

# Indigenous Collections Symposium

Promising Practices, Challenging Issues  
and Changing the System

March 23-24, 2017  
Six Nations  
Ohsweken & Brantford, ON



## Presenting Partners



# Indigenous Collections Symposium

## Introduction

The Ontario Museum Association *Indigenous Collections Symposium* project, a series of webinars followed by a two-day symposium, is one that is timely and important for museums and Indigenous communities in Ontario both following on the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and during Canada's Sesquicentennial in 2017. The discussion about care and interpretation of Indigenous collections, particularly those held in trust by non-Indigenous organizations, is an important one that the OMA would like to facilitate among the more than 700 museum and heritage institutions in Ontario. We hope that this will be an ongoing conversation in which the OMA, our members, and Indigenous communities in Ontario will continue to engage going forward.

### Thank you to the *Indigenous Collections Symposium* Working Group

- **Anong Migwans Beam**, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation
- **Petal Furness**, Grey Roots Museum & Archives, OMA Councillor
- **Heather George**, McMaster University
- **Linda Grussani**, Canadian Museum of History
- **Tanis Hill**, Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Six Nations Polytechnic
- **Rick Hill**, Indigenous Knowledge Centre, Six Nations Polytechnic
- **Michelle Hamilton**, University of Western Ontario
- **Cara Krmpotich**, Museum Studies, University of Toronto  
Great Lakes Research Alliance for the Study of Aboriginal Arts and Cultures
- **Janis Monture**, Six Nations Development Corporation
- **John Moses**, Aboriginal Affairs Directorate, Department of Canadian Heritage
- **Paula Whitlow**, Woodland Cultural Centre
- **Mary Collier**, Ontario Museum Association

Thank you to the webinar speakers: **Trudy Nicks**, Senior Curator (Retired), Royal Ontario Museum; **Paula Whitlow**, Museum Director, Woodland Cultural Centre; **Amos Key Jr.**, Director of First Nations Language Program, Woodland Cultural Centre; **Krista McCracken**, Archives Supervisor, Arthur A. Wishart Library and Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, Algoma University; **Alison Norman**, A/Research Advisor; and **Daniel Laxer**, Research Advisor, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation for presenting on: *Museum Perspectives on the Task Force on Museums & First Peoples and the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission*; *An Introduction to Residential Schools in Ontario: Histories and Interpretation*; and *The Indigenous History of Ontario*.

**The Indigenous Collections Symposium has been generously funded by**

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# The Partnership



The Ontario Museum Association strengthens capacity among institutions and individuals active in Ontario's museum sector, facilitates excellence and best practices, and improves the communication and collaboration of its membership. The Association advocates for the important role of Ontario's museums to society, working with all stakeholders, related sectors and industries, and other professional organizations. The Ontario Museum Association is proud to partner with Woodland Cultural Centre, Deyohahá:ge: The Indigenous Knowledge Centre at the Six Nations Polytechnic, and University of Toronto, Faculty of Information to host and facilitate local arrangements for the symposium in addition to their participation on the project working group.



The Woodland Cultural Centre is a non-profit organization which preserves and promotes the culture and heritage of the First Nations of the Eastern Woodland area. To meet these goals, the Centre offers programs in the areas of language, research, library, museum and museum education.



Six Nations Polytechnic's unique mission is the preservation, application and creation of knowledge specific to Ogwehoweh languages, culture and knowledge while respectfully interacting and informing other knowledge systems. The Cayuga name for the Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations Polytechnic is Deyohahá:ge: meaning Two Roads. In Mohawk, it is Teyohahá:ke. The name embraces the concept of two streams of knowledge – Indigenous and Western – coming together in order to advance human understanding of the world around us.



University of Toronto, Faculty of Information is known as Canada's Global Information School. The Faculty of Information's iSchool is considered to be among the world's leading information and knowledge management schools. Adept at educating both professional practitioners and researchers, the iSchool offers exceptional programs year-round in various disciplines.

# Host Venues



Six Nations  
Polytechnic



2160 4th Line, Ohsweken, ON N0A 1M0  
Phone: 519-445-0023  
[www.snpolytechnic.com](http://www.snpolytechnic.com)

Thursday, March 23, 2017

**Bus Depart**

8:00am  
Best Western, Brantford

Symposium  
9:00am - 5:15pm

Networking Social  
5:30pm - 7:00pm

**Bus Return**

5:30pm & 7:15pm  
Six Nations Polytechnic Institute  
to Best Western, Brantford

*Bus will start loading 15 minutes  
prior to all departure times*



WOODLAND  
CULTURAL CENTRE



184 Mohawk St, Brantford, ON N3S 2X3  
Phone: 519-759-2650  
[www.woodland-centre.on.ca](http://www.woodland-centre.on.ca)

Friday, March 24, 2017

**Bus Depart**

8:15am  
Best Western, Brantford

Symposium  
9:00am - 5:00pm

**Bus Return**

5:15pm  
Woodland Cultural Centre  
to Best Western, Brantford

*Bus will start loading 15 minutes  
prior to all departure times*

# Keynote Speaker

## Wanda Nanibush

### ***The Dream, The Pulse, The River***

Talking a broad look at contemporary Indigenous art and its display, Wanda Nanibush examines new ways of connecting works across time and answering the desires of Indigenous artists and their communities.



