

GOVERNANCE

At the June 2023 AGM, the Manitoba Museum membership approved an important change to the Museum's Bylaws in accordance with the TRC Calls to Action and UNDRIP recognizing it must ensure its governance structure is reflective of the Indigenous groups, communities, and peoples that the Museum aims to represent in all facets of its work. Therefore, and in keeping with the fundamental principle of self-determination underpinning the Declaration and building upon the Museum's truth and reconciliation efforts, the Board formalized their commitment to shared governance as reflected in section 3.02 of By-Law No. 1, and as operationalized in this **Indigenous Governors Policy**. Doing so has the intention to contribute to a more creative and diverse Board, leading to improved strategic decision-making for the Museum.

Indigenous Governors:

1. Pursuant to section 3.02 of By-Law No. 1, and as vacancies occur on the Board, the Board shall accept the Indigenous Advisory Circle's (the IAC) Chair elect to the Board, and strive for additional Governors who are members or citizens of one or more Indigenous groups, communities, or peoples, with priority given to members or citizens of Indigenous groups, communities or peoples located in the Province of Manitoba.
2. The IAC shall elect their chair.
3. The Nominating & Governance Committee of the Board shall accept the IAC Chair elect as a nominee for the Board and consult and cooperate with the IAC to identify other potential applicants for the Board in accordance with section 3 of this policy.

MUSEUM-WIDE INITIATIVES

The Museum recently posted a new term position for a **Museum Advisor for Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**, a position new are very much looking forward to bring onto the Museum team.

The Museum revisited the following **policies** to align with continued endeavours for Indigenous inclusion and decolonization:

- Repatriation Policy
- Exhibition Policy
- Sacred and Sensitive Indigenous collections Policy (new)

CURATORIAL EDUCATION AND MENTORSHIP

During the previous fiscal year, the Museum established a **partnership with the Manitoba Métis Federation and the University of Winnipeg Curatorial Practices program** to host two Indigenous students from the program to develop practical skills in curation and exhibition development. This internship was led by Dr. Amelia Fay, Curator of Anthropology and the HBC Museum Collection, and Candace Hogue, Curator for the Red River Metis Heritage Centre, and it concluded with the opening of a temporary exhibit *ooshitawiin avek lamoor/Made with Love* curated by Adrienne Laroque and Emma de Sousa, which was displayed in the Museum's foyer from June 2023-February 2024.

The ongoing **Indigenous Scholars in Residence program** continues under Dr. Fay's supervision with one University of Manitoba graduate student receiving funding during their winter semester to attend weekly discussions at the museum and engage with the collections as part of their graduate research.

The Curators also provided **presentations and guest lectures** to various high schools, universities, and colleges. These opportunities ensure we share the collections and related research with a broad audience and engage with students of varying educational levels on topics related to Indigenous history and museology. This is related to working with Museum volunteers, many of whom are university students learning about Manitoba's heritage by researching and helping to maintain Museum collections.

Dr. Fay continues to support the Learning & Engagement team in **the Museum's Reconciliation-based learning programs** by delivering the History of Canadian Colonialism tour, which explores the deep history of colonization in what is now Canada from the Doctrine of Discovery through today and debunks the romanticized versions of the fur trade and Canadian history.

COLLECTIONS ACCESS

Museum staff continued to ensure **collections access to Indigenous communities, scholars, artists and makers**. Requests for access are prioritized and guidance and support are provided when needed. Access to collection is through in-person visits, but also virtual collections visits, sharing information electronically when in-person visits are not feasible. We also provide behind-the-scenes collections visits for participants who register for workshops throughout the year, sharing relevant collections to give new makers an opportunity to study and build on historical examples for their contemporary works.

This fiscal year, Dr. Fay initiated a **new collections access program called *Collections for Community*** to provide community members with dedicated time to view museum collections on a weekend day since the typical Monday through Friday research hours can be restrictive for many. These sessions were limited to 10-12 participants, with preference given to First Nations, Inuit, or Metis individuals. Each session included guest artists whom the participants could chat with and learn from as they explored the Anthropology and HBC Museum Collections. Tashina Houle-Schlup, Head of Indigenous Programming and Engagement, co-hosted the first session in June, but for the second she attended as a guest artist alongside her brother to share their vast knowledge and experience with various artistic forms. The Museum intends to continue this program 3-4 times per year, so far community reception and feedback for the program has been very positive.

Dave Finch, Curator of Archaeology, has facilitated several **tours for community members from Manitoba First Nations** to view collections from their regions. He has also advised on methods of protecting heritage sites that are at risk from development or other activity. In January 2024, he and Seema Hollenberg also attended an information session on CentrePort South and the St. James Mound, providing information on Indigenous heritage sites in the city.

