

<p>Board Chair:</p> <p>Douglas Tkach</p>	<p>Supersedes: Sept 2007, Oct 2009, Nov 2013, Feb 2017, 2020; May 2023 Indigenous Advisory Circle review date: October 17, 2025 Board approval date: December 1, 2025 Review by 3 years: November 2028</p>
<p>Cross References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6.11.1 Repatriation Procedure: General 6.11.2 Repatriation Procedure: Indigenous Artifacts, Belongings, and Specimens 6.11.3 Repatriation Procedure: Global Ancestral Remains 6.6 Museum Collection Policy 6.6.1 Museum Collection Operational Procedure (Deaccessioning) 6.7 Sacred and Sensitive Indigenous Collections Care Policy 6.7.1 Sacred and Sensitive Indigenous Collections Care Procedure 6.15 Homeward Journey Repatriation Policy 6.16 Homeward Journey Deaccession Policy 6.17 Homeward Journey Records Management Policy 	

1. Preamble

- 1.1. The Manitoba Museum (the Museum) acknowledges that, due to certain acquisition practices that occurred before the establishment of the current Museum and through the original Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC) Museum Collection, its collections include belongings, artifacts, and specimens that hold ongoing historical and cultural significance for living individuals, communities, organizations, and governments.
- 1.2. The Museum affirms that Indigenous peoples are rights holders, and recognizes that its legal title to some items may be subject to repatriation or repatriation.
- 1.3. For the purposes of this policy:
 - **Artifacts** refer to objects made or modified for human use, including artwork.
 - **Belongings** refer to cultural objects, intangible cultural heritage, material culture, and intellectual properties of Indigenous origin.
 - **Global Ancestral remains** refer to Ancestral remains and burial belongings held within the collections. Ancestral remains and burial belongings of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples are cared for and returned to their kin communities in accordance with Homeward Journey policies.
 - **Repatriation** refers to the return of persons, material heritage, and/or associated knowledge to its place of origin, to its former owners, or to their descendants. While repatriation is widely understood in government policy as connected to property and nationhood, the Museum recognizes that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis values place equal emphasis on responsibilities, relationships, and cultural continuity.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. The Museum recognizes repatriation as a core institutional responsibility, essential to truth and reconciliation, and commits to addressing repatriation requests in a manner that honours Indigenous laws, protocols, and rights.

3. Policy

3.1. Scope and Application

3.1.1. This policy applies to belongings, artifacts, specimens, and Global Ancestral remains and burial belongings within the Museum's collections.

3.1.2. The Museum considers both external requests for repatriation and internally identified candidates for repatriation, with the goal of returning items to their legitimate recipients.

3.2. Guiding Principles

3.2.1. The Museum will consider all requests for repatriation or transfer of legal title.

3.2.2. Repatriation is a community-led process. The Museum will integrate community values, needs, and interests, seeking guidance and support from:

- The specific First Nations, Inuit communities, Métis Nation(s), Treaty Nation(s), or direct descendants connected to the belongings under review.
- Ceremonies, Knowledge Keepers, and Spiritual Leaders identified by the community.

3.2.3. The Museum may also consult with other museums or academic institutions that have been approached regarding the same items or claimants.

3.3. Partnership and Process

3.3.1. The Museum will engage in good faith partnerships with Indigenous Nations, communities, and descendants throughout the repatriation process. These partnerships may include:

- Collaboration in research and information-sharing about items under review.
- Participation in Ceremony to guide decisions and actions.
- Joint planning of logistics for the safe return of belongings, artifacts, specimens, or Global Ancestral remains and burial belongings.

3.3.2. The Museum will ensure that repatriation processes are flexible and responsive to cultural protocols, respecting the timelines, traditions, and decision-making practices of communities.

3.4. Review Process

3.4.1. The Museum will confirm whether the belongings in question are in its possession and determine the circumstances of their acquisition, including whether it holds legal title.

3.4.2. The Museum will assess the condition of the belongings and share this information with the requesting parties.

3.4.3. The Museum will work with requesting parties to evaluate the legitimacy of the claim and identify any potential impediments to repatriation.

3.4.4. In cases where multiple claims arise, the Museum will seek guidance from First Nations Chiefs (Hereditary or Elected), Inuit Leaders, Métis Leaders, officially appointed representatives, or descendants, and will not make arbitrary decisions.

3.5. Transparency and Data Sovereignty

3.5.1. The Museum will exercise transparency and due diligence by notifying Indigenous Nations, communities, or individuals who may reasonably have an interest in the belongings under review.

3.5.2. Once repatriation is determined, a Notice of Repatriation will be issued by the Museum containing the same content as the Notice of Intent to Repatriate. Indigenous Nations, communities, descendants, or their representatives will retain full authority to decide if any further information about the repatriation may be shared publicly, in recognition of Indigenous data sovereignty.

3.5.3. The Museum will conduct the process with as much transparency as possible while respecting privacy, community protocols, and the legitimate interests of all parties.

3.6. Institutional Responsibilities

3.6.1. The Museum will educate the public about the history and harms, past and present, that give rise to the duty of repatriation and repatriation.

3.6.2. The Museum will not exhibit belongings, artifacts, or specimens identified as candidates for repatriation.

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

4. Commitment to Respect and Reconciliation

4.1. The Museum commits to handling all repatriation requests with cultural humility, respect, and care.

4.2. The Museum affirms that repatriation is a vital aspect of truth and reconciliation, supporting Indigenous peoples' rights to cultural continuity, stewardship, and healing.

4.3. The Museum will dedicate institutional resources to support repatriation processes, working in partnership with Indigenous peoples to ensure repatriation is carried out responsibly and respectfully.