Wanda Nanibush is an Anishinaabe-kwe image and word warrior, curator and community organizer. Currently, Wanda Nanibush is the first curator of Canadian and Indigenous Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Her current exhibition *Toronto: Tributes + Tributaries, 1971-1989* is on view at the AGO until May 2017. Wanda Nanibush also teaches graduate courses at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto. She has published the books *Women in a Globalizing World: Equality, Development, Diversity and Peace* and *This is an Honour Song: Twenty Years Since the Blockades* and co-edited the book *The Winter We Danced* (ARP press). In addition, Wanda Nanibush co-edited York University's *InTensions* journal on *The Resurgence of Indigenous Women's Knowledge and Resistance in Relation to Land and Territoriality* and catalogue essays on Jeff Thomas, Adrian Stimson, Rebecca Belmore and more. Wanda Nanibush has over twenty years arts sector experience through working for many media arts organizations, such as, ImagineNATIVE, LIFT, Optic Nerve Film Festival, Reframe Film Festival, and other arts organizations including the Ontario Arts Council, Aboriginal Curatorial Collective and ANDPVA in various roles of programmer, festival coordinator, Aboriginal Arts Officer and Executive Director. Wanda Nanibush has a Masters in Visual Studies from the University of Toronto.

# THURSDAY

March 23, 2017 at Six Nations Polytechnic - Grand River Room



TIME	SESSION
8:00-9:00	Registration
9:00-10:00	Opening & Greeting
10:00-10:45	<b>KEYNOTE</b> <i>The Dream, The Pulse, The River</i> Wanda Nanibush, Art Gallery of Ontario
10:45-11:15	<b>B R E A K</b>
11:15-12:15	<b>COLLECTING</b> 1) <i>Collecting on a Continuum: Artifacts(?) to Art</i> 2) <i>The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation and Archaeological Collections</i>
12:15-1:15	<b>L U N C H</b>
1:15-2:15	<b>COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT</b> 1) <i>Transforming the Archaeological Material Heritage of Ontario</i> 2) <i>Unsettling Museum Catalogues</i>
2:15-2:45	<b>B R E A K</b>
2:45-4:00	<b>CASE STUDIES</b> 1) <i>Partnering with the Atikokan Native Friendship Centre</i> 2) <i>Deyohahá:ge Case Study</i> 3) <i>Archives Association of Ontario and Archives of Ontario</i>
4:00-4:45	<b>BREAKOUT DISCUSSION</b> <i>What are the promising practices and next steps?</i>
4:45-5:15	<b>Witness Reflection</b>
5:30-7:00	<b>Networking Social in Grand River Room</b>

\* For additional session information see pages 7-10.

\* For shuttle bus information please see page 3.



# FRIDAY

March 24, 2017 at Woodland Cultural Centre - Orientation Room



TIME	SESSION
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<b>OPENING</b> <i>1) Introduction to Mohawk Institute, Residential School History, Collecting &amp; Interpretation</i>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>B R E A K</b>
<b>10:30-11:15</b>	<i>1) Repatriation, Reconciliation, and Refiguring Relationships. A Case Study of the Return of Children's Artwork from the Alberni Indian Residential School to Survivors and Their Families.</i>
<b>11:15-12:15</b>	<b>REPATRIATION</b> <i>1) The Michipicoten First Nation Artefact Story - The Challenges of Coming Home</i> <i>2) Ruffling the Feathers of the Smithsonian: The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and Repatriation</i>
<b>12:15-1:15</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>
<b>1:15-2:45</b>	<b>INITIATIVES FOR RECONCILIATION</b> <i>1) Working with Indigenous Collections at the Canadian Museum of History</i> <i>2) One Stitch at a Time - A Cultural Tourism Partnership</i>
<b>2:45-3:15</b>	<b>B R E A K</b>
<b>3:15-4:15</b>	<b>BREAKOUT DISCUSSION</b> <i>What are the promising practices and next steps?</i>
<b>4:15-5:00</b>	<b>Witness Reflection &amp; Closing</b>

\* For additional session information see pages 7-10.

\* For shuttle bus information please see page 3.



