC's Call to Action 65 and supports CTA 71 to 76, and as a result, on November 23, 2022, SSHRC and the NCTR launched the Reconciliation Network in Response to Call to Action 65 (RN CTA 65). This network is investing up to \$6 million in the RN CTA 65 competition, with each grant valued at a maximum of \$1 million per project for a duration of five years.

*“While we still have a very long way to go, the investment from SSHRC for this national research program allows the NCTR to engage with survivors and community to preserve more of our truth as the centre of excellence in this subject area. I welcome this mutually beneficial relationship with SSHRC and the investment from Canada to ensure this work is survivor/Indigenous led, centered in community, and respecting intellectual property rights of the survivors.”*

—EUGENE ARCAND, NCTR SURVIVORS CIRCLE

These funds will support the establishment of a national research program with multiyear funding to advance collective understanding of Reconciliation. As part of the Reconciliation Network, the teams funded under this initiative will participate in coordination activities managed by the NCTR in its role as coordination hub for the network.

## RECONCILIATION BAROMETER PROJECT

The first report from the Canadian Reconciliation Barometer, which measures progress toward Reconciliation, was released in early 2022. It highlighted gaps in understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and compared progress across sectors of society. Developed by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous researchers led by Dr. Katherine Starzyk at the University of Manitoba, 13 indicators of Reconciliation were used to measure good understanding of the past and present, acknowledgement of ongoing harm, respectful relationships, personal equality, and systemic equality.

The research team found that while both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people agree that residential schools and governments in Canada have harmed Indigenous Peoples, there's a worrisome gap in understanding between the groups. The implication of this finding is that we need to continue to invest in education about residential schools—as well as Indigenous Peoples experiences in Canada more broadly.

*“People in Canada are learning about this horrific history and the inequalities that exist, however there is still so much more work needed in education and policies. Having a measure of the Canadian public's perceptions on progress toward Reconciliation is a key tool to guide policymakers in their decisions to support Reconciliation.”*

— BRENDA GUNN, ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH DIRECTOR, NCTR.

## THE NCTR RESEARCH GRANTS FUND

To advance Reconciliation research, the NCTR awarded seven grants of \$7,000 each to researchers from seven institutions: University College of the North, Vancouver Island University, Queen's University, Thompson Rivers University, the University of Lethbridge, the University of Calgary, and Carleton University. The purpose of the Small Research Grants Fund is to support the current focus areas of the NCTR's research:

- Gaining a broader understanding of the history of the residential school system (including non-IRSSA schools, day schools, '60s scoop, Métis peoples' experiences), as well as intergenerational impacts.
- Indigenous Peoples cultural revitalization, including self-determination, knowledge systems, oral histories, languages, perspectives, methodologies, laws, protocols, and connections to the land.
- Addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism and residential schools including the impacts of the education system, cultures and languages, healthcare system, child welfare system, justice system, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
- Closing the gaps in social, health and mental health, and economic outcomes that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.

Community and Academic  
Research Support Gathering

## COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH SUPPORT GATHERING

The NCTR's Research and Academic department hosted a three-day gathering in October - bringing together community and academic researchers to share their experiences, challenges, and successes of research and work related to missing children and unmarked burials. Kimberly Murray, Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Burial Sites was the keynote speaker.

The gathering was embedded in ceremony and included formal opportunities for presenters to share their research and experiences and create space for attendees to engage in dialogue. It also provided an opportunity to develop key discussion papers that will assist in moving academic, policy, and research agendas forward.





# Financials



## REVENUE

March 31, 2022 General Funds

Donations	\$ 1,586,934
Non-Government Grants	\$ 492,500
Economic Development and Training	\$ 2,675,975
Other, Province of Manitoba	\$ 77,000
Federal and Other Government Grants	\$ 1,668,476
Sales of Goods and Services	\$ 568,953
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 7,069,838</b>

## EXPENSE

March 31, 2022 General Funds

Salaries	\$ 1,785,808
Staff Benefits and Pay Levy	\$ 324,192
Materials, Supplies and Services	\$ 952,279
Professional and Other Services	\$ 1,570,791
Travel and Conferences	\$ 42,068
Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 4,488
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 4,679,627</b>

Inter-Fund Transfers	\$ 219,130
NET	\$ 2,609,341
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	\$ 1,446,653
<b>FUND BALANCES END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 4,055,994</b>

*Carla Buchanan*

Carla Buchanan, CPA, CA, CIM\*  
Manager, Financial Reporting, University of Manitoba

2023.02.02

Date

The NCTR is a place of learning and dialogue, where the truths of the residential school experience will be honoured and kept safe for future generations.



National Centre for  
*Truth and Reconciliation*

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

**NCTR.CA**



Elders attending the groundbreaking for the new home for the NCTR.