

<p>Board Chair:</p> <p>Brigitte Sandron</p>	<p>Page: 1 of 2          Supersedes: Sept 2007, Oct 2009, Nov 2013, Feb 2017, 2020          Board approval date: May 23, 2023          Review by 3 yrs: May 2026</p>
<p>Cross References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.11.1 Repatriation Procedure: General</li> <li>6.11.2 Repatriation Procedure: Indigenous Artifact</li> <li>6.11.3 Repatriation Procedure: Human Remains</li> <li>6.6 Museum Collection Policy</li> <li>6.6.1 Museum Collection Operational Procedure (Deaccessioning)</li> <li>6.7 Sacred and Sensitive Indigenous Collections Care Policy</li> <li>6.7.1 Sacred and Sensitive Indigenous Collections Care Procedure</li> </ul>	

Consistent with the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Canada (TRC) and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the Manitoba Museum (Museum) recognizes repatriation as an institutional responsibility.

The Manitoba Museum (the Museum) acknowledges that, as a result of certain acquisition practices which occurred before the current Museum was established (previously The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature), and in past iterations, or as part of the original Hudson’s Bay Museum Collection, the Museum may have come into the possession of particular artifacts and specimens that have ongoing historical or cultural importance to living individuals, communities, organizations and various levels of government. In addition, the Museum also acknowledges that some acquired items may be subject to challenge regarding the Museum’s legal title to those items.

The Museum shall respond to requests for repatriation, or transfer of legal title of artifacts and specimens from its Collection to other parties on a case-by-case basis. The Museum approaches repatriation as a community-led process integrating community values, needs, and interested in the repatriation process.

The Museum seeks guidance from the specific Indigenous Nation or Nations who relate to – either through direct descent or Treaty rights—the item(s) being requested for repatriation currently in care of the Museum.

Specific Indigenous governments (including Chiefs and Tribal Councils) or officially appointed representatives, or descendants may request repatriation of artifacts and specimens from the Museum’s collection to which they have a direct relationship.

The Museum ensures that discussions regarding requests for repatriation are held only with specific Indigenous governments (including Chiefs and Tribal Councils) or with officially appointed representatives, or descendants,

The Museum may consult museological or academic institutions who have received similar requests, or have also been approached by the same representative(s) of the request.

Once repatriation has been determined, the dissemination of information related to the repatriation at the Museum is at the sole discretion of the Nation or Nations or descendants involved in the process.

The goal of this policy is to provide an orderly and efficient means of reviewing and acting upon repatriation claims from other parties for items from The Manitoba Museum’s Collection and for the Museum to initiate the repatriation of strategically identified items to legitimate recipients. In order to reach this goal, the following guidelines and criteria must be followed:

1. The Museum shall consider all repatriation requests.
2. The Museum shall give serious consideration to all repatriation requests from the Indigenous peoples of Canada, and also to requests by other international Indigenous Peoples represented in the Museum collection.
3. The Museum shall determine whether the item(s) in question are in fact in the possession of the Museum, and shall investigate whether the Museum has legal title to them and under which circumstances they were acquired.

4. The Museum shall determine the condition of the item(s) in question and will convey this information to the party (parties) requesting repatriation.
5. The Museum shall ensure any parties requesting repatriation have a legitimate and substantiated claim to the item(s) under review and whether there are legitimate impediments to repatriation.
6. The Museum will exercise due diligence in notifying other groups or individuals who it reasonably believes may have an interest in individual repatriation requests.
7. The Museum will not engage in arbitrary decision making regarding contested repatriation cases where more than one Indigenous group claims the same object(s).
8. The Museum will seek guidance from the specific Indigenous governments (including Chiefs and Tribal Councils) or to officially appointed representatives, or descendants of the object(s) requested for repatriation.

The Museum's Director of Research, Collections and Exhibitions (RCE) is responsible for the implementation of and compliance with this policy. The Director shall ensure that the appropriate staff is fully consulted. Deliberation and determinations will be conducted by striking a Museum Repatriation Committee consisting of a minimum of two Indigenous advisory Circle members with the Director of RCE as Chair.

The process will be conducted with as much public transparency as possible, having regard to privacy considerations and the legitimate interests of the Museum.

Requests from peoples or institutions of other nations shall be considered in accordance with international agreements that may be made between the Museum and museums in other countries. In the absence of such agreements, the Museum may consider requests in accordance with the terms of this policy and its procedures.

Procedures for General Repatriation and for specific repatriation of Indigenous artifacts and of human remains are contained in accompanying Procedures 6.11.1; 6.11.2; and 6.11.3.

The Museum's Board of Governors must approve all repatriation decisions before physical removal and legal transfer of any items from the Museum.

The Museum's legal title to, and ability to transfer, such properties is governed, in part, by *The Manitoba Museum Act (C.C.S.M. c. M270)*. Under the terms of this Act, the purposes of the corporation, among other things, are to serve as an educational institution, to exhibit its Collection, and to conduct research. The Manitoba Museum fulfills the terms of its Mandate primarily through the acquisition, preservation, research, and interpretation of artifacts and specimens.

The development of this policy is further guided by the professional museum *Code of Ethics (CMA, The Ethical Behaviour of Museum Professionals, 1979; Code of Ethics and Guidance for Practice for Those Involved in the Conservation of Cultural Property in Canada, 1989)*.

#### Definitions

Indigenous – a designation, in a Canadian context, that embraces peoples of First Nations, Inuit, or Métis ancestry and legacies of their culture (tangible and intangible).