Tashina Houle-Schlup, Head of Indigenous Programming & Engagement, works in partnership with the Learning & Engagement and Research, Collections and Exhibitions (RCE) teams **to increase community access to collections and develop new and innovative Indigenous programming** across the Museum Galleries, the Science Gallery, and in the Planetarium. Along with her work in programming, she has worked closely with the Curator of Anthropology and the HBC Museum Collection, Dr. Fay, to facilitate Collections Access Days, where Indigenous artists are invited to share their knowledge with participants in the collection's storage.

Carol Beaulieu, who has been on staff with us for several years working in Indigenous program development, has transitioned into a new museum-wide role of **Indigenous Protocols Advisor**. Carol's role provides ongoing oversight and care for the sacred collections at the Museum, supports the Museum team in integrating Indigenous content into programming and exhibitions and advises on Indigenous protocols in all areas of Museum work.

RESEARCH

Dave Finch and Dr. Fay are partners on the **Connecting Land, Healing and Heritage Project** run by University of Manitoba researchers. This is a three-year research program funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) that works with youth and community groups in the Churchill area on heritage-related social determinants of health. The partners are creating opportunities for Inuit, Dene, and Cree youth to engage with their cultural heritage through on-the-land programming. The research also documents archaeological resources in the region to help Indigenous communities better engage with and direct research on their histories.

A Métis Master's student from University of Saskatchewan spent time studying the Museum's collection of **Métis hooked rugs**, and included them in her final thesis.

REPATRIATION/REMATRIATION

The Human History Curators have also been reviewing collections records, donor files, and conducting further research to flag **potential repatriation candidates** within the Museum's collections and note where additional research is needed. This is ongoing work as part of the Museum's commitment to the TRC calls to action and UNDRIP.

The Director of RCE, and members of the Human History team have been involved with the **Inter-institutional Respectful Repatriation/Rematriation Group**. This is a body of multiple institutions in Manitoba working on engagement with Indigenous communities, sharing information between partners, and coordinating possible repatriation of archaeological collections.

In February 2024, CEO Dorota Blumczyńska, Director of RCE Seema Hollenberg, and Curator of Archaeology Dave Finch **participated in the *Protecting Our Ancestors* conference** in Winnipeg. The three-day event was organized by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) and Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and addressed the potential role for federal legislation around burial sites and heritage objects.

PROGRAMS, LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

In 2023-2024, Learning & Engagement offered various programming opportunities, both virtual and in-person, to local, regional, national, and international audiences. Programming included **professional development opportunities for adults, school programming for children in grades K-12, and public programming for the general public**. We provided guided experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds, with themes ranging from Indigenous motherhood, Indigenous sky stories, the Indigenous history of Winnipeg to Indigenous artistic traditions.

Hands-on art workshops, such as mukluk and gauntlet making, continue to be excellent additions to Museum programming. They provide community access to collections, a welcoming space for learning and promote the desire to continue practicing and revitalizing traditional skills. This year, we were fortunate to collaborate with some incredibly talented artists, such as Gloria Beckman and Cynthia Boehm.

In the Museum Galleries, we continue to offer the specialized **“Indigenous Focus Tour”** both for high school and adult audiences, tailoring them to specific interests. In the summer we offered the **“Reconciling Our History Neighbourhood Tour”** where participants discovered public monuments in the Exchange District and the stories they tell, with a focus on the Indigenous perspectives that are absent. This program was developed in partnership with the City of Winnipeg, Indigenous Relations Division and has been a catalyst for important dialogue among participants. In the fall, we launched the new First Peoples and the Bison school program, developed by Tashina Houle-Schlup, Head of Indigenous Programming and Engagement. This program was immediately popular with Grade 5 classes and has been well booked.

The Planetarium premiered *Worlds of Ice*, narrated by Beatrice Deer. The show focuses the importance of ice and climate change and gives voice to Inuit communities who have for generations weaved an intricate relationship with ice and are now first-hand witnesses working to mitigate the effects of this dramatic shift. To launch this show, we had a great event with the local Inuit community. As part of Tunngasugit’s special family programming, up to 50 members of the Winnipeg Inuit community joined us for a special presentation of the show, followed by important discussions on Inuit artifacts, programming and exhibitions. This event allowed us to connect with those from the Inuit community who can guide us and collaborate with us on future projects involving Inuit content. We continued to feature the very popular Planetarium show, *Legends of the Northern Sky*, which showcases Indigenous sky storytelling from across the western plains. The show features Ocek the Fisher and the giant bear Mista Maskwa, among others, and Manitoba-based Cree Astronomer Wilfred Buck was a consulting expert on the show's development. The Cree language features prominently in the narration, and we've received many positive reviews from audiences of all ages.

