

Building trust, creating
foundations:
Canadian archivists
respond to the TRC's Calls
to Action

Raegan Swanson
TRC-TF Member

Building trust, creating foundations

- The Steering Committee on Canada's Archives and the TRC-TF
- Call to Action #70
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- Reconciliation-based Objectives

The Steering Committee on Canada's Archives

Chair (Rotational basis for one year)

Steering
Committee

Associatio
n des
archivistes
du Québec

Associatio
n of
Canadian
Archivists

Canadian
Council
of
Archives

Council of
Provincial
and
Territorial
Archivists

Library
and
Archives
Canada

Member at
Large
Kim Lawson

Member at
Large
Martine Cardin

Task forces

Archival Workforce
Jeanne Darche
Kathryn Harvey

Awareness Strategy
Jacinthe Duval
Heather Gordon

Response to the Report
of the TRC
Erica Hernández-Read

70. We call upon the federal government to provide funding to the Canadian Association of Archivists to undertake, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, a national review of archival policies and best practices to:

- 1. Determine the level of compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the United Nations Joint-Orientlicher Principles (UNJOP), as related to Aboriginal peoples' inalienable right to know the truth about what happened and why, with regard to human rights violations committed against them in the residential schools.*
- 2. Produce a report with recommendations for full implementation of these international mechanisms as a reconciliation framework for Canadian archives.*

Activities

- **April 2018:** SSHRC Insight Grant awarded
- **June 2018:** *Survey on Reconciliation Action & Awareness in Canadian Archives*
- **July 2017-Dec. 2018:** Expanded literature review
- **Aug. 2018-March 2019:** Outreach activities
- **March 2019:** Welcome BBQ & Reconciliation Visioning Circle

Draft Vision Statement

Guided by truth, reciprocity, and mutual respect, the Canadian archival community supports Indigenous Peoples' sovereignty and self-determination by actively committing to its role and responsibilities in building equitable relationships with Inuit, Métis, and First Nations communities. These relationships will respect and recognize Indigenous Peoples' inherent and inalienable right to ownership and sovereignty over their records, recorded memory, knowledge, and information.

Reconciliation-based Objectives

1. Education
2. Professional Practice
3. Ownership, Control, & Possession
4. Governance and Management
5. Archival Arrangement and Description
6. Access
7. Relationships of Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity and Responsibility

OBJECTIVE 1: RELATIONSHIPS OF RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RELEVANCE AND RECIPROCITY

Responsibility, respect, relevance and reciprocity.

OBJECTIVE 2: ARCHIVAL GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES

Directors and management of Canadian Archives must take responsibility for the transformation of their organizational culture, operations and hiring processes.

OBJECTIVE 3: ARRANGEMENT & DESCRIPTION

Canada's archives must recognize that standard arrangement and description practice and theory is centered in a colonial perspective based upon the assumption of singular provenance.

OBJECTIVE 4: ACCESS

To support Indigenous peoples' right to know about, and have access to, their history and information the Canadian archival community must provide free, culturally appropriate access to records containing Indigenous knowledge, information, and data to Indigenous researchers and communities.

OBJECTIVE 5: OWNERSHIP, CONTROL AND POSSESSION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS

For archival materials created by, or about, Indigenous peoples, colonial-based archival notions of ownership, control and possession *must be replaced* by Indigenous understandings of the “intellectual sovereignty” held by each community over their documented heritage.

OBJECTIVE 6: PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The Canadian archival community must strive to ensure that its body of professional practice actively supports the ever-changing individual needs of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous archivists and record keepers working to construct a decolonial institutional framework which will build towards reconciliation through respectful, cross-cultural relationship-building and networking.

OBJECTIVE 7: ARCHIVAL EDUCATION

Canadian archival education programs must respectfully and appropriately integrate Indigenous research theory, history, methodologies, and pedagogical practices into current and future curriculum in order to develop multidisciplinary skills and core cultural competencies amongst its Indigenous and non-Indigenous student body.

**For the child taken,
For the parent left behind.**



Thank you

Raegan Swanson

TRC-TF Member

Executive Director, The ArQuives

PhD Student, University of Dundee (Scotland)

raegan@me.com