# THURSDAY

March 23, 2017 at Six Nations Polytechnic - Grand River Room

<b>8:00-9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<b>Opening &amp; Greeting</b>
<b>10:00-10:45</b>	<p><b><i>The Dream, The Pulse, The River</i></b></p> <p>Talking a broad look at contemporary Indigenous art and its display Nanibush examines new ways of connecting works across time and answering the desires of Indigenous artists and their communities.</p> <p>Keynote: <b>Wanda Nanibush</b>, Assistant Curator of Canadian and Indigenous Art, Art Gallery of Ontario</p>
<b>10:45-11:15</b>	<b>B R E A K</b>
<b>11:15-12:15</b>	<p><b><i>Collecting on a Continuum: Artifacts(?) to Art</i></b></p> <p>The purpose of this presentation is to discuss the Indigenous Art Centre and outline its acquisition and management practices for its collection of contemporary indigenous art in the period since the Task Force Report. This session will give a brief summary of the Indigenous Art Collection and its collecting and lending history. A portion of this session will be a facilitated discussion which will examine the evolution of the Indigenous Art Centre collection, the role of indigenous people in its development and its historical impact. This session will allow other institutions to learn about the composition of the Collection, as well as encourage them to contribute their own knowledge and expertise for ongoing collecting.</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Kevin Sakolinsky</b> and <b>Danielle Printup</b>, Indigenous Art Centre, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada</p> <p><b><i>The Ojibwe Cultural Foundation and Archaeological Collections</i></b></p> <p>In 2014 a partnership was formed between the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation (OCF) and the province of Ontario to move Anishinaabek Nation Territory archaeological collections to the OCF. Through this partnership the collections have been given a home where they can be well cared for and accessed by descendant Indigenous communities. New ideas, strategies and relationships have been built through this experience. This presentation will provide an overview of the history of the OCF and the collections, demonstrating the challenges and opportunities of collaborative management and interpretation of archaeological materials.</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Anong Migwans Beam</b>, Ojibwe Cultural Foundation; <b>Meagan Brooks</b>, Archaeology Program Unit, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport</p>
<b>12:15-1:15</b>	<b>L U N C H</b>
<b>1:15-2:15</b>	<p><b><i>Transforming the Archaeological Material Heritage of Ontario</i></b></p> <p>This session will review the aims, challenges and opportunities the <i>Sustainable Archaeology</i> initiative has experienced in seeking to transform how we engage and collaboratively care for the material past, and the role the <i>Sustainable Archaeology Advisory Committee</i> plays in deciding on and shaping those aims.</p> <p>Presenter: <b>Neal Ferris</b>, Western University/Museum of Ontario Archaeology.</p>





<p><b>1:15-2:15</b> <i>Cont'd</i></p>	<p><b><i>Unsettling Museum Catalogues</i></b> This presentation explores the consequences of museum catalogues shifting from internal museum tools to external, publicly-accessible tools. It makes the case for including affective and embodied knowledge of objects in museum catalogue records, expanding beyond visual-based descriptions to include multi-sensory and emotive interactions with objects.</p> <p>Presenter: <b>Cara Krmpotich</b>, University of Toronto</p>
<p><b>2:15-2:45</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>B R E A K</b></p>
<p><b>2:45-4:00</b></p>	<p><b><i>Bridge Builders: Partnering with the Atikokan Native Friendship Centre</i></b> A partnership with the Atikokan Native Friendship Centre and Atikokan Centennial Museum to create an exhibit, <i>Revealing the Regalia</i>. This exhibit was a powerful bridge connecting our cultures, creating a meaningful dialogue. The exhibit opening was a successful first step in engaging the local Aboriginal population in our community.</p> <p>Presenter: <b>Lois Fenton</b>, Atikokan Centennial Museum and Historical Park.</p> <p><b><i>Deyohahá:ge Case Study</i></b></p> <p>Presenter: <b>Tanis Hill</b>, Deyohahá:ge: Indigenous Knowledge Centre at Six Nations.</p> <p><b><i>Reconciliation through Education: the Archives of Ontario's Indigenous Relations Work Group</i></b> <i>This presentation will provide the Archives of Ontario with an opportunity to share recent developments with the Indigenous Collections Symposium and to solicit feedback on its efforts in 5 main areas: learning and development, collections development; records management; access and privacy; and outreach.</i></p> <p>Presenter: <b>Sean Smith</b>, Archives of Ontario</p> <p><b><i>Walking Together: Building a Network of Resources</i></b> <i>This presentation will describe the services and programs offered by the Archives Association of Ontario and initiatives undertaken to reach out to and assist Indigenous communities in the preservation of their documentary heritage. We also welcome whatever ideas and information may be shared with us to enhance our programs and services going forward.</i></p> <p>Presenters: <b>Iona McCraith</b> and <b>Lisa Snider</b>, Archives Association of Ontario</p>
<p><b>4:00-4:45</b></p>	<p><b>BREAKOUT DISCUSSION</b> <i>What are the promising practices and next steps?</i></p>
<p><b>4:45-5:15</b></p>	<p><b>Witness Reflection</b> by <b>Jameson Brant</b>, Canadian Museum of History</p>
<p><b>5:30-7:00</b></p>	<p><b>Networking Social in Grand River Room</b></p>