To commemorate the **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30th**, we offered complimentary admission from September 30th to October 2nd. During this time, we hosted “Orange Shirt Days @ the Manitoba Museum”, an event supported by the Province of Manitoba, which attracted 9,370 visitors. Many visitors expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn, reflect, and respond to the legacy of Indian Residential Schools as part of our collective journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. Special programming highlighted various permanent exhibits connected to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action, extended our content on the history of Residential Schools, and amplified Indigenous voices, including those of our partners at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. The MICEC shared their work and taught some Anishinaabemowin to visitors. We also commissioned a young Anishinaabe woman, Sunshine Levasseur, to design a special logo inspired by the day and Anishinaabe art and culture, which will be used for years to come. Orange Shirt Days also featured powwow performances, where visitors could watch and learn three different powwow dance styles, participate in a Q&A, and dance in the friendship dance. Dancers included Preston Cleveland, Shawna Olson, and Jason Parenteau.

In March, in honour of **World Water Day**, we hosted more than 300 participants for a day-long student conference and evening talk for the public which spotlighted Manitoba’s newest Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area—the Seal River Watershed. These events included a showing of *Worlds of Ice*, presentations from CEO of the Seal River Watershed Alliance, Stephanie Thorassie, and Eli Enns, an internationally recognized expert on Indigenous-led conservation, and inspired dialogue on how we can work together to better protect our land and our waterways.

EXHIBITIONS

Manidoo miiniigoowin: A Gift from the Creator

Dr. Fay has been steadily working with SCO contract Curator Amanda McLeod to co-curate this exhibition celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Southern Chiefs’ Organization (SCO), scheduled to open on March 23rd. ***Manidoo miiniigoowin: A Gift from the Creator*** features objects representing the thirty-four SCO member Nations, and serves as a celebration of the past, present, and future. Many of the objects on display have been shared by individuals and families who proudly represent their respective Nations. All were designed and/or made by the Anishinaabe and Dakota citizens of the SCO member Nations. This exhibition will be featured in the Museum’s Discovery Room from March 23rd, 2024 through March 2025.

ooshitawiin avek lamoor/Made with Love

The temporary exhibit *ooshitawiin avek lamoor/Made with Love* curated by Adrienne Laroque and Emma de Sous, in the Museum’s foyer ran from June 2023-February 2024. This internship was led by Dr. Amelia Fay, Curator of Anthropology and the HBC Museum Collection, and Candace Hogue, Curator for the Red River Metis Heritage Centre.

Prairie Gallery: Prairie Perspectives – Métis Trapper

Dr. Roland Sawatzky, Curator of History collaborated with Métis trapper, the late Donny Racine and his family at Turtle Mountain to produce a video interview of Mr. Racine. This will be included in the

permanent “Prairie Perspectives” exhibit within the Prairies Gallery, which highlights diverse voices from Manitoba’s southwestern regions. We are so grateful to have known and worked with Donny.

MANITOBA MUSEUM GOALS

- Collaborate with Indigenous communities on research, collection, presentation, interpretation and representation of Indigenous peoples of Manitoba.
- Collaborate with Indigenous communities to plan, develop, and evaluate various Museum activities such as exhibitions, publications, public programs, and cultural policies, as well as access to information and collections.
- Ensure contemporary Indigenous perspectives continue to be integrated into new galleries and exhibitions, while providing important historical contributions of Indigenous peoples.
- Develop collaborative research relationships with Indigenous academics and research groups working on repatriation, Indigenous learning methodologies, object based historical research and Indigenous language research.
- As we consider the long-term renewal and assessment of the Museum’s remaining older galleries, Arctic/Subarctic and Boreal Forest Galleries, continue working with the Museum’s Indigenous Advisory Circle; and continue to build and establish relationships with Chief and Councils and community leaders, and with First Nations and Inuit communities located within regions to initiate discussions on the existing galleries and ideas and stories for the future; begin working with Denesuline, Ininiwak, and Inuit communities to develop and incorporate Indigenous language exhibits and First Nations story lines for these galleries.
- Establish Manitoba Museum’s training programs for wider audiences to gain a better and more accurate representation of historical and contemporary Indigenous perspectives and worldviews.
- Support and promote Indigenous languages through the incorporation of these languages in exhibitions, publications, and programs.
- Continue to offer the Museum’s popular workshop series on Indigenous arts and skills repatriation.
- Develop hiring and HR policies that provide a supportive environment for Indigenous job candidates and employees.
- Establish training programs to empower Indigenous staff members/trainees and interns to participate in the presentation of Indigenous stories.
- Consider means to hire and train Indigenous summer students to work on cataloging Indigenous collections.