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

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Building trust, creating foundations

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The Steering Committee on Canada’s Archives

Chair (Rotational basis for one year)

Steering Committee

- Association of Canadian Archivists
- Canadian Council of Archives
- Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists
- Library and Archives Canada

Member at Large
- Kim Lawson
- 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-Orentlicher 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.
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

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