# FRIDAY

March 24, 2017 at Woodland Cultural Centre - Orientation Room

<b>9:00-10:00</b>	<p><b>Opening: Introduction to the Mohawk Institute, Residential School History, Collecting &amp; Interpretation</b></p> <p>Presenter: <b>Paula Whitlow</b>, Acting Executive Director, Woodland Cultural Centre</p>
<b>10:00-10:30</b>	<b>B R E A K</b>
<b>10:30-11:15</b>	<p><b><i>Repatriation, Reconciliation, and Refiguring Relationships. A Case study of the return of children's artwork from the Alberni Indian Residential School to Survivors and their families.</i></b></p> <p>This presentation focuses on what was learned about curating culturally sensitive collections with Survivors and community, and working with people whose lives are directly affected by the legacy of the schools. The teachings and protocols developed in our work are an integral part of our response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and are situated in wider discussions of the role of museums and galleries that care for material culture from the residential school era in Canada.</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Andrea N. Walsh</b>, University of Victoria; <b>Mary Jo Hughes</b>, University of Victoria, Legacy Art Galleries</p>
<b>11:15-12:15</b>	<p><b><i>The Michipicoten First Nation Artefact Story – The Challenges of Coming Home</i></b></p> <p>A presentation on the challenges, collaborations and outcomes of our artefacts "coming home". In September 2015, Michipicoten First Nation held a sunrise ceremony and feast to honour the final journey of 40 boxes of archaeological artefacts that found their way home to the Wawa area. These pre-historic and historic objects represent a fascinating story full of discovery and challenge which continues today.</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Wendy Peterson</b>, Michipicoten First Nation; <b>Johanna Rowe</b>, Heritage Professional</p> <p><b><i>Ruffling the Feathers of the Smithsonian: The National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) and Repatriation</i></b></p> <p>The presentation will explain why the NMAI acted as it did during a time of financial and political challenges and resistance both internal and external. Doug George-Kanentiio will cite the example of the largest such repatriation actions in US history 1996 and 1998 when the NMAI brought back wampum belts and healing society items to the Haudenosaunee capital at Onondaga. The presenter played a key role in making these two events happen with subsequent international implications.</p> <p>Presenter: <b>Doug George-Kanentiio</b>, Board of Trustees for the National Museum of the American Indian (1996-2002)</p>



12:15-1:15	L U N C H
1:15-2:45	<p><b><i>Working with Indigenous Collections at the Canadian Museum of History</i></b></p> <p>Since the 1992 <i>Task Force Report on Museums and First Peoples</i> findings were released, the Canadian Museum of History has taken several steps to address key issues concerning working relationships with Indigenous peoples and communities. Ways to address training, repatriation, access to and care of materials, engagement and content pertaining to exhibitions have been developed with an eye on best practices. This session will introduce the strengths, challenges and outcomes in carrying this work forward.</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Linda Grussani</b>, Aboriginal Art, Canadian Museum of History;          Panelists:  <b>Kelly Cameron</b>, Collections Analyst, Repatriation and Indigenous Relations;  <b>Jameson Brant</b>, RBC Aboriginal Training Program in Museum Practices;  <b>Penny Pine</b>, Ethnographic Collections, Canadian Museum of History.</p> <p><b><i>One Stitch at a Time – A Cultural Tourism Partnership</i></b></p> <p>The Storyboot Project exists to revive the traditional art of mukluk-making, supporting Manitobah Mukluks vision of making a significant impact in Aboriginal communities in Canada. The Museum hosts weekly Storyboot School sessions that teach local Indigenous students the art of making and decorating traditional mukluks. Travel groups from The Travel Corporation along with other Museum visitors are able to observe the Storyboot classes and learn about the craft, interacting with the teachers and students. The project also enables Storyboot artisans from across Canada to display and sell their mukluks at the Bata Shoe Museum. Most of all, for the Indigenous youth it gives an opportunity to learn a heritage art in danger of being lost.</p> <p>Presenters: <b>Sheila Knox</b>, Bata Shoe Museum;  <b>Stephanie Pangowish</b>, Storyboot Project.</p>
2:45-3:15	B R E A K
3:15-4:15	<p><b>BREAKOUT DISCUSSION</b>  <i>What are the promising practices and next steps?</i></p>
4:15-5:00	<p><b>Witness Reflection</b> by <b>Heather George</b>, McMaster University; and  <b>Naomi Recollet</b>, University of Toronto</p> <p><b>Closing of Symposium</b></p>

# Partners & Supporters

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